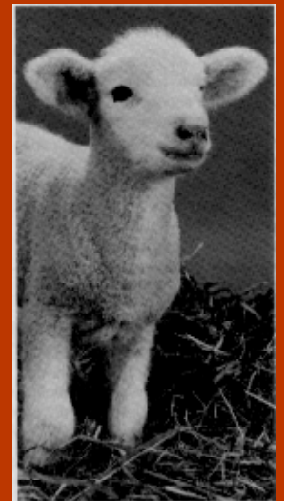


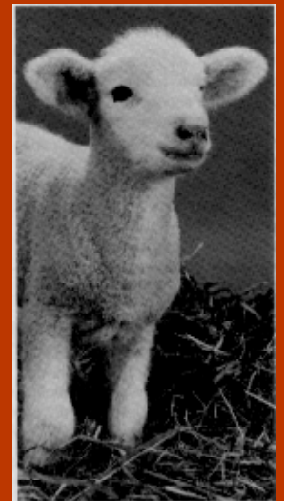
Breeding Season Management

Dan Morrical
Iowa State University
Ames IA



Breeding Season

- 👉 Sets maximum drop rate
rate can only go down
- 👉 Levels possible
1.00 to 4.00



Calculating what you need

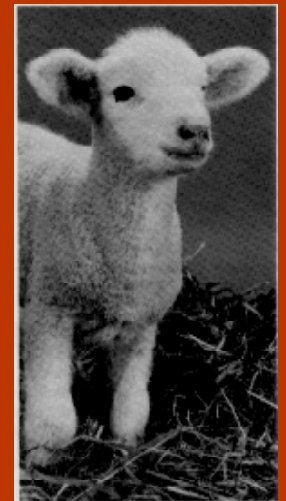
\$100 production cost + \$30 profit

Must gross \$130 per ewe

wool income \$ 1

cull ewe income \$ 8

lamb income \$121



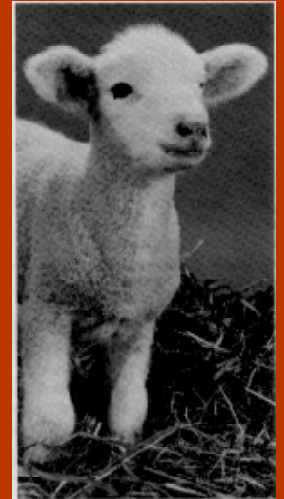
\$121 Lamb Income

Lamb Market price = \$75/cwt

$\$121 / .75 = 161$ pounds of lamb

$161 / 130 = 1.24$ lambs mkted. / ewe

sounds easy??



Back figuring from 1.24

Average Management

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Market | 1.24 |
| Ewe lamb | .20 |
| Death loss (wm) | <u>.07</u> |
| Lambs weaned | 1.51 |
| Death loss (bw) | .26 |
| Lambs born/ee | 1.77 |
| LB/ewe lambing | 1.97 |



1.97 Drop rate

20% ewe lambs

80% mature ewes

1.6

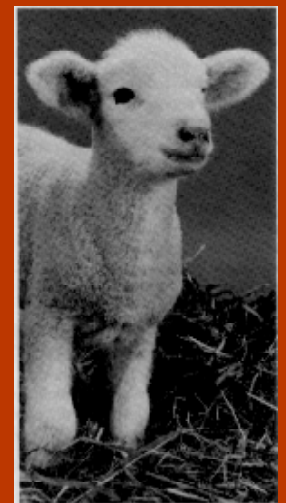
2.06

1.3

2.14

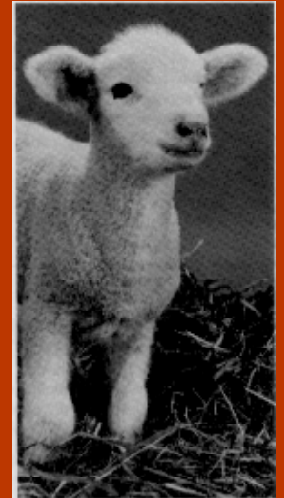
1.0

2.21



Breeding Season Decisions

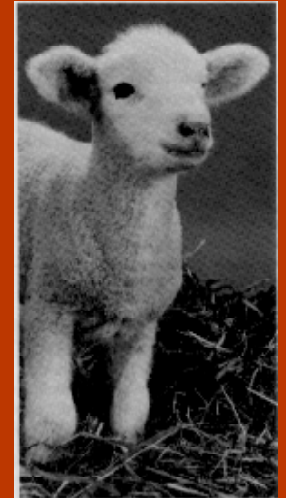
- 👉 When to start breeding
- 👉 How long to breed for
- 👉 Flushing ?
- 👉 Ewe lambs
- 👉 Ram to ewe ratios



When to breed

Suffolk crosses Oregon

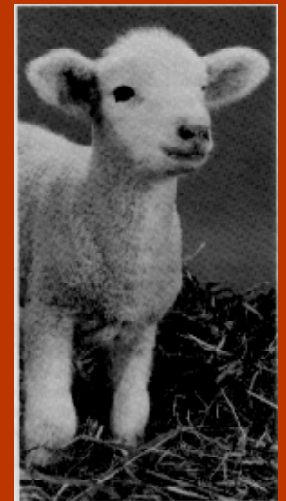
| <u>Month</u> | <u>Ovulation Rate</u> |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| July | .09 |
| August | 1.10 |
| September | 1.38 |
| October | 1.45 |
| November | 1.51 |
| December | 1.10 |



When to breed

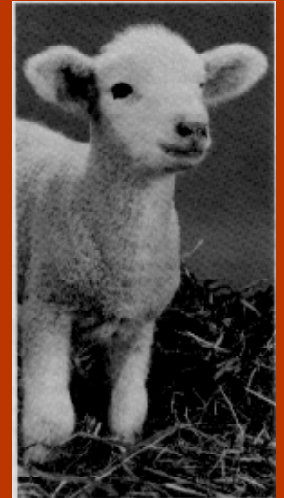
Rambouillet, Idaho

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Ovulation Rate</u> |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| July | 1.00 |
| August | 1.60 |
| September | 1.72 |
| October | 1.80 |
| November | 1.86 |
| December | 1.88 |
| January | 1.89 |
| February | 1.57 |



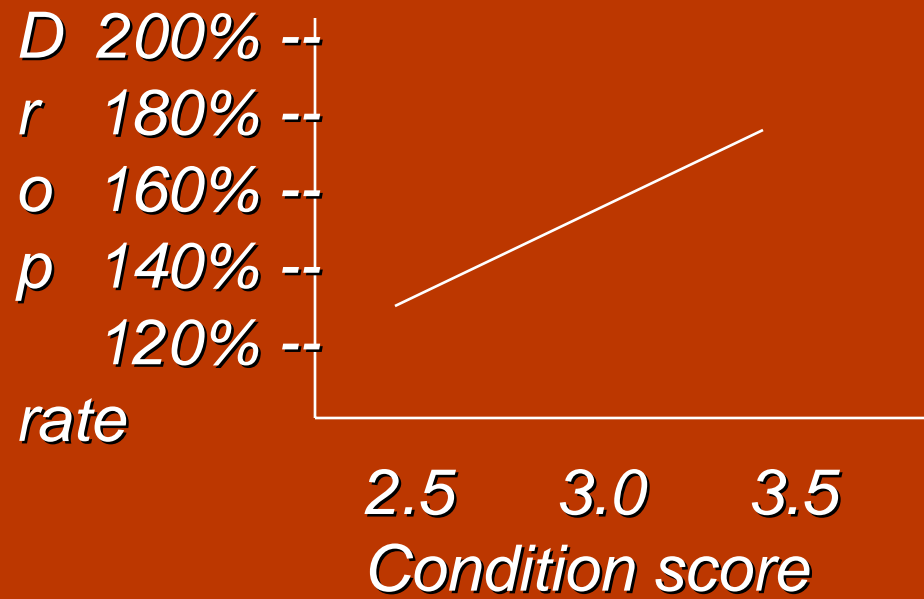
Ewe Flock Genetics

- 👉 **Genetics impacts when**
- 👉 **Seasonal flocks restricted BS
limits when one should breed**



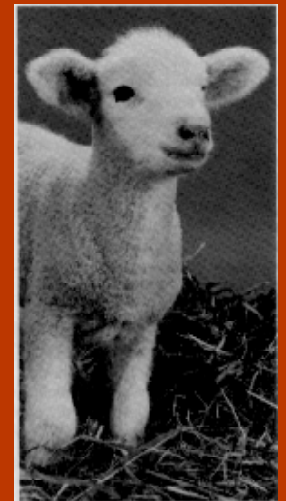
Flushing

- 👎 Rising body condition
- 👎 Increased ovulation



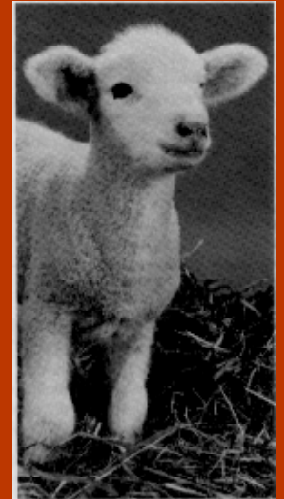
Flock Nutrition during BS

- 👉 **Positive energy status**
 - 📁 **Thin and average ewes gaining**
 - 📁 **Fat ewes holding their own**
- 👉 **Excess corn >1.25 lbs**
- 👉 **Selenium/Vitamin E status**
- 👉 **Avoid rapid diet changes**



Breeding season length

- 👉 **35 days maximum**
ewe lambs and mature ewes
- 👉 **One can not have a concise lambing with out concise breeding**
- 👉 **Cull all open ewes**
especially ewe lambs

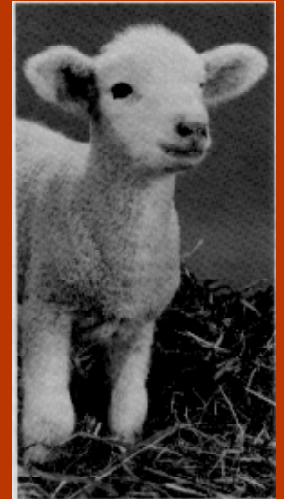


Patience and Fortitude

Changing genetics takes time

Reproductively poor producing genetics can not all be eliminated in one year.

Set production goals and monitor progress



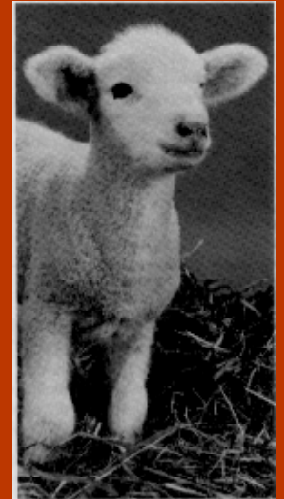
Teaser Rams ???

Month dependent

Genetic dependent

Isolation distance

Critical for ewe lambs



Teasers and Reproduction

Purdue

| | <u>Teaser</u> | <u>Fence</u> | <u>Cont.</u> |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| %cycling | 91 | 81 | 78 |
| Conc. Rate | 84 | 79 | 81 |
| Drop rate | 1.49 | 1.48 | 1.47 |
| Mature ewes | 1.92 | 1.80 | 2.07 |
| Lambing date | 30 | 31 | 37 |

Get the most from teasers

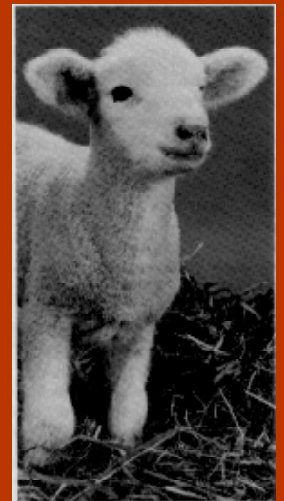
Non-seasonal genetics

hair sheep, Romanov, Finn etc.

high libido rams

use with single sire groups

precautions



Ewe lamb management

Montana

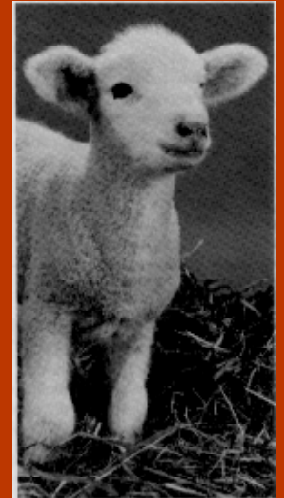
| | bred w/ Mature | bred drylot |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Start weight | 83 | 85 |
| End weight | 84 | 99 |
| Conc. Rate | 0.0 | 73.5 |

Flushing ewe lambs

Most do not

I suggest one does

**Must be kept in positive energy
balance**



Ram Management

The Forgotten Half

BSE

Condition score

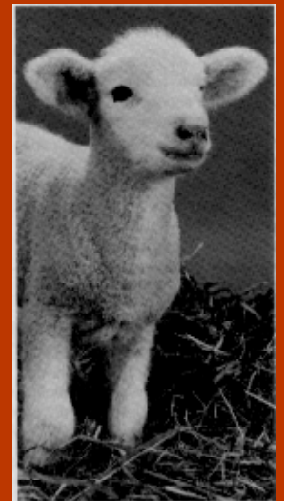
Mouths

Scrotal Circumference

>11.8 in. ram lambs

>13 in. mature

Semen analysis



Ram Testing Results

16.7 % excellent

27.8 % satisfactory

38.3 % deferred

14.2 % unsatisfactory

3.1 % unsatisfactory and culled



Ram Behavior & Ability

30% are questionable in desire
some prefer males

exposure to ewes may help

Tremendous variation in efficiency

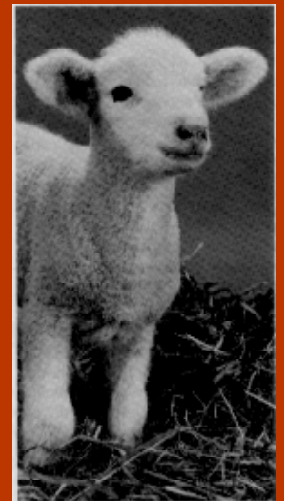
Ram to ewe ratios:

active, tested rams 50:1

unknown status 25:1

single sire groups without BSE

Russian roulette



Ram Management Musts

BSE

Shearing 60-90 days pre-breeding

Minimize heat stress

shade and fans

Quarantine new rams

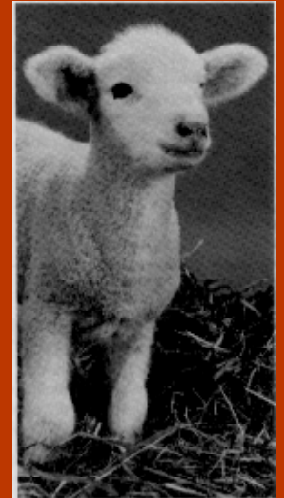
Purchase early

more selection

time to adapt

Do not assume year to year

success



Ram Management Musts

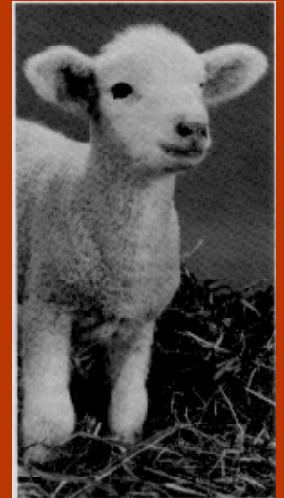
Hoof trimming

Mouths

Good condition

Physically fit

Observation during
breeding



Capitalize on Hybrid Vigor

Cross bred ewes

8.7% hybrid vigor for conception

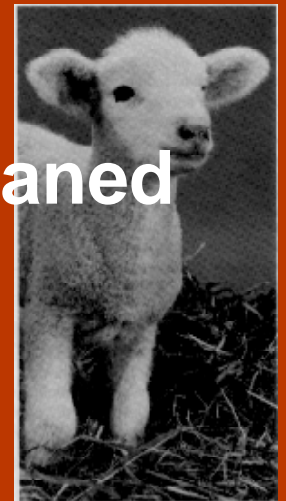
Additional benefits

more born

higher survival

faster growth

18% overall increase in wt. weaned



Ewe lamb Management Musts

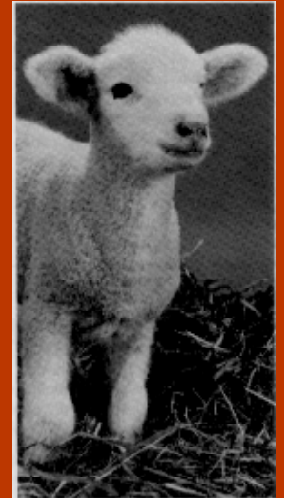
Well grown, 70% of mature wt.

Breed separate

Expect them to settle

Cull opens

Continue on G/D ration



Breeding Season Goals

1. >95% conception in 35 days for mature ewes
2. > 90% conception rate on ewe lambs in 35 days
3. Ewes in 2.5 BCS or better and rising



