Origins

- Purchased first lambs in high school
- 1977 – purchased 10 Suffolk ewe lambs from Ansel Luxford
- 1979 – purchased farm in Grottoes and first stud ram Luxford 79 N240 at Eastern Stud Ram Sale
- Bloodlines include:
  - Luxford, Nichols, Buckeye Acres, and George Brothers
- 1992 Midwest Stud Ram Sale Reserve Grand Champion Ram

Today

- 110-125 ewe lambs
- 75 acres
- Feeds and Forages include
  - Corn and barley
  - Barley/wheat/pearl millet (2x rate)
  - Orchardgrass and alfalfa have been part of mix through the years
Breeding Philosophy

- “Structurally correct productive sheep”
- Heavy focus on moderate frame lambs
  - That can compete with frame sheep in the show ring
- Ewes
  - Feminine, calm, good mothers
- Rams
  - Good ewes behind him
  - High growth, heavy muscle

Lambing Season

- 4x6 or 5x5 lambing jugs
- Shear before lambing
  - Reduces complications
- Some spring lambs
- Some late fall lambs for spring shows
Genetics/ET Program

- Embryo Transfer
  - Flushed 5 ewes = 72 good embryos
  - Receips
    - Synchronized to allow for ET
    - most received 2 embryos
  - 25 embryos frozen for next year
- If using fresh semen
  - AI once
- If using frozen semen
  - AI twice

Parasite Control and Health Program

- Worm ewe in lambing jug (albendazole)
- Worm during pasture turn out (moxidectin)
- Worm once during summer
  - And/or at breeding
- Lambs brought in to farm are wormed using ivermectin
- CD&T
  - Give ewes twice before weaning
  - And before ewes lamb
Forage and Feed Program

• Ewes
  – 0.5-1lb grain prior to and after lambing
• Lambs typically weaned 55-70 days of age
  – Weaned lambs are introduced to feed
• Ewes are backed down off feed before lambs are 55 days old

Marketing

• Online marketing of show lambs
  – Sold 40-50 head through online sales
• Fall replacements sales – online and during fall
• Value Added Sales
  – Performance test

Greatest Challenges facing Sheep Producers

• Wildlife interaction & predation out West
• Average age of sheep producer is increasing

But:

• Most valuable part of being a sheep producer is the friendships and relationships established with fellow producers through the years
Thank you!