

Services

Optimal Livestock Services, LLC offers solutions to our sheep Producer clients including:

- Ram Breeding Soundness Evaluation
- Ultrasound Pregnancy Detection & Fetal Counts
- Record keeping and Animal I.D.
- Production System Evaluation
- Help with Adoption of New Technology
- Education and Consultation



Ram Breeding Soundness Evaluation

By **Julie Hansmire** (Campbell Hansmire Sheep)

On our range sheep operation, we didn't always test our rams. One year, in the early 1980's, we didn't semen test and B. ovis testing was not commonplace. We started lambing 1 April, and in our 3,000 ewe flock, by May 1 we still had 800 ewes yet to lamb. June 1 there were still 300 droppers. Because of the wide variety of age classes, our herds were difficult to manage. We had increased predator loss, and it was difficult to move to the forest with such young lambs.

Now we conduct a **BSE** on all rams annually. We use 1 ram/60-70 ewes (sometimes more) on fenced alfalfa pastures. We range lamb and are essentially done lambing is 20 days. Our docking % has averaged between 130 & 140%. We can manage our herds better and lambs are heavier. We

COUNT ON EACH RAM. We use rams that have large scrotal circumferences and have excellent or satisfactory semen quality. We use the B.ovis ELISA test for new introductions (if not tested) and rams that show white blood cells in the semen. We have appreciated Dr. K's candid ram advice.

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We are able to customize our services to meet your needs, maximize use of your budget, and attain your production and profit goals. Let **Optimal Livestock Services** be the experts in your corner this breeding season!

Improving Ram productivity



The ram contributes up to 75% of the genetic change in a flock.

Selection is extremely important as poor traits are also inherited.

OPTIMAL
Livestock Services, LLC

Ram Cost / Lamb born

Wyoming Ram Sale October 2009

White Face Ave \$700+
Black Face Ave \$500+

Annual Cost of Ram Power

Initial purchase price \$ 600.00
Depreciation 4 years \$ 150.00
Interest on Investment @ 6% \$ 36.00
Death loss 5% \$ 30.00
Feed - Labor @ \$10/month \$ 120.00
Medications & Vet service \$ 25.00
\$ 361.00

The effect of ewes/ram & Lambing % on Income

	cost/ewe		
3 Rams / 100 ewes	\$ 10.83		
2 Rams/100 ewes	\$ 7.22		
1.5 Rams/100 ewes	\$ 5.41		
		1,000 ewes	
3 Rams 100% lamb crop			
cost / Lamb born	\$ 10.83	\$10,830.00	
2 Rams 100% lamb crop			
cost / Lamb born	\$ 7.22	\$ 7,220.00	
1.5 Rams 100% lamb crop			
cost / Lamb born	\$ 5.42	\$ 5,410.00	

Invest \$20 / Ram for Breeding Soundness Evaluation

	<u>Savings</u>
Reduce rams/ewe to 2/100	\$ 3,610.00
Reduce rams/ewe to 1.5/100	\$ 5,415.00

Expense of Breeding Soundness Examination

\$20.00 per ram for 30 Rams = \$600



Epididymitis

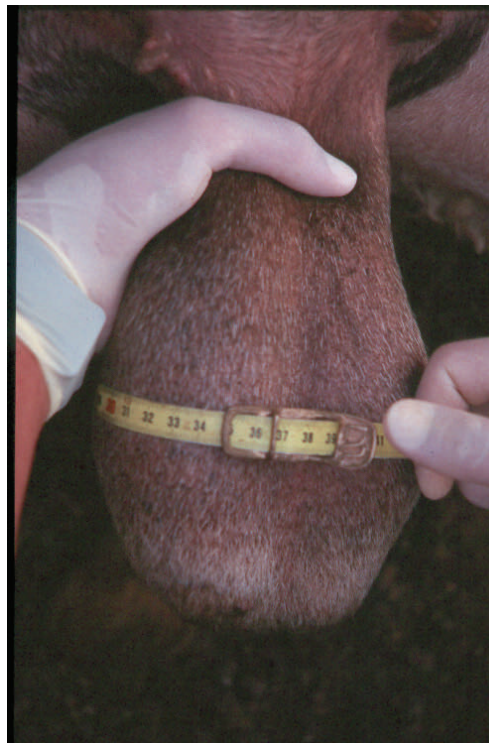
Normal



Abnormal Sperm



Normal Sperm



A Western Colorado Range Operation

1410 ewes
One Ram / 85 ewes
90% lamb in 18 days
50 (3.55%) not pregnant
310 (21.99%) singles
1050 (74.47%) twins

This study was conducted with Rams classified as Excellent or Highly Satisfactory. These categories are based on: Health, Sperm Motility, Sperm Morphology & Scrotal Circumference