Ridgeview Acres

David & Kitra Shiflett
Grottoes, VA

Origins

• 1975
  – 4-H Lamb Show Project
  – Suffolks
  – Dorsets

• 2015
  – 400 ewes
  – 900-1100 head of lambs before taking to market

Ridgeview Acres

• 500 acres crops (including double cropped acreage)
• 150 acres pasture (sheep)
• 2 poultry houses
• 32 jug Lambing Barn
  – Houses 100-125 pregnant ewes
• Suffolk & Dorsets and Commercial Flocks
Ridgeview Philosophy

- Focus on breeding ewe lambs that need only low inputs
- Dorsets
  - Easy keeping, mothering ability, prolificacy, milk
- Suffolks
  - Faster growing, high yielding lambs
  - Heavy muscled, long joined and big legged

Lambing Season

- 70-60% Ewes lamb in the spring
- 30-40% Ewes lamb in the fall
  - 100 ewes lambed this fall
  - CIDRS used for these lambs
    - Used to produce lambs for club market

Methods of Grafting a Lamb
Feeds/Forages

- Barley/Rye haylage
- Corn Silage
- Corn/Soybeans/Barley
- 80 acres Fescue Hay

Health/Parasite Program

- Birth: Dip navels
- Two weeks of age: lambs given CD&T
- Weaning: CD&T booster

- Dewormer: Extra-Label Cydectin annually
- Spot check and treat/cull

Marketing

- Primary Market
  - Majority of flock is focused on producing lambs for the restaurant trade in N.C.
- Secondary Markets
  - Club Lambs
  - Purebred Lambs
Challenges to Sheep Industry

It depends
- Where is your operation?
  - Coyotes
  - Pasture availability
  - Marketing (limited in many areas)

Thanks you!