



## Appraisal of udder morphology to prevent mastitis

**Need/issue:** Clinical mastitis or subclinical mastitis

**Aim:** Identify ewes with udders at highest risk of mammary inflammation/infection.

**How to implement:**

- Udder scoring should be performed early, preferably on first lactating ewes. It must be performed before milking.
  - Low Risk- teats placed on the lowest part of the udder (TP < 7). Shallow udders strongly attached (SU>5 & UD> 5).
  - High Risk- Teats placed very high. TP = 8 or 9). Long and pendulous udders (SU<5 UD<5)



**Description:**

- Use of a 9 points linear scale to evaluate 3 udder morphology traits related to udder health.
- Degree of suspension of the udder (udder attachment), which is the relative ratio between the udder attachment width and the udder height.
- Teat Placement is the distance between the teats and the lowest part of the udder.
- Udder Depth is the distance between the abdominal wall and the udder cleft.



### Expected benefits:

- Reduction of mastitis incidence and somatic cell count.
- Better efficiency of the machine milking.
- It is an effective practice for the choice of animals to keep in production (voluntary culling).
- It is the basis of the genetic evaluation of breeding animals for the selection of udder morphology for the improvement of animal health, longevity and aptitude to mechanical milking.

### Prerequisites and/or limits:

- Training course of the farmers about appraisal method

**Country:** Italy

**Dairy or/and meat sheep:** Dairy sheep

**Category of Animal (ewe, replacement, lamb):**  
Ewe

### Topic:

- Health
- Nutrition
- Management

### Level of solution:

- Knowledge
- Practical

### Source of information:

N/A