




Small ruminant production: a growing industry

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According to the FAO "The continued growth and transformation of the livestock sector offer substantial opportunities for agricultural development, poverty reduction, advances in food security and improved human nutrition. The sector can also empower women and youth in rural areas, improve efficiency in the use of natural resources, and increase the resilience of households to cope with climate shocks. However, for this to happen, several constraints, complex interactions and synergies need to be addressed" (1).

This agency also reports that livestock activity contributes approximately 40% to total agricultural production in developed countries and 20% in developing countries, supporting the livelihoods of at least 1.3 billion people in the world. world, noting that 34% of dietary protein comes from livestock (1).

The sheep census in Colombia in 2022 is 1,805,877 animals, located in the departments of La Guajira (43.7%), Magdalena (12.1%), Cesar (10.2%), Boyacá (8, 1%), Córdoba (3.8%), Antioquia (2.5%), Meta (2.3%), Santander (2.3%), Bolívar (2.1%) and Sucre (1.9%). In these departments there are 89.0% of the total number of sheep in the country. For its part, the census of goats in Colombia in 2022 is 1,149,054 animals, located in the departments of La Guajira (79.6%), Boyacá (4.6%), Cesar (4.2%), Magdalena (3.9%) and Santander (2.4%), where 94.7% of the total goats in the country are found (2).

Sheep and goat activity in Colombia and many Latin American countries is important for the economy and nutrition of populations settled in rural areas. It is known that the level of technology in the production system is low and diverse, which tacitly implies carrying out studies to understand particularities and improve production rates. This possibility increases, since in recent years there has been a growth of said production system both nationally and internationally.

The Journal MVZ Cordoba, as an organ of scientific dissemination, aware of this important line of animal production, both in Colombia and in Latin America, this year was linked to the XII Congress of the Latin American Association of Specialists in Small Ruminants and South American Camelids ALEPRyCS. As a result of this activity, the summaries, short communications, and keynote presentations in the ALEPRyCS 2022 congress memories were published on our website in the form of a digital book.

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The Journal MVZ Córdoba, with the purpose of supporting this growing livestock industry, called on researchers to submit their manuscripts, resulting in the SUPPLEMENT that we allow ourselves to present, which, in addition to publicizing the new knowledge, also becomes a stimulus for the authors to continue proposing new research that contributes to a better understanding of this production system for the benefit of farmers and consumers.

REFERENCIAS

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