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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

#### Description and typology of dairy sheep farm management profiles in Sardinia

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#### Highlights

- Vaccination confirms its role in protecting against Bluetongue development
- Good management practices showed a fundamental role in disease preventing
- The farm risk profile defined is a useful instrument for the risk management

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#### ABSTRACT

In the current decade, the major risk factors that play a role in bluetongue disease development have been studied, with many of these studies being carried out in order to help understand the spread of the disease. Although these studies have focused on environmental factors and territory features, establishing their role in bluetongue outbreak probability, little attention has been given to the analysis of the characteristics of farms at a micro-level. The main objective of this study was to identify farm management and groups with similar hygiene practice habits, i.e. "farm management", providing a micro-scale characterization that has not been studied in detail earlier. A total of 5547 Biosecurity Habits questionnaire, based on examining the respect of all suggested practices against bluetongue, was completed by specialized veterinarians or agronomists, each involving a Sardinian sheep farm. Since the biosecurity items were dichotomous, multiple Download English Version:

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