



Innovation for Sustainable  
Sheep and Goat  
Production in Europe



# Effect of an alternative rearing method on milk production & lamb weight gain

Sofia Afroditi Termatzidou, Nektarios Siachos, Antonio Compagnoni, Marcello Volanti,  
Georgios Arsenos

*Partners : ACOP, AUTH, ICEA  
Countries: Greece, Italy*

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# OBJECTIVE

**How an alternative rearing method  
affects milk production of ewes &  
weight gain of lambs**

# ΥΛΙΚΑ & ΜΕΘΟΔΟΙ

**40 Lacaune ewes (*1<sup>st</sup> lactation period*)**

**15 days after lambing**

- **1 milking/day**
- **Kept with their lambs all day**

# MATERIALS & METHODS

## C group

- 20 ewes, 22 lambs
- Lambs kept constantly with ewes

## T group

- 20 ewes, 22 lambs
- Lambs separated for 12h (during night)
- Reunited after morning milking

- ✓ *Duration of trial 18 days*
- ✓ *Same housing conditions*
- ✓ *Same feeding management*

# MATERIALS & METHODS



- **Daily clinical examination**
- **1 milking/day**
- **Milk yield (MY) recording**
- **Average daily gain of lambs (ADG)**



# MATERIALS & METHODS

## Comparisons between C & T groups

- Mean daily MY/Total MY
- ADG

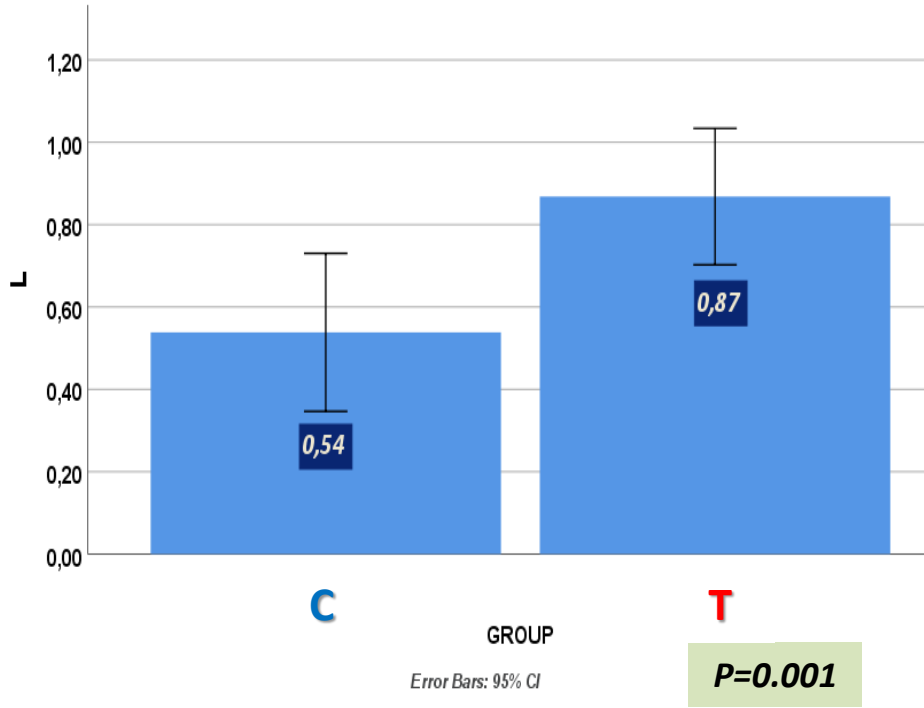
t-test

Mann-Whitney test

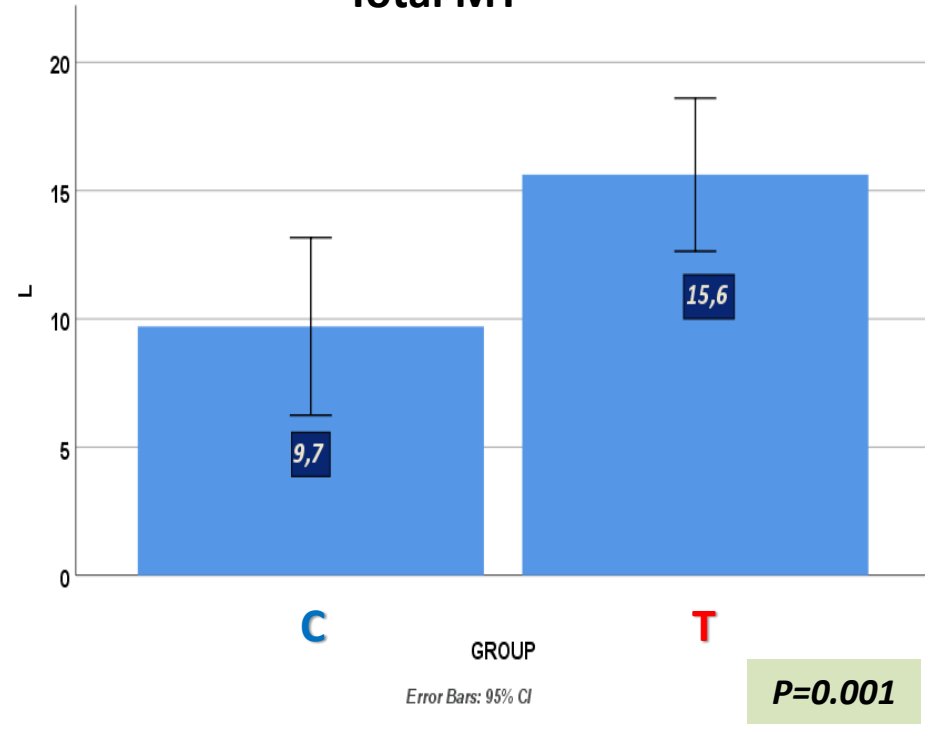
*IBM SPSS Statistics*

# RESULTS

## Mean daily MY

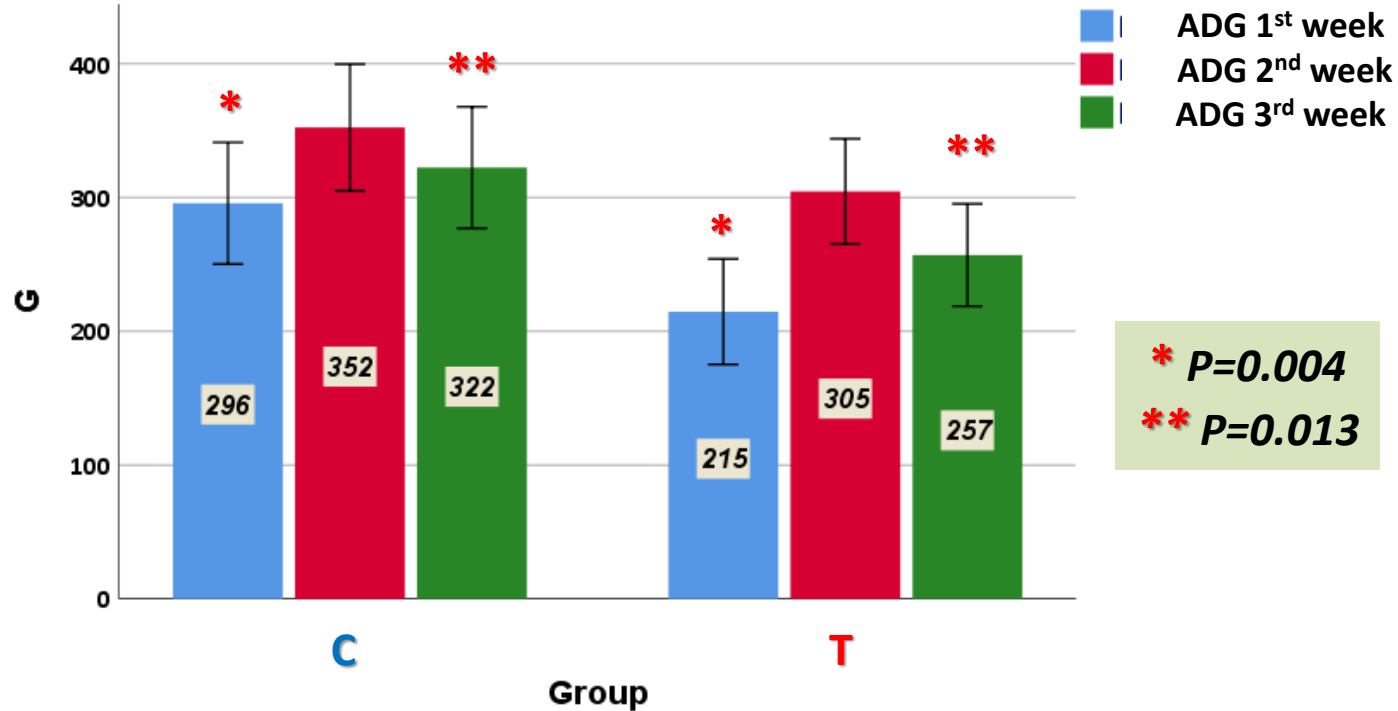


## Total MY



# RESULTS

## Average daily gain of lambs



Error Bars: 95% CI



# CONCLUSIONS

Main source of income → **milk**

**Alternative lamb rearing**

saleable **milk production** vs. **light lamb carcasses**

A person wearing a blue jacket is holding a small white piglet with brown spots on its legs. The piglet is looking towards the camera. A green speech bubble is overlaid on the image, containing the text "Thank you for your attention!!".

***Thank you for  
your attention!!***

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