

The farm

Research concerning mountain livestock systems and their technical improvement has in La Garcipollera Research Station a milestone in Southern Europe, where scientists from CITA carry out their projects in close collaboration with both national and international teams.

Its situation provides close contact between scientists, advisors, students, farmers and society, both through Open Doors days and routine visits from different public and private institutions and collectives.



cita

Finca experimental La Garcipollera
Bescós de La Garcipollera (Huesca)
Tels.: 974 348 155 • 976 716 300
cita@aragon.es • www.cita-aragon.es

Spain



La Garcipollera, mountain research station



Centro de Investigación y Tecnología
Agroalimentaria de Aragón Spain



Scientific objectives

- Study, preservation and improvement of Pyrenean sheep (Churra Tensina) and cattle breeds (Parda de Montaña and Pirenaica)
- Relationships between animal management, environment and physiology in mountain conditions, optimization of reproductive performance
- Interactions between livestock and the environment: pasture use and management
- Animal health in mountain conditions
- Alternatives for beef and lamb meat production and effects on product quality
- Interactions genes-nutrients (nutrigenomics) and study of individual variability on response to nutrients (nutrigenetics)
- Technical basis for organic farming
- Development of decision support tools for livestock farms within a given socioeconomic environment, and prospective policy evaluation.
- Characterization and preservation of autochthonous fruit germplasm



Results

- Ruminant management systems based on an optimum pasture use, reducing housing periods and guaranteeing environmental sustainability
- Feeding and management plans for heifer replacement for optimal first calving performance and lifetime productivity
- Reduction of winter feeding costs while optimizing reproductive performance of dams and growth performance of the offspring.
- Reproductive control by management practices, avoiding the use of hormones
- Health management in mountain conditions, minimizing pharmacological treatments
- High quality beef and lamb meat production in conventional and organic systems
- Description and characterization of autochthonous fruit trees recovered from ancient mountain orchards

Resources

- Animals: Parda de Montaña and Pirenaica 200 suckler cow herd, Churra Tensina 300 sheep flock.
- Facilities: different types of barns, laboratory, office.
- Pastures: meadows, forest pastures, high mountain summer ranges.
- Fields for growing fruit trees, orchards for nursery.
- Staff: farm technicians and scientists.

Science and knowledge transfer

Scientific results obtained in the station are regularly published in peer-reviewed papers, scientific proceedings and thesis. Technical information is transferred to extensionists and farmers by means of extension articles and training courses. The contribution to the preservation of Pyrenean livestock breeds is enhanced by breeding replacements and technical support provided to breeders associations.

