Collectively sheep are an important livestock enterprise in the intermountain and southwest. Most universities in the west have substantially reduced or eliminated their sheep program. Many of the universities in the west are doing research with sheep, but is that research focused on issues relevant to the industry?

Although the relative importance of the sheep industry within many states have warranted reductions in University support, regionally sheep is a more substantial industry than research and extension efforts suggest.

- Producers are actively engaged from the beginning.
- There is a significant extension component.

Impact of Research on the Sheep Industry
Impact of Research on the Sheep Industry

Bob Burns
Alex Johnson (UW)

Mcfadden (NM)
Swanson (CO)
Drummond (MT)
Pohle; USDA (CO)
McCull (CO)
Campbell (TX)

Coleman (MT)
Bassett (TX)
Stobart (WY)

Hughes (MT)

Keese (TX)
Barker (WY)
Powers (SC)
Craddock (TX)
Kott (MT)
Corn (NM)

Prager (SD)
Pope (TX)
In the late 1930’s and 1940’s USDA, in cooperation with State Colleges, began a multi-year project to develop a method to estimate clean content in greasy wool.
Up until the 1940’s the standard figure used for most intermountain wools was 65% shrinkage.

1 % Difference = 1 to 5 cents greasy
In 1939, wool from MSU and 20 additional Montana clips was sent to a scouring plant and individually scoured.

Core Testing

Only one clip had a shrinkage of over 65%.

Range in Yield: 33% to 52%
Montana Wool Laboratory
established in 1945

In one year, this lab core tested 1.4 million pounds of Montana Wool
Clips below line have average yields of >50%
(6 clips of 45)

Core Testing
1939-1952

Clips below line have average yields of >50%
(0 clips of 45)
Today most greasy wool produced in the world is tested using this basic technology.
WOOL POOL ORGANIZED AT ALZADA

Approximately 50 sheepmen from Carter County met in Alzada recently to organize a wool pool—the first such pool organized in southeastern Montana. Thirty-seven growers representing approximately 44,000 fleeces signed contracts to sell their wool with the Pool. The Pool was named the "Nation's Center Wool Pool." A constitution and by-laws were adopted, marketing agreements approved, and plans were made to incorporate the Pool in the near future.

Left to right: Bob Davis, Harry Scoggins, Jim Oliver, Ellis Burch, R. O. Burch, Harold Sheldon.

A Board of Directors composed of Robert S. Davis, Belle Fourche, South Dakota; Ellis Burch, Ekalaka; R. O. Burch, Hammond; Harry Scoggins, Alzada; and James Oliver of Belle Fourche, were elected. The Board then organized by electing Davis, President and Scoggins, Vice-President. Harold Sheldon, Sr. of Belle Fourche was appointed Secretary-Treasurer.
Winter Supplementation

Basis for winter supplementation programs in the Intermountain West