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Ultrasounding Ewes for Pregnancy

Determining pregnancy status of ewes is one of the most important reproductive management tools that sheep producers can utilize to improve profits from their sheep flock. Non-pregnant females should be culled from the herd to decrease feed costs and improve overall fertility of the group. If you paid an employee for an entire year and they didn't show up for one day of work, would you fire them? Yes. This same analogy can be applied to non-pregnant ewes. Identifying open females and marketing them as culls is another important, yet often overlooked, profit center of any livestock operation. Preg-checking your flock will give you options to manage your culls for maximum profit, such as selling them when the cull ewe market peaks.

Also offering:

Laparoscopic AI

Embryo Transfer

Semen collection & Freezing

Using ultrasound to select for fertility

Instead of waiting until ewe-lambs are yearlings, expose them to rams at 7-9 months of age. Ultrasound for pregnancy to identify opens, the non-pregnant ewe-lambs can be fed out and still be graded as lamb at slaughter. Research has shown that sheep bred as ewe-lambs are more productive over their lifetime while saving feed costs on replacement females. Over time, you will have selected for a very fertile ewe flock.

General Ultrasound information:

A pregnancy can be confirmed at 30-35 days after conception. Ideally, preg checking should occur 70-80 days after rams are introduced, but can be checked later than that. Ewes should be held off feed and water for 12 hours before scanning. With proper facilities, 100+ ewes/hr can be ultrasounded. We are set up for in-clinic or on-farm preg checking.

For more information please contact:

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