



**Practice Abstract 16 -
Capripedia/Ovipedia: An AI-Powered Knowledge Platform
for Sheep and Goat Farming (SIP3)**

16. Capripedia/Ovipedia: An AI-Powered Knowledge Platform for Sheep and Goat Farming (SIP3)

Short Summary for Practitioners in English

Problem:

Professional sheep and goat farmers often need specific information on feeding, rearing, health, milk production, economics and environmental management. This knowledge is spread across research papers, advisory documents, books and practical experience. Conventional online repositories still require users to know the correct terminology and manually search through several articles.

Solution:

Capripedia and Ovipedia are digital knowledge platforms for professional goat and sheep farming. They act as online repositories for practical and technical knowledge, written by people with experience in the sector and reviewed by experts before publication. The platforms currently contain more than 200 community-written and expert-reviewed articles. The articles cover a wide range of subjects, including the animal itself, feeding, rearing, milk production, health, economics and environmental management. The aim is to bring useful knowledge together in one place and make it easier for farmers, advisors, veterinarians and other professionals to find and use it. Recently, the platform was further developed with AI support. The AI function uses a retrieval-augmented generation approach: it searches the knowledge base first and then uses the relevant information to answer the user's question. This helps keep the answer connected to reviewed content instead of giving a loose general response. The system can also return relevant reference images and other multimedia material stored in the database, for example when a visual example helps the user understand a disease symptom, housing detail, feed issue or management practice.

Benefits:

The system was made available to the four pilot farms and was refined using feedback from farmers and experts. Farmers reported that the knowledge platform helped them find practical information quickly, while the combined ADS package supported more confident decision-making. Overall satisfaction during Pilot Phase 2 was between 8 and 9 out of 10, and the tools were considered easier to use than during the first phase. A controlled comparison of the time required for AI-supported search and conventional article browsing was not performed. The claimed improvement in access is therefore based on observed use and farmer feedback rather than a formal speed test. Compared with general livestock repositories, Capripedia/Ovipedia focuses specifically on dairy sheep and goats, combines community knowledge with expert review, supports conversational search and multimedia results, and can link practical information to issues identified by the GHG Monitor, another ADS conjointly piloted within the Farmtopia project.

Practical Recommendations:

Use the AI function as a search and explanation tool. Ask a clear and specific question, review the supporting article and consider whether the information applies to the farm's own conditions. The AI can only answer from the information available in the knowledge base. It may provide an incomplete answer when content is missing or misinterpret an unclear question. It should not replace professional judgement. Health problems, medication decisions and major management changes should still be discussed with a veterinarian or qualified advisor.

Further information

- Capripedia: [Capripedia.com](https://capripedia.com) ; Ovipedia: [Ovipedia.net](https://ovipedia.net)

About this practice abstract and Farmtopia

Publisher: Govaerts & Co

Authors: Lander Govaerts, Wim Govaerts

Contact: wim@wimgovaertsenco.be ;
lander@wimgovaertsenco.be

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Farmtopia: The project is running from September 2023 to August 2026. The overall goal of Farmtopia (**GA No.: 101083541**) is to democratize digital farming to empower small and medium farms.

Website: <https://farmtopia.eu/>

Govaerts & Co: As part of the Farmtopia project, WGov is the Leader and main agricultural digital solutions (ADS) provider of SIP3 on dairy sheep and goats (Belgium, Netherlands, France). It acts as a consultancy SME focusing on technical and business advice for dairy farmers.

Website: <https://www.wimgovaertsenco.be/>

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