

Finewool Breeders Consortium

Where we've been, where we hope to go

Finewool Breeders Consortium

Statement of Principle

We are a group of finewool sheep seed stock producers, enrolled in and actively using NSIP, who aim to improve the profitability of the US sheep industry by using NSIP records and other proven subjective and objective measures to increase weaning weights, weaning percentage, wool weights, wool staple length, and decrease fiber diameter in the US sheep flock. We aim to do this while producing low maintenance sheep that are adaptable to all climates and management systems.

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What's Been Done

- **Let's Grow grant for initial meeting**
- **Fort Collins, September 2015**
 - **Variety of breeders**
 - **Industry leaders**
 - **Tours and informational speakers**
 - **Agreed to continue as a group**

What's Been Done

- **Let's Grow grant for second meeting**
 - **Dubois, August 2016**
 - 8 flocks represented from 5 states
 - NSIP, Let's Grow, USSES, ASI
 - **Agreed to formalize the group**
 - **Develop finewool sub-index**
 - **NSIP linkage project at Helle Ranch**

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NSIP Wool Index Grant

- **NSIP indexes do not place a sufficient amount of emphasis on wool production**
- **Grad student will work with the group and wool industry to prioritize measurables**
 - **fiber diameter**
 - **staple length**
 - **fleece weight**



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NSIP Wool Index Grant

- **Develop a wool index**
- **\$value indexes used by the various beef breeds**
- **Candidate in place in the next 18 months, project completion 2-3 years after that.**
- **We will assist with locating other sources of funding if required.**

NSIP Data Genetic Linkage Project Grant

- 216 yearling ewes split into 12 breeding groups
 - Designed by Dr. Tom Murphy from MSU.
- Exposed for ~20 days
- Run as one group until weaning.
- John will collect and submit data on these lambs throughout their residence on his ranch.



NSIP Data Genetic Linkage Project Grant

- Increase the genetic connectedness among our group
- Allow a high degree of confidence when comparing the NSIP data of the flocks in our group.
- Profit



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The Future

- **Meet on an annual basis**
- **Continue to strengthen the genetic links among finewool sheep**
- **Identify superior sires**
- **Label superior rams and ewes for our customers**

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The Future

- Label superior rams and ewes for our customers
- Work with NSIP
- Genomics
- Increase our membership

Dream
Big!

Conclusion

- **Thanks to**
 - **Lets Grow for your financial backing**
 - **Dr. Dave Notter, USSES**
 - **Dr. Tom Murphy, MSU**
 - **Dr. Ron Lewis, UNL**
 - **Dr. Lisa Surber, ASI**
 - **Rusty Burgett, NSIP**
 - **Most of all Dr. Reid Redden, TAM**

Questions?