

## CONDITIONS, PROSPECTIVE AND NEEDS FOR IMPROVING SHEEP PRODUCTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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### SUMMARY

The paper deals with some important aspects of sheep breeding in the Republic of Macedonia as well as the proportion of animals, production of lamb meat, milk and wool, and the most important steps needed for its improvement. Following the unexpected decreasing of the number of sheep, after 1995, there a consequence of unfavourable epizootological conditions, since 2000 till now on, is noticed increase in the number. The quantity of produced mutton is usually in proportion with the number of sheep, the greatest part of the produced meat (56%) is exported in Italy. The total production of sheep milk is growing rapidly, as a result of the genetic improvement of the sheep. In order to achieve improvement in the sheep breeding there is a need for implementing National Breeding Program for development of this livestock branch.

**Keywords:** *number of sheep, lamb meat, mutton, milk and wool, National breeding program.*