Winter supplementation research conducted in 1950’s

Three year period:
- No suppl. most profitable one yr.
- Energy suppl. most profitable one yr.
- Protein suppl. most profitable one yr.

Additional supplements fed at rates over ¼ to 1/3 pound per head per day were not beneficial.
Winter Supplementation

Crude Protein In Winter Diets Of Ewes

Year

%
Year 3 (1991-92)

Supplement

Year 4 (1992-1993)

Supplement
Vitamin E Supplementation

Lamb Mortality

Early

Lambing Period

16.9%

12.3%

8.5%

9.6%

Control

Vit E

Lambing Period

5%
Western Sheep Breeding Project
1939

US Sheep Experiment Station
Dubois ID
Western Sheep Breeding Project

Targhee Breed
Established in 1951

- MSU began its Targhee breeding program in 1942 under the direction of R. T. Clark, J. L. Van Horn and J. Drummond.
- 34 Targhees from Montana State University became the first registered Targhees on February 21, 1952.
- Montana State University received membership number T-1.

Columbia Breed
Established in 1941

- W. A. Denecke, MT
- Deschamps Livestock, MT
- Thomas Watson, MT
- Rambouillet Sheep Company, MT
- R.B. “Ted” Marquiss, WY (Little Buffalo Ranch)
- D.N. Hitch, MT
- WM. R. Wright, WY
- Montana State College, MT
- Ernest White, MT
- Howard Lord, MT
- Glen Daley, MT
- A. Deschamps, MT

Polypay Breed

- MSU began its Targhee breeding program in 1942 under the direction of R. T. Clark, J. L. Van Horn and J. Drummond.
- 34 Targhees from Montana State University became the first registered Targhees on February 21, 1952.
- Montana State University received membership number T-1.
Range Breeding Schemes

In 1958, P.E. Neale (NM) developed a breeding scheme dividing herd into 4 sub-herds.

The Texas scheme is slightly different dividing the herd into 3.
Sheep Selection Strategies

A bag of genes

A delivery system

The Ram

To produce profitable sheep
1. Based on visual appraisal

2. Measure important traits
Selection based totally on visual appraisal

✓ You can be sure you are getting two testicles and four legs.

✓ You can only make a “poor” guess about the rest.
History of Performance Testing (US)

- Began in 1948 at the Texas A & M Sonora Substation
- 1950 U of Wisconsin—production recording for on-farm-selection
- 1965—Ohio Sheep Production Testing Plan was the first completely computerized record keeping program for sheep
- By 1980 there were 23 on-farm-testing-programs and 14 Central Ram Tests
Genetically, we went from dwarfs to giants in just 30 years.

But that’s just cows.
Sheep Industry has been slow to adopt new selection technology.

Relied on new breeds for genetic improvement.
Number of Lambs Born

...and that's what I call production!

More Triplets!!
Number of Lambs Born

For every ewe that is moved from twins to triplets

There are 5 ewes that move from singles to twins

- 1 more ewe with triplets
- 4 more ewes with twins
- 5 less ewes with singles

Ya, but I don’t have enough singles to graft the triplets to.
Reproductive Traits
(number of lambs born)

EBV / EPD

Records

Visual