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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

- 4×6 or 5×5 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
 - Receipts
 - 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!