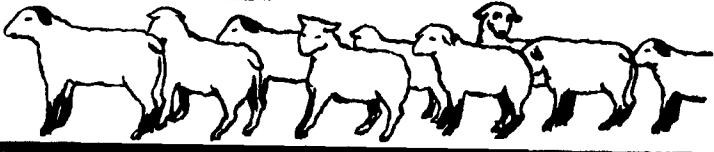




Flock Forum

by
Clair Engle

Penn State Extension Sheep Specialist



Forage-Based Ram-Lamb Test

A specific area of interest in the transition to forage-based sheep systems, and a priority research area of the PDA's Meat Animal Evaluation Center (MEAC) Sheep Technical committee, is the feasibility of a forage-based ram-lamb evaluation program. Currently, ram-lamb tests at MAEC, like similar facilities in most states, utilize high-concentrate diets in their testing programs. Yet, animal production economics continue to reveal the need to examine the feasibility of a forage-based performance evaluation program.

Are there basic differences in the relative use of forage and concentrates by sheep within various genetic lines? Is the reproduction performance potential of rams developed on high forage versus concentrate rations equal?

Results of our proposed studies also may be extended beyond the realm of evaluating breeding stock. Efficient production of lean

lamb by feeding intact ram lambs high-forage diets appears to be distinct possibility. Recent studies at the USDA research station, Beltsville, Md., comparing forage-fed rams with wethers found that ram carcasses produced 54 percent more lean meat and 22 percent less total fat in the rib-eye area. Forage fed rams also grew 15 percent faster and 15 percent more efficiently than wethers. Such a system is consistent with changing consumer demands and the need to improve production efficiency at the farm level.

Funding for such work has been approved for a two-year study comparing the conventional high-concentrate program with a high-forage diet in evaluating ram lamb performance.

One principle pre-requisite is the need for 10 sets of full-sib twin ram lambs from the Dorset and Suffolk breeds. After evaluating post lambing records, it has been estimated only three to four sets of

full-sib ram lambs would be available from the PSU flocks.

We, therefore, need some producer commitment in supplying the remaining six to seven sets from each breed. Advanced planning is crucial in acquiring lambs of similar age and weight. Following are some criteria for deciding if you might have some Dorset or Suffolk ram lambs for this study:

- 1. Birth type: Full-sib twin ram lambs.
- 2. Birth dates: Early January - mid-February, 1990.
- 3. Delivery date for trial: Early March, 1990.
- 4. Estimated weight : 45-50 pounds

Your interest in participating in this cooperative effort can be shared by calling any of the following persons.

John Nordin, 814/757-8143; Harold Harpster, 814/863-0734; Jim Sheeder, 412/373-8300; Clair Engle, 814/863-3669.

Critical to the success of these trials is the interest and participation of producers. For more details please give us a call at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Sheep Forage, Lean-Lamb Production Main Themes for

1989 Shepherd's Symposium

Plans are being finalized for the fourth annual Shepherd's Symposium, December 7 to 9. This year's symposium will be held at the Sheraton Lancaster, Lancaster, Pa.

Workshop sessions, like those in past symposiums, will provide a variety of topics in addition to the two principle topics of forage and pasture production systems and ways to produce a leaner lamb.

Sheep producers wanting winter pasture and/or forage samples analyzed may do so free of charge

by bringing a representative sample with them. The USDA/PSU forage testing van has been scheduled all day Friday, December 8. Details on sample size and preparation can be gotten by calling your local extension office.

An added feature is a mini-tour for the afternoon of December 7. Details are still being worked out, however the Thursday evening (after dinner) program will focus on organizing a lamb marketing cooperative for Pennsylvania producers. The program is being prepared and will be presented by members of PSWGA and PSU faculty.

Poultry Conference Set

NEWARK, DE — The 1989 Delmarva Broiler Housing and Flock Supervisors' Conference will be held Wednesday, September 20, at the Delmarva Convention Center, Delmar, Md. The event is sponsored by the University of Delaware and the University of Maryland in cooperation with the Delmarva Poultry Industry.

"The planning committee has come up with an outstanding program dealing with timely topics," says George Chaloupka, director of the University of Delaware Research and Education Center, and chairperson of the planning committee.

The annual conference will begin at 7:15 a.m. with registration and a chance to visit exhibits. The formal program begins at 8 a.m. with presentations on animal welfare issues. Panel members will present information on legislative pressures, public perceptions and the industry approaches to poultry welfare, and the Maryland agricultural animal care guidelines.

Sheep health and more specifically "How to prevent and self-diagnose lambing losses" will be presented by Dr. Joe Rook D.V.M., instructor at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Michigan State University.

Again, this year the Make Yourself With Wool contest and the PSWGA Queen contest has been scheduled for Friday and Saturday, December 8 and 9.

Program registration details may be requested after August 31 by calling your local extension office or contacting the Pennsylvania Conference and Short Course office 814/865-8301.

The second session, scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to noon will include the presentation of the Delmarva Servicemen's Association scholarship, the Broiler and Breeder Flock Supervisors' award and a presentation from Dr. Bill Weaver, of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University on the Dutch broiler industry.

After a lunch break and another chance to view exhibits, the sessions will resume at 1:30 p.m. with a panel discussion on liability on the poultry farm. The final session, scheduled for 2:45 p.m., will be a motivational presentation on achieving excellence through leadership.

A fellowship hour will be held from 3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

The deadline for registration is September 13. The \$25 per person fee covers all sessions, lunch, coffee and donuts, and a copy of the proceedings. Checks payable to Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. should be mailed to George Chaloupka, R.D. #2, Box 48, Georgetown, DE 19947.

\$2 REBATE Corn head gatherer chain



PARTS
VALUE
OF THE
MONTH



Special low price **26.65**

Less mail-in rebate **2.00**

Your cost after rebate **24.65** (limit 32)
Our most popular sizes

#50 Chain **29.95** 1791D
#60 Chain **37.95** 611362R91

Overserrated Section **49¢** 826702C2
Double Guard **6.89** 613838R2

Feeder Chain **31.895** 1324266C2

Reman Alternator

A47436 fits Most Case and IH tractors without cabs, 1835, 1845 and 1845B Uni-Loaders, 2090, 2290, 2590 and 2094 Case tractors, Most Hydro 86 and 184 tractors, 574 and 674 (1977-1978 Gas) Many 86 series IH tractors

66.99



Reman Water Pumps

749908C91 fits most IH 86 and 88 series tractors, most 1460 and 1860 Combines, 1822 and 1844 cotton pickers

77.49

A48369 fits most 90 and 94 series Case tractors

81.23

735102C91 fits most 3 and 4-cylinder IH utility diesel tractors

97.23



PLEASE CONTACT YOUR PARTICIPATING DEALER

PA DEALERS

BETHEL
Zimmerman
Farm Service
717-933-4114

NEW RINGGOLD
Eckroth Bros.
Farm Equip.
717-943-2131

ELIZABETHTOWN

Messick
Farm Equip.
717-367-1319

QUARRYVILLE
A.L. Herr & Bro.
717-786-3521

HANOVER
Melvin J. Sheffer,
Inc.
717-637-3808

RINGTOWN
Ringtown Farm Co.
Equipment
717-889-3184

IVYLAND
Wm. Hoberisack's
Sons
215-675-1610
215-343-2101

SPRING MILLS
Route 45 Sales
& Service
814-422-8805

KITTANNING
W.C. Crytzer Eq.,
Inc.
412-543-2441

TURBOTVILLE
Coopers Hdwe., Inc.
717-649-5115
1-800-441-FARM

LITITZ
Binkley & Hurst Bros.
717-626-4705

UNION CITY
Kafferlin Sales &
Service
814-438-7636

McALLISTERVILLE
Inch Equipment Co.
717-463-2191

NJ DEALERS

NEW BERLINVILLE
Erb & Henry
Equip., Inc.
215-367-2169

SHILOH
Farm-Rite Inc.
609-451-1368