



Integrating innovative TECHnologies along the value Chain
to improve small ruminant welfARE management



Weigh-crate and RFID (Low Frequency) tags– spotlight on technologies

In TechCare, we are testing innovative and low-cost technologies adapted to small ruminant systems across the EU, that could help welfare management. At the SRUC Hill & Mountain Research Centre in Scotland, we tested an EID (Electronic Identification) weigh-crate and 5 way auto-drafter, which allows to split the animals in 5 different pens. We can weigh up to 500 sheep in 1 hour. Once in the weigh crate, the sheep's individual EID ear-tag is read via a panel reader on the side of the crate. The sheep's tag number and weight are shown on the screen and saved to the weigh head, that sits on top of the weigh-crate. To install the equipment, you need a flat surface, pens to be built around the weigh-crate and auto-drafter, battery or mains power, a compressor for the gates, and all sheep need to have an EID tag to record individual data. The data produced can be altered for each weighing session, depending on what is required. It can then be downloaded and linked to any farm management software. The data can be very useful to farmers to monitor the welfare of their animals. The individual data collected (e.g. weight and body condition score) helps to identify in real time animals needing extra care, and you can split the animals on weight, weight change or condition using the auto-drafter.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdDAG_mO46g



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