

# SD Post Weaning Lamb Performance Program – Phase 1

Mr. Dave Ollila, SDSU Extension  
Dr. Jeff Held, SDSU Extension

*Funded project by the ASI Let's Grow Committee to meet goals established in the Lamb Industry Roadmap-  
Productivity*



## Program Cooperators

Wolf Creek Lamb Feedlot - Jim & Rondi  
Hanssen, Emery, SD

Mountain States Lamb Cooperative – Brad  
Anderson, Greeley, CO

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

Carcass Data Collection - Karissa Maneotis

# Program Objectives:

- Demonstrate common practices in lamb feeding.
- Collect data on lamb feedlot performance and carcass merit of finished lambs.
- Provide producers with exposure to other sectors of the lamb industry.
- Identify factors that influence lamb quality.





# Program Outcomes

- Adopt management plans to reduce stress
- Create a genetic selection plan
- Understand the “natural economic endpoint” of finished weight
- Understand lamb quality characteristics that will increase consumer demand.

## Who is involved?

- 12 South Dakota producers – Young Entrepreneurs



# Summary



- ❑ Average lbs shrink from ranch to feedlot. Group 1 – 4.75 lbs & Group 2- 2.47 lbs
- ❑ Average Daily Gain – Group 1 -. 76 lbs/hd/day Group 2 -70 lbs/hd/day
- ❑ 75% of carcass wts > 65 lbs
- ❑ Over 75% of USDA graded lamb carcass YG 2 or 3
- ❑ Provided 4 educational programs regarding results
- ❑ Provided 2 educational programs on the use of Estimated Breeding Values in selecting replacement breeding stock.



## **SD Post Weaning Lamb Performance Program – Phase 2**

**“2016 Upper Midwest Gate to Rail Program”**

Dr. Jeff Held, SDSU Extension  
Mr. Dave Ollila, SDSU Extension  
Dr. Travis Hoffman, NDSU Extension

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### **Program Cooperators**

Superior Farms buying stations:  
\*\*Joe Coplan – Watertown SD  
\*\*Josh Gravley – Russell, MN



## Program Goals

- ✓ Gain knowledge on carcass merits of finished lambs in the Upper Midwest farm flock production systems
- ✓ Provide producers with carcass data resulting from flock genetics and feeding management practices
- ✓ Provide carcass data collected by trained evaluators and electronic grading instrumentation





# Program Protocol



- 19 producers from SD, ND and MN
- Delivery August 1 or 10, 2016
- Each group weighed and individually ear tagged.
- Lambs were shipped to Superior Farms – Denver
- Staff from Colorado State Univ. collected carcass data

## Carcass Data – Carcass Weight

	# of Head	HCW	FT	BW	REA	% BCTRC
>86	14	91.31	0.42	1.16	2.52	42.47
76-85	63	79.88	0.40	0.93	2.51	44.30
66-75	164	70.98	0.33	0.87	2.46	45.45
56-65	98	61.84	0.27	0.81	2.16	45.94
<55	17	50.12	0.25	0.62	1.82	46.89
<b>Overall</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>69.84</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>2.36</b>	<b>45.33</b>

Live Weight = 137.4 lb  
Dressing Percentage = 50.8 %



# Summary

- ❑ 67% of carcass wts > 65 lb
  - ❑ Similar to USDA Lamb Summary reporting
- ❑ Fat thickness 0.32 in. = USDA Yield Grade 3
  - ❑ Over 80% of USDA graded lamb carcasses YG 2 or 3
- ❑ REA at 2.30 sq in. smaller than expected reflects 15% of carcasses less than 2 sq. in.
- ❑ Gender at similar degree of finish (FT) ewe lambs expected to be lighter live and carcass than wethers
- ❑ Genotype included blackface, white-faced and blackfaced crosses (terminal sired lambs). Expect carcass merits for black and blackfaced crosses to have advantage.



## SD Post Weaning Lamb Performance Program Phase 2 - YET TO DO:

- Complete feeding trial of Western SD producer lambs – Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>
- Deliver lambs to Mountain States Rosen and collect carcass data
- Calculate lamb feedlot performance
- Analyze data and offer educational programs
- Assist participating producers in interpreting their lambs performance
- Assist producers in utilizing Estimated Breeding Values to maintain or improve lamb performance.





Thank you to the ASI Let's Grow thru change committee.

