The Individual milk meter: an electronic milk meter and a management software for automatic monitoring of individual milk sheep production

The "Individual milk meter" is developed to also record milk production of sheep and goats. It displays individual milk yield data, instantaneous flow rate and milking time. All 48 (24x2) places in the Bonassai milking parlor are equipped with DeLaval milk meters MM25 SG (24 milk point controllers, MPC 680, each for two places). When the ewes arrive at the milking parlour, they pass through a small tunnel equipped with a transponder reader that reads the ID of each ewe and linked to the corresponding milk meter number. During milking the milk meter, the number of the animal, the flow rate and the milk production are displayed in real time. Specialised personnel must carry out the installation and future service and maintenance of the system, and the prerequisite are represented by energy power and the presence of internet line. All the animals have to be tagged and their individual information entered into a software (DelPro). A first calibration has to be done after the installation, and at least once/twice per year. DelPro Management Software presents the information captured, processed and analysed: date and time of milking, milking order, daily milk yield, total amount of milk produced, but also all animals' information entered in the software. Monitoring the milking performance of animals at each milking provides full control over nutritional and health status as well as the profitability of the herd.