

LAMB & WOOL

A Newsletter For The Iowa Sheep Industry / April - 2010

Ram Scrapie DNA Testing Available Once Again!

The Iowa Department of Agriculture (IDALS) is pleased to announce that we will soon be able to offer Scrapie Resistance Genetic Testing for Rams. Funding has once again been allocated through USDA for this program in Iowa. This testing will be offered to Iowa sheep owners so that they can identify rams in their flocks which will pass on scrapie resistance to their offspring. Testing will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, while funds last, and funding is limited. Requirements and features of this program are:

- Blood will be collected from your rams by state or federal district veterinarians;
- Up to ten rams may be tested per flock for free;
- Seedstock producers may test up to

ten rams for free, and up to 90 additional ram lambs can be tested with IDALS covering 50% of the cost (the producer pays \$5 per animal after the first ten), provided that the producer agrees to have QQ rams either castrated or identified with "meat" eartags, and be sold only to slaughter. The seedstock producer will be listed on our IDALS website as having RR rams for sale;

- All rams to be tested must have official scrapie flock ID tags in place at the time of sample collection;

- The flock owner may add-on additional scrapie codon testing (ie: codon 136) or spider gene testing at his/her own expense, by contacting the lab directly;

- Flock owners must register their premises with IDALS as part of Iowa's participation in the National Animal

Identification System. This involves completing a one-page form, so that your farm can be issued a premises number;

- Results will be mailed to the flock owner two to three weeks after the sample is collected.

To sign up for ram testing please call the IDALS office at (515) 242-5950. Your local state or federal district veterinarian will contact you as soon as possible to schedule your ram testing visit.

For questions about the genetics of scrapie (how to "scrapie-proof" your flock) or the scrapie program in general please call: Dr. Pam Smith with the Iowa Dept of Agriculture at (515) 669-5633 or Dr. Sharon Fairchild with the USDA at (515) 669-3727. To order your free scrapie program ear tags call 1-866-USDA-TAG.

Knit in public Day

June 12, 2010 the Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival will be hosting one of the World Wide Knit in Public Day events. WWKiP Day is unique, in that it's the largest knitter run event in the world. Each local event is put together by a volunteer or a group of volunteers. They each organize an event because they want to, not because they have to.

WWKiP Day is really about showing the general public that knitting can be a community activity in a very distinct way. In some places there are many different knitting groups that never interact with each other, but on WWKiP Day they come together in one place, making them hard to miss.



Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival Stockdog Trial Update

Word has been received from the Iowa Stockdog Association that the trials on June 12th at the festival will be sanctioned by the United States Border Collie Handlers Association. This sanctioning is in addition to being sanctioned by the Iowa and Nebraska Stockdog Associations. Each year the trial has been growing and we anticipate increased participation in 2010. There is nothing much more enjoyable than watching a good run at a stockdog trial. Make plans to attend.



NEW!

Pay your membership online

Membership payment or membership renewals may be made online via credit card at our website. Go to www.iowasheep.com where you will find an opportunity to make payment. When we receive payment you will receive a confirmation notice via email. We do add a \$1.00 transaction fee to cover our costs for online payments but you will save postage and messing with an envelope. Check it out.

ShortCLIPS by Dan Morrical

Spring Parasite Primer

As we consider all the items that make raising sheep a challenge, internal parasites (worms) are right up there towards the top of the list. A few facts on parasites will help us realize how important a strategic attack is for combating these organisms. Since it is spring we need to realize that our pastures are not parasite larvae free. About twenty-five percent of the worm eggs shed last fall survived the winter and will hatch and develop into infective larvae as the weather continues to warm up. Under ideal conditions it takes 21 to 35 days from the time eggs are shed in the feces and deposited on the pasture until the larvae reach infective stage. The warmer the weather the faster they develop to reach infectivity stage. Larvae also have enough nutrients that they can exist for one to two months in this infective stage. The warmer the weather the faster they use up their food source and perish. Lastly, some worms hibernate over winter in the sheep's gut and become active egg layers in the spring. So ewes may have some worm load in the spring even though they have not consumed any larvae for six months.

Other new facts on the parasite issue. Twenty percent of the ewes shed 80% of the eggs, so routinely treating the whole flock to treat 20% is not good use of anthelmintic and may lead to more rapid build up of resistance to the anthelmintic. Another new fact is that we generally do not want to rotate anthelmintics. The exception to this is if we need to control tape worms. Sheep maintained in drylot should not have to be de-wormed. Winter born lambs that are pushed hard and kept in confinement should also not need to be dewormed.

The two best times to de-worm ewes is just prior to or at lambing. The hormonal changes associated with lambing sends a message to the internal parasites and they become active and start laying eggs. So it is good to remove this worm burden so to minimize the stress on the ewes and insure all her consumed nutrients can go to making milk for feeding her lambs rather than to mount an immune response to fighting internal parasites. The second most important time to treat for internal parasites is just prior to pasture turnout. Dry ewes on good pasture may not need to be treated again the remainder of the



grazing season.

Lactating ewes and young lambs are much more susceptible to internal parasites. Lactating ewes are more susceptible because their immune system is compromised by the high nutritional demands for lactation. Young lambs have not developed any resistance to internal parasites so they are at a huge risk. Additionally young lambs are trying to grow so that they have a higher nutritional requirement. To improve the productivity of lactating ewes one needs to insure high quality feed from the pasture. This can be done by managing the plants so that they are vegetative and highly palatable resulting in maximum intake. Incorporating legumes also improves the nutritional status with a more energy and protein dense forage. Another advantage legumes offer is increased productivity in the hot summer months. This matches the needs of the grazing flock because lambs start to compete with their dams for dry matter intake under short pasture condition. Some producers have successfully used self fed soyhulls as a means of supplementing ewes and lambs on pasture. A self feeder is better in that the risk of crushing small lambs with bunk feeding or abandonment of newborns if one to two pounds of supplement is fed per day.

The greatest challenge to parasite control is having clean pastures that we can move the ewes and lambs onto once we treat for internal parasites. As discussed earlier larvae can be viable for 2-3 months on pasture. Additionally, with some eggs overwintering and hatching the next spring we cannot count on old man winter to make clean pastures every spring. Pastures that have not had sheep grazing for six months would be considered safe. The six month down time is from January through June or July through December. Most operations cannot leave half their pasture

acres lay idle to make them parasite free. One option is to rotate between hay harvest and grazing. This technique is restricted to those areas which are

flat enough for equipment. The other option for rougher ground is to rotate animal species. Cows could graze for the first half the year and sheep for the last half of the year. Around the first of July cows and sheep could be switched to the others pasture. The last means of getting clean grass would be to stock pile forages starting in August and not graze them until November after the ground freezes. Very so few eggs would be shed in November and most would not survive the winter. However, stock piling a pasture means we have to have more pasture land than the grazing herd needs. This is seldom the case in August and early September.

FAMANCHA is patented system of comparing a standard eyeball pictures with varying degrees of anemia to the ewe or lamb. Only those animals which show symptoms of anemia are treated. The FAMANCHA system requires lots of work as all sheep need to be caught and evaluated every two weeks. This system has been heavily implemented in areas of the country that are seeing resistance to anthelmintics. One needs to realize that FAMANCHA only addresses haemonchous contortus (barber pole worm). This is the most prevalent parasite in Iowa. Because the haemonchous feeds on blood over time causing anemia that will end in death. Bottle jaw is an accumulation of fluids under the chin of severely infected sheep. Generally, haemonchous does not result in diarrhea and dirty butts on lambs. For more reading on alternative parasite control see Dr. Ray Kaplan's website <http://www.scsrpc.org/SCSRPC/Participants/kaplan.htm>. FAMACHA training will again be offered at this year's Iowa Sheep and Wool Festival in Adel. See ISIA webpage for details.

The biggest mistake all producers make is assuming all thin sheep are wormy. For a true evaluation of the parasite load in the flock one needs to run fecal analysis. Your local veterinarian should be able to provide you with fecal egg counts. Generally, counts below 300 eggs per gram would not indicate the need for treatment.





Ewes and lambs housed in hoop building make use of free choice feed.

Feeding Free Choice Soy Hulls & DDGS

BY: MARSHA SPYKERMAN

This spring found us in a not-so-uncommon dilemma - too many sheep and not enough building space. We had part of a hoop building but it did not have enough room for bunks to feed corn and with the hard winter and very muddy spring it was not feasible to feed the ewes with lambs outside. There would be enough room for self-feeders though.

In the past we had fed soy hulls and DDGS free choice but were not happy because of the very pasty manure and what seemed to be extreme bedding needs. This winter at the Feedlot Educational meeting in Orange City, Jeff Held, SDSU Sheep Extension Specialist was talking about this diet. I commented that we liked the diet and the ewes really milked great but could not tolerate the manure situation. He said that adding some hay to the diet would help.

The diet they are on is 80 percent soy hulls and 20 percent DDGS, which we have pelleted for ease of handling and the addition of hay has helped with the manure situation. It is still not normal sheep manure but much better than the pasty mess we had before feeding hay.

In Memory Brice L. "Spanky" Leonard

Feb. 14, 1977 - April 01, 2010

Folks in the sheep world in Iowa and throughout the Midwest were shocked by the death of Brice Leonard who passed away unexpectedly of a heart attack while on his way to the Mid-West Elite Lamb Show & Sale in Indiana. Our sympathy goes out to his wife, Rachel and parents, Terry and Erlene Leonard and brother, Eric and family.



Leonard

Brice was an active participant in the sheep industry and will be sorely missed. In addition to raising and showing lambs he was a member of the Iowa Sheep Industry Association, the Iowa All Breeds Sheep Council and currently Treasurer of the Iowa Foundation for Agricultural Advancement.

Following word of his passing, friends from across the country teamed up to purchase Brice's consignments at this year's Mid-West Elite. His Champion Speckle Ewe sold for \$7000 and his Dorset Ewe for \$2250, with all proceeds returning to Brice's wife, Rachel.

Services were held on April 7th at the Immaculate Conception Church in Colfax, Iowa. The Brice L. Leonard Memorial Fund has been established. Cards and memorials may be mailed to: Terry & Erlene Leonard, 2481 W. 84th St. N., Colfax, IA 50054.

COMMERCIAL BREEDING STOCK FOR SALE

Rams - Dorper and White Dorper rams: registered and commercial, starting at \$300. Ile de France crossbred rams. All rams hardy/easy care, well muscled, out of season breeding, excellent growth on forage only. S A Mitcham, Crane Creek, 3061 160th St, Sumner, Iowa 50674, 563-578-5665, sam@netins.net. (4/10)

Want to buy - White faced commercial ewe lambs or yearlings for breeding. Lyndon Sutcliff, 21318 260th St, Mason City, IA, 50401, 641-424-0965, 247@netconx.net. (4/10)

Working Livestock Guardians - Two five-month-old Komondorok pups started on sheep. Melpport Meadows Farm, Larry and Lisa Anderson, 7808 Nebraska Ave, Cashton,

Wisconsin 54619, 608-654-7999, landerson7808@gmail.com. More information at www.melpportmeadows.com. (4/10)

Free to good sheep home: Four female guard dog pups - six months old. 1/2 Spanish Mastiff and 1/2 Maremma. Have been with sheep whole life, including living in the lambing barn during early lambing season. Showing great characteristics. Todd Christians, Kanawha, Iowa, 641-762-3242, tdtj@comm1net.net. (4/10)

Columbia Ram Lamb - Born 10/09. Tested QR. Peg Gannon, (515)386-2027. (4/10)

Registered Suffolk Ewes of various ages. Kimm breeding; available in March 1st to

start lambing in March. Paul Eness. (515) 547-2302.(2/10)

Free listing for ISIA members. Ads must be limited to 50 words and will run in four issues (date in parenthesis indicates first issue). Ads may be re-submitted for an additional four months at a time. Send ad information along with name, address, phone and email to the ISIA office at 5771 230th St., Sibley, IA 51249, or info@iowasheep.com by the 25th of the month for publication in the following month's newsletter. Newsletter is published 11 times/year with a July/August issue.

The kindest cut: Lamb shoulder is succulent, forgiving and inexpensive

BY: JANET FLETCHER

Chronicle Staff Writer

Grilled, braised or stewed, lamb shoulder is succulent, forgiving and inexpensive and perfect for any dinner.

Some of us are leg people and others are shoulder people. Unfortunately, this truth was revealed to me slowly. Over three decades of dinner parties, mistakes were made.

Today, I cook leg of lamb only for dinner guests with suspected lean tendencies, the sort of folks who eat dry toast and drink nonfat milk. Lamb shoulder I reserve for people like me, diners convinced that the most succulent meat comes from the hardest-working parts, the cuts with collagen and more than a little intramuscular fat.

If you're planning an Easter menu or a few spring dinner parties, remember the shoulder people. We are cheaper to cook for, a point worth noting in these belt-tightening times. And shoulder makes you look like a hero, because it's so hard to overcook.

"You don't have to worry about temperatures too much," says Marsha

McBride, chef-owner of Cafe Rouge in Berkeley and a fan of lamb shoulder. "It's pretty forgiving, unlike a leg or a chop."

McBride uses shoulder for the restaurant's lamb stews, braising it with green garlic and fava beans in spring, or making a French-style navarin with peas, baby carrots and turnips. Sometimes she braises the whole bone-in shoulder with Provencal seasonings - tomato, orange peel, olives and garlic - until the meat falls off the bone.

"There's so much gelatin in the shoulder," says McBride. "It gets that kind of sticky quality. You don't need any sauce, just a little wine or water to deglaze."

I had always assumed that the only lamb chops worth eating came from the loin or the rib until I spent a few weeks in Greece about 10 years ago. In simple tavernas on the island of Zakynthos, my husband and I ordered grilled lamb chops repeatedly, and we were always served shoulder chops. We would look around the dining room to see which favored patrons were get-

FESTIVAL COOK-OFF

Shoulder will be the cut of lamb offered to Cook-off participants at the Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival on June 13, 2010 in Adel. Get your chef hats on and enter the contest this year for a chance to win \$300, \$150 or \$75 for places first through third. Details may be found at www.iowasheep.com - just click on the Festival page. Be sure to read the article titled The Kindest Cut and to get you started on your recipe quest check out the shoulder recipe on page six of the newsletter.

ting the loin chops, but the truth is, we would not have traded.

The shoulder chops were crusty and a little chewy but deeply flavorful, seasoned with wild Greek oregano and plenty of salt. A wedge of lemon always accompanied them, and we both came to love that burst of citrus on hot grilled lamb

Calendar of Events

May 1 - Kimm Suffolks Annual Production Sale at Tippie Beef Center, Kirkwood Community College Campus, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. See Kimm Suffolks ad on back page of newsletter. Bob Kimm, 1636 W Ave, Dysart, IA 52224, 319-476-3875, bbkimm@fctc.coop.

June 12 - Iowa Sheep Industry Association Annual meeting, Adel, Iowa in conjunction with the 6th Annual Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival.

June 12 - 13 - 6th Annual Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival, Dallas County Fairgrounds, Adel, Iowa. Check at www.iowasheep.com and click on the Festival tab.

July 10 - 14 - Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School, Columbus, Ohio. Applications are due May 1, 2010. To request an application or for more information contact the National Lamb Feeders Association office (503) 364-5462 or info@nlfa-sheep.org or visit the NLFA website at www.nlfa-sheep.org.

November 5 -7 - 2nd Annual Iowa Wool Gatherers' Retreat, Barn on the Bluff, Elkader, Iowa. Details will be posted at www.iowasheep.com as they become finalized. Contact Margie Meehan with questions at tipperaryfiberstudio@yahoo.com or 563-926-2573.

Do you have an event that you would like to place in the Lamb & Wool newsletter? Please send information by the 15th of the month preceding publication date of newsletter. Submit via email at info@iowasheep.com or phone 712-736-2109.



The Way We Live

An award for farm families who love the land and the product they produce.

The Iowa State Fair is searching for five farm families to highlight during the Iowa State Fair. These families exemplify farm values derived from hard work and a love for the occupation of farming. Selected families must show dedication to animal agriculture in their daily lives and in the lives of their family members. In addition to recognition the winning families receive a cash award, state fair tickets, vehicle permit, coupon book from Iowa Sheep Industry Association, Beef Quarters, Pork Tent, Turkey Grill and MW Dairy.

For application information call Emily Brewer at 515-262-3111 ext. 244 or email ebrewer@iowastatefair.org. Deadline is May 1, 2010.

Seven Good Reasons to Cull Ewes

BY: JANE FYKSEN

Agriview Crops Editor

Most sheep producers have a few ewes that are “just on the payroll” and not really contributing to the operation’s profitability. With increasing production costs, producers really need to evaluate each and every ewe and decide whether she’s really productive. Marginal ewes – and rams – should not be maintained in the flock, says Roger High with Ohio State University’s Sheep Program. He offers a few guidelines for culling sheep.

“Open ewes are the greatest contributor to low weaning percentages and are costly in terms of feed, labor and management,” he says of starting your cull list with open ewes (and then move on to those that lost lambs due to excessive lambing difficulty, as well as those that prolapsed). He maintains that a ewe that doesn’t breed one time will lose a significant amount of her lifetime production potential. It will take returns from two to three productive ewes just to pay for maintaining one open ewe.

Health issues are another reason to cull. They can be a large drain in terms of labor. Sheep limping from foot rot and foot scald perform poorly and should definitely be culled. Mastitis is another health issue that suggests culling. Resulting low milk production can increase labor and cost due to having to raise orphan lambs. Also check eyes for cloudiness or other issues that may cause vision problems, High mentions.

A third reason for culling a ewe is udder quality and/or soundness. “Non-functional ewes are those that have lost all or part of their udder’s function. These ewes create management difficulty because they generally cannot produce enough milk to maintain the nutritional needs of their lambs, thereby creating a need to orphan or bottle feed the lambs so they can survive until weaning,” notes High.

Structurally unsound ewes, those with few teeth left and hard keeping, emaciated ewes are also candidates for culling, as their nutritional needs are higher than average, “and there is no reason to continue producing these types of genetics as possible replace-

ments,” he stresses.

A fourth reason for culling is late lambing. Look at lambing distribution during the lambing season and identify ewes that lamb during the third, fourth or later cycles. Generally, ewe and ram lambs born in the earlier lamb groups will be the most productive sheep in the flock, says High, noting, though, that “producer should keep in mind whose fault it was that the ewe bred in a later heat cycle.” Reasons not the fault of the ewe include: Inadequate nutrition prior to breeding season (i.e. flushing) or ram infertility.

“In general, the primary reason that a ewe flock does not breed early is due to ram infertility, and the primary reason that a single ewe does not breed early is due to ewe infertility at an inappropriate time of the year,” he remarks.

Rams generally have lower fertility early in the breeding season (July, August and early September) and higher fertility later in the breeding season (late September, October and November). A ewe may be cycling normally in the early breeding season, but due to ram infertility, she may not become pregnant. Heat-stressed rams and infertile rams will generally need 60 days to become fertile enough to impregnate the females. If the entire ewe flock is not settling in the first two heat cycles (34 days), then a ram infertility problem should be suspected, and another ram should be placed with the ewes if you want a lamb crop during that production year, says High.

A fifth potential reason for culling is a ewe’s age. “You should not automatically cull a ewe that is six years of age, but you should consider if she can effectively make it through another year,” he points out. “Ewes need to be culled while they still have a cull value, because dead ewes have no value.”

“If she can effectively produce another set of lambs without requiring more of your time and attention, then she can be maintained in the flock,” he says.

A sixth reason to cull is for genetic progress. Based on flock records, get rid of ewes that are most likely to

produce poor quality lambs with lower-than-average weaning weights. Take into account ewe age, multiple births and so on. A two-year-old’s adjustment for twins is different than a six-year-old’s adjustment for twins. It may be detrimental to the flock to only select and keep females based on actual data rather than using genetic adjustment data, High cautions.

Culling for poor disposition – a seventh reason – is often overlooked. However, doing so can prevent a lot of stress down the road. Ewes that are difficult to maintain in a grazing situation (i.e. run through temporary fence or get under gates) shouldn’t get kept. Ewes that step on and lay on lambs in the lambing pens because of a poor and/or flighty disposition are also candidates for culling.

“In some part-time operations, ewe disposition is a very important criterion...due to lack of time for dealing with mis-mothering, injured and poor-doing lambs,” says High.

He emphasizes that culling is a better tool for eliminating dysfunctional and/or non-profitable ewes than for building genetic improvement. “The vast majority of the genetic capability of the ewe comes from the rams that you have used in the past,” he reports.

While some recommend replacing 15 percent of the ewe flock annually, High says the decision to cull ewes changes from one year to the next, depending on feed supply and costs, the need for cash flow, current lamb prices and the flock’s production cycle.

Though not a big money-maker, cull ewes can still be included as income on the balance sheet; shepherds should watch markets and sell culls when the price is up. “Generally, the thinner ewes will have a higher value per pound of body weight, and may even create more total dollars than those ewes that are fat,” adds High.

Producers might want to clip the ears on a ewe they’ve decided to cull so she’s easily identifiable; the notched ears will also serve as a mental roadblock to prevent them from going soft later on and deciding to keep her after all.

Correction

Last month we had some names spelled incorrectly in the ISIA Hall of Fame/Industry Service Award section on page five of the newsletter. Clark BreDahl was kind enough to provide the correct spelling of the folks listed and some of you may recognize them better this way. I will correct the

information in the files for future reference. Thanks Clark!

1991-Harold Cruikshank, Bloomfield, Davis County

1998-Glee Mulder, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation

American Lamb and Berry Salad with Avocados From the American Lamb Board

- 1 pound boneless American lamb shoulder, trimmed of visible fat and cut into pieces of equal thickness
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 package (6 ounces) mixed salad greens
- 1 package (6 ounces) raspberries or blackberries
- 1/2 cup toasted pecans
- 1 large ripe avocado, halved, pitted, peeled and cubed
- 1/3 cup prepared salad dressing
- Creamy feta cheese and 16 slices of baguette for garnish

In large skillet with cover, heat oil over high heat. Brown lamb on all sides. Add 2 cups



water; cover and braise over low heat for 1 hour. Cool in liquid. Remove lamb from liquid. Refrigerate or freeze remaining liquid for use in stock for soup. Cut meat into 1-inch pieces, removing all fat; set aside.

In salad bowl, combine greens, berries, pecans and avocado; set aside. Mix lamb with salad dressing. Toss lamb with salad.

For garnish, spread feta cheese on slices of baguette and brown under broiler.

Serve salad on plates and garnish with two slices of baguette.

ISU Students Promote American Lamb



Students in Dr. Dan Morriscal's Iowa State University Advanced Sheep Production Class conducted an American Lamb promotion at the HyVee grocery store in Ames on March 27th.

The students prepared Lamb Meatballs (see recipe below) and distributed materials from the American Lamb Board.

The purpose of the project was to raise awareness of lamb meat, making consumers aware that lamb is a nutritious and delicious protein source. They offered recipes for consumers to try at home and made them aware that American lamb is being offered in HyVee stores all year round.

Thank you to these students for promoting lamb!

Lamb Meatballs with Mediterranean Dips

- 2 or 3 slices bread, torn up
- 1 pound ground American Lamb
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- Sesame seeds
- Pulse enough bread in electric blender to get 1 cup lightly packed-down crumbs.

Combine lamb, egg, bread crumbs and thyme until well blended. Form in 24 (about 1 inch) meatballs. Place meatballs in an oiled shallow baking pan. Bake at 375°F for 10 to 12 minutes or until done. Sprinkle meatballs with sesame seeds; stick pick in each and serve with Hummus and/or yogurt dips.

Hummus Dip

- 1 can (15 ounces) garbanzo beans
- 1 to 2 large garlic cloves, quartered
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- Minced parsley (optional)
- Red chile flakes (optional)
- Drain beans, saving 1/4 cup liquid. Combine beans in electric blender with garlic, lemon juice, oil and reserved bean liquid. Process until pureed. If desired, sprinkle top with minced parsley and red chile flakes.

Yogurt Dip

- 1 cup plain yogurt
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill weed
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon peel
- Fresh dill sprigs
- Mix yogurt, dill weed and lemon peel. Garnish top with fresh dill.

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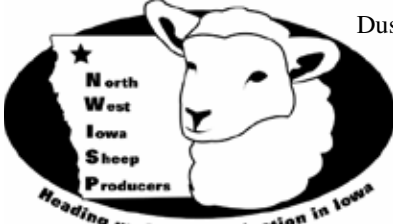
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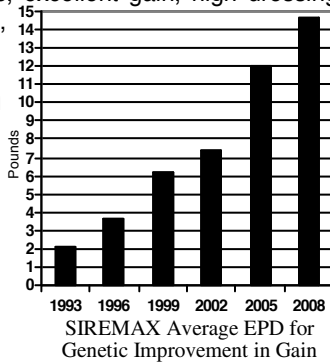
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