



Texel Times

January 2020

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"I appreciate the work of the present board and the efforts that they go to to keep the Texel breed in a positive position and with integrity. I feel that the Texel breed now has the respect of the other breeds and will continue to grow." -Member Comment

From the President

Howdy folks! I hope this letter finds you and your flock well this winter. I'm sure that everyone is sitting on pins and needles patiently waiting for their 2020 lamb crop to arrive. In the management continuum, the gestational phases of sheep production are the most nerve racking, yet exciting for me. This past year my family decided to invest in a set of barn cameras and let me tell you, it's one of the best investments that we have made on the farm. Working on The Ohio State University's research campus in Wooster, Ohio, I'm about 110 miles away from home. Rather than me calling my family every two hours checking in to see how the lambs are doing, I just pull up the app on my phone and I can see all the action in the barn at the click of a button. More importantly, we can check in virtually to see who may be lambing or who has lambled, and needs jugged without any type of physical interruption. In my opinion, it's less stressful on our flock and ourselves. On the Texel front, the board members and myself have been busy as we have been working on preparing for 2020.

For our youth members, our Junior program has never been stronger! In 2019 we rolled out our Texel Futurity Program. This program generated a lot of interest in our breed from both inside and outside of our association. We look forward to supporting the program yet again in 2020. For those interested in program, be sure to check out all of the rules and details posted online on the TSBS website. Remember, without the support of our Senior members, this program would not be possible. Consignors, please continue nominating your females at sales to help support this great program! In addition, be sure to check out the note in this edition from board of director, Ron Wilcox, as he highlights the latest news on Junior show programming in the nation. The Texel breed has been invited to participate at the All-American Junior Show this year. Information will be sent as soon as things are finalized. In other news, the Texel breed has secured a position on the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) board of directors and the number of flocks becoming involved in this program continue to grow. I encourage each and every one of you to at least check out the program and see for yourself what it has to offer. Each year at our regional and national shows, we collect data on our sheep and provide it to our

perspective buyers. Why does the data collection have to stop here? Thanks to NSIP, it doesn't! As all good shepherds do, we collect records in the form of data (birth date, birth weight, sex, weaning weight, etc.) from our flock on a yearly basis. Unfortunately, for the most part, information regarding animal performance such as average daily gain and loin eye area stop at the farm level. However, with the use of NSIP, producers can track and record their flocks more accurately and therefore have a better genetic understanding of their flock. Although phenotypical characteristics are important when selecting new breeding stock (i.e. structure of feet and legs), there is no way of understanding it's true genetic potential without collecting data. For more information on this topic, be sure to check out my Data Collection piece in this issue.

As always, if there is anything that we can do to help better promote and support our breed, please share your comments with either myself or any of the board of director members. We have a strong passion for this incredible breed, and we enjoy seeing our membership and numbers grow. Also, if you haven't followed our Facebook page yet, be sure to do so by searching for Texel Sheep Breeders Society – USA. Until next time, good luck with lambing season and hope to see you at one of the regional and national sales.

Happy Shepherding!

Brady Campbell

TSBS President

A Note from Prime Texels

My name is Kenan D Davila from Prime Texels Puerto Rico, we breed Texels in Puerto Rico since 2015.

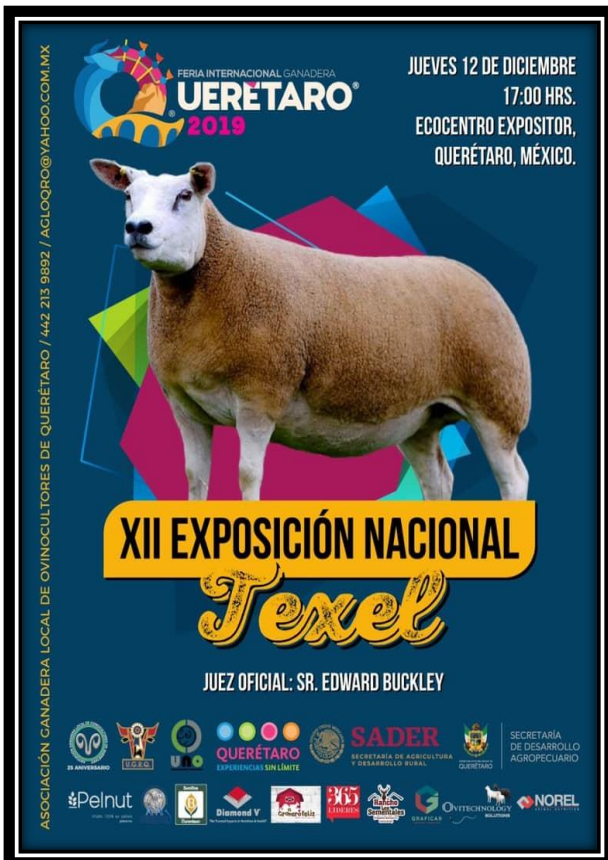
I want to share some news that I consider important for y'all. During this week sheep breeders in Mexico are celebrating the International Show and Sale Fair - Queretano 2019. This is one of the biggest fairs in Mexico. A lamb carcass competition is part of the fair's activities. This year the Texel breed won the carcass competition. The winner was a texel ram lamb that was sire by the Texel Gran Champion - Sedalia 2017, named Yankee and it is owned by Dr Javier Lara. Javier bought this texel ram from Fisher Texels during the national sale in 2017.

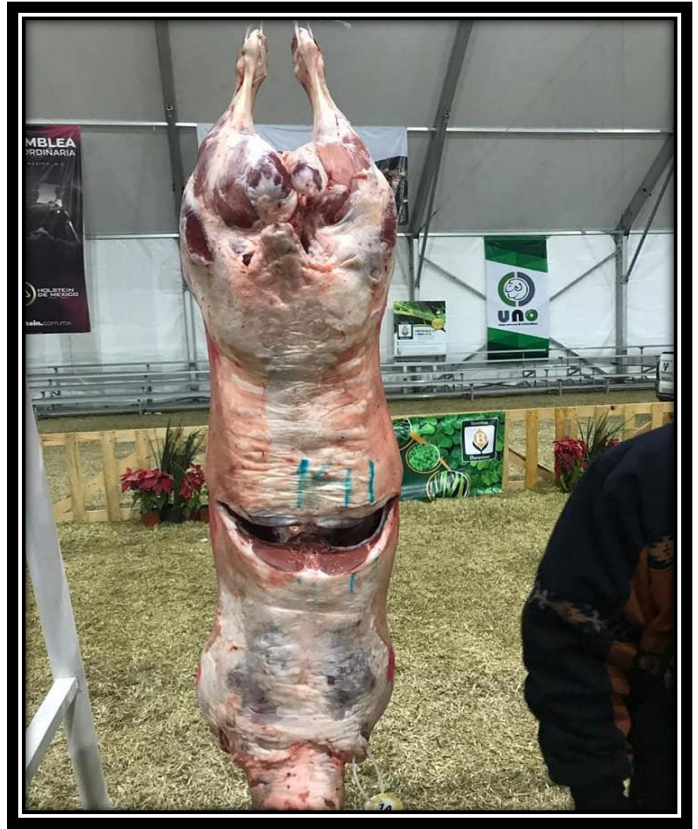
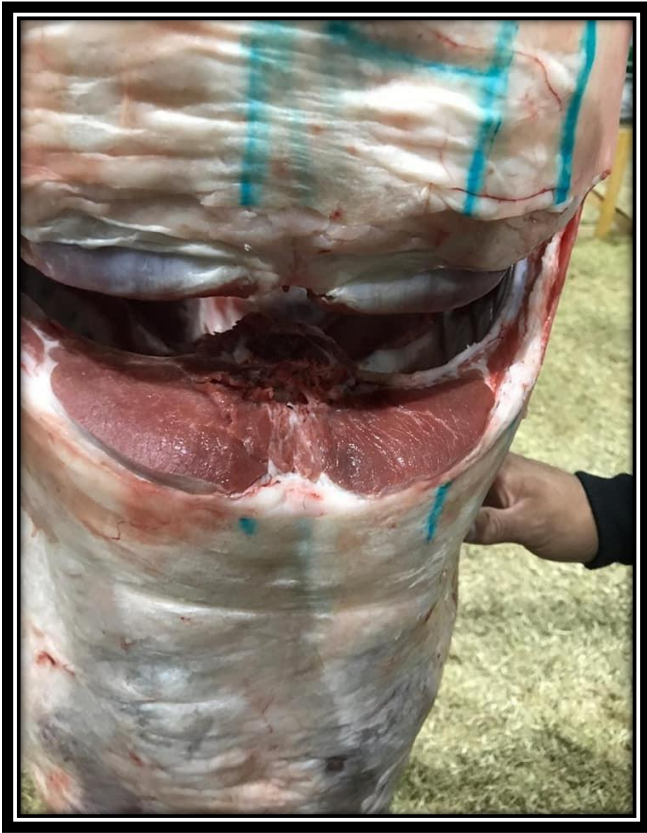
Texels sheep, bred by USA breeders, are making a difference in Mexico. In this country hair sheep like Dorpers and Katahdins and their most popular sheep Charrollais dominates all the competitions, now the Texels sheep are gaining popularity. Breeders in Mexico are understating that Texel develops a better quality carcass vs Charrollais, Dorpers and Katahdins.

Attached are some pictures from the competition.

Texel lamb that won the competition had a live weight of 67 kg, Hanging weight of 40 kg, a dressing % of 59.7% and his age was 7 1/2 month.

Kenan D Davila
Prime Texels Puerto Rico





A School Day on The Farm

By: Victoria Subik

I may not be an expert on ovine vet science however my sister and I have been involved in 4H and have raised and shown Texel sheep for over ten years. We have a registered Texel flock that is OPP negative and RR. We sell breeding stock, and enjoy starting sheep projects with youth.

This is our second year working with our local BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) Animal Science and Vet Science classes and our local Veterinary Dr. Jessie Bolster with River Valley Veterinary Services. Students had the opportunity to learn how to pregnancy check the ewes and the importance of a comprehensive health program through a ewe's gestation. Our



local Vet came in with ultra sound equipment and explained the procedure, what to look for, how to check for multiple lambs, gauging the weeks in pregnancy and why we check the ewes at approximately two months gestation.

Once we discussed the ground rules of working around the ewes we put the students to work. Most of these students had never been around sheep. They quickly took to working with the ewes and the ultra sound

equipment and locating the fetuses. It was rewarding to see how excited these young people were at discovering the fetuses and examining them as closely as the equipment would allow. Student faces would light up when they located the fetus in vitro on the ultrasounds and guess at the weeks in gestation.

You couldn't ask for a nicer breed of sheep to have inexperienced students work with. This is one of many things I love about this breed. Temperament is definitely one of the top ten reasons why to breed Texels and ties in well with young shepherds.



We have been pregnancy testing our ewes for seven years. If we find one open ewe, we figure that covers the expense of the vet services.

Recently our local school district and their agricultural educators have reached out to us to introduce their classes to sheep. We have also assisted young shepherds in our area to get started with Texel flocks. Raising sheep can be a daunting experience to someone that has had little exposure around this species, and we try to be available by phone to answer their questions.

The results of our ultra-sounding showed all the ewes to be pregnant. We're already planning our next class field trip to the farm during lambing season which is guaranteed to be a hit with the students.

Ease of handling and gentle temperament, makes Texels the perfect breed to introduce students to sheep. It is truly wonderful to see so many young people excited about agriculture and sheep.



Texel: A Maternal Advantage?

*Originally published in June 2018 edition
of The Banner Magazine*

By: Austin Brown

The benefits of the Texel breed as a terminal sire are well known. Yet, I think it is important to consider a recent trend I've noticed with several commercial producers who purchase Texel rams from me. They end up keeping the Texel sired ewes because they love the lambs. A prime example is Mr. Dale Hastings, who raises a commercial crossbred flock in Polk Pennsylvania. Hastings first bought a Texel ram from us in 2008 at the Mercer County sheep auction, formerly held at the Mercer County 4-H park. At that



time, he had a flock of over one hundred ewes with Dorset, North Country Cheviot, and some Targhee influence. Today, his flock size resides in the high eighties and consists of ewes that are approximately fifty percent Texel crossed. His flock has heavy North Country Cheviot influence as well. Recently, he purchased his third Texel ram from us; thus, providing a perfect opportunity to visit his beautiful farm and discuss all the benefits he has found in the Texel breed.

Hastings lambs on pasture in April, so it is very important that he can walk up to the ewes and the lambs. This is where the Texel comes in, as he can approach them much easier. Moreover, both ewe and lambs need to be very hardy. He also cited benefits such as easier fleshing ewes. This is very important attribute for his ewes to have as he only gives them round bales of hay when necessary and some occasional grain just to "bait" them inside the barn. Additionally, he noted that the milking and conformation of his ewes' bags significantly improved. As a result, he can market around twenty-five percent of his lambs earlier. Hastings achieved all these desirable traits while concurrently experiencing no reduction in his lambing percentage or lambing ease.

"There may not be the perfect pasture sheep," said Hastings, "But I'm pretty close to it."

Another interesting characteristic of the Texel breed is the quality of their fleece. By no means would I suggest that their fleece quality outweighs the meat. However, I have won several supreme champion fleeces with my Texels. For meat breeders, wool production and marketability may not be their targeted concern; however, shearing is a fixed expense and a

necessary task. A cost of which the Texel breed's influence, when compared to most meat breeds, will be of benefit. Though you may not expect it, during the mid-1800's limited importations of both Lincolns and Leicester Longwools were crossed with this breed.



Overall, though the Texel breed may not be the key to every lock they most definitely have provided A LOT of good for a whole lot of people and the industry they serve.

As a side note, I visited the Hasting farm with my father who befriended them many years ago as their shearer. It is his belief that most every place he visited as a shearer offered a unique attribute as to how they leveraged their structure or operation to their environment. On of the top of his list was Hastings farm because he has a natural flowing spring that is piped through a network of tires providing for a year-round, free flowing, energy free, fresh water supply to their sheep that will never freeze.



Attention Fellow Members!

The Society needs your input, creativity, and ideas. We have committees that need volunteers. Two of the current committees, Promotion/Advertising and the Youth Planning, both need to be actively engaged. With your help in committee work, we can plan for a bright future for the TSBS, set short and long term goals, invest fresh ideas, and work together to help promote a breed we all love. Committee work is voluntary, but increasingly needed as we are growing. Committee work can be the driving force forward as the Society begins to expand and more excitement is generated towards the stewardship of the breed. Without this crucial endeavor being implemented, we are limited to just the thoughts of the current board members. When a larger pool of the Society set's the wheels in motion, we can move farther at a quicker pace. We appreciate all member input, comments, concerns. This is the perfect way to get your voice heard and your ideas and creativity put to use. Please send an e-mail to James Oller texelbreeder@gmail.com for information and volunteer for one or both committees. Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to a terrific year for the Texel breed!

Thank you,
James Oller

Do Sheep Really Need Hay?

[Brady Campbell](#), Program Coordinator, OSU Sheep Team

[Dr. Ale Relling](#), Assistant Professor, Department of Animal Sciences, The Ohio State University

[Clif Little](#), OSU Extension Educator, Guernsey County

This question has been commonplace this year, especially with the inability of many producers to make hay at a reasonable time. However, this isn't to say that there isn't hay to be purchased, because there is, but rather that hay of acceptable quality at a reasonable price is nearly non-existent.

With this in mind, we challenge you to think about how generations before us fed low quality hay. It was simple right? Feed more of the lower quality material and allow the animals to choose which parts of the bale are the best. Then once they have eaten what they want, pitch the rest of it on the ground for bedding. This may be true, but what happens when we aren't feeding enough of the 'good stuff'? Do our sheep have a forage test to know what is good and what is bad? Do the shy eaters get enough of the higher quality material or are they forced to eat the lower quality bits to fulfill their daily feed intake, which may not meet their daily nutritional requirements?

So comes the question, is there a consistent alternative fiber source that can be fed to sheep that could be used to decrease or eliminate the need for hay which has shown to be highly variable and sometimes too expensive? Thankfully due to some preliminary research conducted at the Eastern Agricultural Research Station (EARS) in Belle Valley, Ohio we may be able to answer this question as researchers investigated the effect of replacing hay with an alternative fiber source; soyhulls.

To conduct the experiment, 60 wethers were housed in 12 pens, with 5 wethers per pen, and were assigned to either one of two diets. The diet consisted of an energy, protein, mineral, and vitamin concentrate pellet fed at 76% and second-cut grass hay fed at 24% to the total diet (Table 1). The second diet was similar, but instead of using hay, soybean hulls pellets were used as a fiber source (Table 1). The average beginning body weight was 65 lbs., with all lambs being fed for 89 days. To guarantee that both groups had the same ratio of concentrate to forage, the hay was individually weighed every day and fed based on the previous days feed intake. After reviewing the animal performance parameters, there were no differences in lamb final body weight, average daily gain, or gain to feed ratio. In addition, although not significantly different, lambs offered soyhulls tended to have a greater dry matter intake when compared to those lambs that were offered hay (3.50 lbs. vs. 3.39 lbs.).

So, what do these results tell us? These results demonstrate that there are no differences in animal performance when comparing the fiber sources of hay to soyhulls. However, we did note that there was a tendency for lambs that consumed soyhulls to have a greater dry matter intake when compared lambs consuming hay. Therefore, those lambs that were offered soyhulls required more feed (0.1 lbs./head/day) on a daily basis. You may be thinking that this does not seem like much, but when feeding let's say 100 head per day, that adds up to 10 extra pounds of feed needed per day. Again, not a large increase of feed needed, but an increase none the less.

So, how can we convince you that it may be more economical to feed soyhulls as opposed to hay? For that, let's look at the economic value of these fiber sources.

The hay used in this feeding trial was described as second-cut grass hay and had a crude protein (CP) level of 7.30% and total digestible nutrient (TDN) value of 62%. Hay of this quality, according to market values in [Ohio and Pennsylvania during the week of October 21, 2019](#), would be roughly valued at \$375.00 per ton or \$0.19 per pound. As for soyhulls, the CP level of this fiber source is estimated at 13% with a TDN value of 77%, according to the 2007 Small Ruminant NRCS. In the current market, soyhulls are valued at \$145.00 per ton or \$0.07 per pound. Using this information alone, in today's market hay is valued at almost three times the amount of soyhulls with nearly half the amount of available protein. If we were looking at these numbers alone, what fiber source would you choose?

Furthermore, it should be discussed how the hay was offered to the lambs. If you refer back to the materials and methods section, you will note that the hay was individually weighed and placed into feeders. Feeding in this manner resulted in virtually no to very little hay waste. Now, how does this compare to what we would do on farm? Regardless of the size and shape of the hay bale, we must factor hay loss. Even using the best hay feeders on the market today, according to an [Extension note provided by the University of Missouri](#), feeding cattle a one-day hay supply in the form of small square bales in a rack resulted in approximately a 4% loss whereas this figure increased to nearly 5% when feeding large round or square bales in a rack. These percentages may seem small, but the hay that we previously discussed that you may purchase and feed this winter is now valued at \$394 per ton accounting for a 5% feeding loss. From economics standpoint, the results are clear. Feeding soyhulls as a fiber source is cheaper when compared to feeding hay. However, some of you may be thinking, what about the effect of fiber? You know, scratch factor. Can we replace all of our hay with soyhulls regardless of what sheep we are feeding? Based on our experience, soyhulls provide enough fiber to maintain rumen health in a lamb finishing system. It also has the advantage to be mixed with the full diet; therefore, we see a reduction in sorting where lambs do not just eat the concentrate (energy) or fiber portions of the diet as what would occur when hay is supplemented.

Overall, there is an obvious economic advantage to feed soyhulls as compared to hay this year. Based on our experience, feeding soyhulls is a good alternative to hay when feeding growing and finishing lambs. However, further testing is needed to determine whether this same feeding protocol could be used in a mature ewe ration year-round. Ultimately, the decision on which fiber source will be used depends upon the cost of each feedstuff as well as the type of and age of sheep being fed.

Table 1: Diet composition		
	% in dry matter basis	
	Soyhulls based diet	Hay based diet
Ground corn	62.6	62.6
Soybean meal	11.1	11.1
Soyhulls	24.1	-
Grass Hay	-	24.1
Vitamin-mineral supplement	2.3	2.3
Nutrient composition		
Crude Protein	14.85	14.19
NDF	22.11	20.72
Ca	0.55	0.47
P	0.28	0.31

2019 Junior Show

The 2019 Texel Sheep Junior Show was a huge success!!! A whole flock of young shepherds and shepherdesses gathered in Sedalia, MO to represent the Texel breed, and they did an excellent job. This is their story...

Evan Retzlaff, Wisconsin

This is my third year showing at the National Junior Texel Show. This year I came to show a January Ewe lamb. She was a sweet ewe. I kind of wanted to keep her at home and show her at the county fair and instead of her we'd bring her sister to the show. But she was already sheared and that wasn't a choice. So I showed her in the January-February class at the National Junior Texel Show and got second place. All because of her long ears and the pink around her eyes and the other one didn't. I also showed her in the senior showmanship class. We've never done showmanship

Holly Dabbs 5 years old, Missouri

This was my first time showing sheep. I really enjoyed training and showing my lamb. I had a lot of fun at the show. All the Texel breeders were helpful and patient. I liked my ribbon and shirt. I'm looking forward to showing and selling one of my own lambs next year.

Hayden Hoffman, Wyoming

I learned how to show lambs club style. I also learned there is way more breeds of sheep. I liked the learning experience & showing at this show. Being here in Missouri has influenced me to start my own club lamb breeding stock. It's also taught me to branch out a little bit more. I love the people in the Texel barn & the learning experience you get in the Texel barn. I also like the Texel breed itself.

Onan Retzlaff, Wisconsin

This is my second year showing at the National Junior Texel Show. I showed a February Ram lamb. My ram was strong and because of this strength I took first place and grand champion in the National Junior Texel Show. I also did showmanship, but I didn't win. I like having a bigger competition than at the county fair. I had a blast! I hope to see you again. Until then have fun!

Jenna Dabbs age 9 Missouri

This was my first showing and I had a lot of fun showing my lamb. I also enjoyed watching other people show theirs. I loved seeing all of the different breeds of sheep. Thank you Texel society, I am looking forward to showing sheep next year.

Avery Taylor, Iowa

I'm Avery Taylor. What I liked about this was the experience and the interactions with sheep and learning about other breeds. What I like most about Texels is that they have the neatest personality and they are really fun and good looking sheep. Also what I liked about this place is being with my grandpa and dad and spending time with them and getting to meet new people and making new friends. What I also like about Texels is once you get them broke they become like

Brylee Pride. Tennessee

June 2019 was my first trip to the Midwest stud ram sale in Missouri. My first reaction was "wow I've never seen so many Texels in one place!" At home I've never seen a Texel at a show that wasn't one of mine. I thought that all the other breeders were helpful and nice assisting me with my first national show and sale. It was awesome to be able to compete against such high quality Texels from all over the country. I was impressed with how supportive the breeders were of the the junior members and I'm excited to compete in the new futurity program. Hopefully it will help get more juniors interested in our breed. I also enjoyed being able to attend the annual meeting where I was able to see how the members and board work together to better the society. I look forward to many more Midwest Stud Ram sales in my future!

Hanah Bane, Oregon

What has been my point of view this week?

My grandparents, three cousins and another family of three traveled for about 2 days from Payette, Idaho to Sedalia, Missouri. I slept most of the time, but if I wasn't sleeping I was enjoying the scenery with my grandpa.

Throughout the week I met some pretty amazing people from all over the country. Some familiar faces from previous years I have attended the show. I really appreciate how friendly our fellow Texel breeders are.

One reason I really enjoyed the Junior show was I got to show with kids more my age. I also think the judge really helped make things more fun especially how he interacted with everyone particularly the little kids, because he understood that it's hard enough for little kids to stay still let alone another animal. I do think that the two shows were very different with the style of judging, attention to detail and stronger more attractive competition.

Going on this trip I do think can open some doors for you. I helped show for a Kathadin breeder and he said if I ever need a letter of recommendation for my FFA class that he would be more than happy to write one. My favorite part wasn't necessarily showing, but I really enjoyed hanging out with my family and friends from past years and also meeting new people. Overall I really enjoyed the trip and hope to do it again next year.

Egen Retzlaff, Wisconsin

This was my 1st year of showing sheep and I was most excited about showing our ewe lamb in the showmanship because it was fun! I also got a 2nd place ribbon for our January ram lamb. I am thankful for the hat and t-shirt I got. I am going to show again in Sedalia.

Taylor Kimzey, Wyoming

I learned how to tie a halter, how to wash and how to show a sheep.

My favorite part of the show was being in the ring showing for the first time. My jobs were to help wash, set legs in the show, halter sheep and help make sure all sheep are ready. The thing I like the least is that it's really hot in the afternoon.

I would like to come here again next year.

Tara Dabbs 12 years old, Missouri

This was my first time ever showing sheep, it wasn't as stressful as I thought it would be. I enjoyed showing and training my lamb. One of my favorite things was show prepping my lamb, especially bathing. The National Texel members were all eager to help us younger members show. They were very calm and helpful. I really enjoyed myself.

Riana Martin, Oregon

At Sedalia this year it was a new experience for me with getting to see other Texel breeders from all over the USA. Usually I don't get to compete with other Texel breeders so it was interesting to see how my Texels placed against other Texels. I really enjoyed meeting and talking to other breeders about their sheep and what they do on their farms as to how and what they feed their Texels. I would definitely recommend this show to any other breeders from the west coast that I know and hope to come back again to show in the future.

Britney Dabbs age 7, Missouri

My name is Britney and I loved showing my lamb. I also loved spending time with my family. I liked how the Texel Society gave us hats, shirts and ribbons. We had fun.

Caddie Rueber, Oregon

This year was the 3rd year that I went to the Junior Show in Sedalia, Missouri. In most shows it's the same thing year after year which can be boring. But the Junior Show is FUN to attend my opinion. It is not only fun but it's exciting to see what place you're going to get. Also, who is interested in your sheep.

There were a lot of things that made this year stand out. Some things were that for the first year I was considered one of the "big kids." Because the first year I went I was 8 and was the second youngest which comes with some disadvantages but wasn't that bad. Another thing is that this year I went with my elder sister, 2 of my cousins and with another family-which was weird at first but I'm so glad they came with us. Overall this was my favorite year.

Alexis Koch, Indiana

My name is Alexis Koch and I showed sheep at Sedalia this year. I met a lot of new friends that raise Texel sheep like me. I was also able to make some new friends that I was able to play with for two days. We had fun in the barns and also in the pool at the hotel. I loved being able to show against other Texels in the show ring because there are not many from where I live. Thank you for a great time and I can't wait to see everybody again next year.



What Data Are You Collecting?

The benefits of Texel NSIP
Brady Campbell, Program Coordinator, OSU Sheep Team

Data collection. Seems pretty simple right? Most of you are probably reading this and thinking, “we already collect data on our flock, what else could he be talking about?” Like most purebred producers, you are probably recording the basic information such as sex, birth date, birth type, dam, sire, and individual identification on each newborn in your flock. Some of you may even be collecting birth and weaning weights to gather a better understand on the performance of your flock in the short term. However, I will venture to say that not many are collecting additional information that will benefit your flock in the long term such additional body weight measurements, fat depth measurements, or loin eye muscle depth measurements to mention a few.

Today, genetic selection, whether you are considering to buy a male or female to add to your flock, is no longer determined by physical appearance and the information found within the individuals pedigree. Genetic parameters estimated by collecting and recording information with the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) in the form of Estimated Breeding Values (EBV's) have changed the game. Estimated Breeding Values are used to quantify the genetic merit of breeding sheep, based on phenotypic traits, by evaluating an individuals genetics in conjunction with the environment in which it is raised.

Founded in 1986, NSIP is not a new program that shepherds are being exposed too, but it is a program that has shown a significant amount of growth and value being added to sheep over the past decade. NSIP focuses on combining genetic assessments and visual observations as a means to select for the most desired breeding stock for the producers specific needs. Understanding the genetic history of an individual animal provides valuable insight for future breeding plans and offspring.

In a way, the Texel Sheep Breeders Society has been providing some of this valuable information at the National Sale as all animals entered are measured for fat depth, loin eye area, height, width, and much more. This information is beneficial as buyers are able to compare individuals based on a selected criteria, however, this does not tell the whole story. As mentioned above, environment can play a huge role in the performance of an individual. For example, you may be selecting a ram based on loin eye muscle depth as you would like to increase the size and value of your lamb carcasses. The measurements that you see on the day of the sale only reflect the one individual that the measurements were taken on, not taking into account the environmental conditions it was subjected to and not compared to the other lambs or yearlings that it was housed with. Furthermore, your selected ram with a sizable loin eye may have been influenced by nutrition, as it may have been fed more than the others available at the sale. This is not to say that the ram you selected is not the ram for you, but it make you stop and think about if the measurements from one time period on one individual really reflects the genetic potential of that selected individual. Who knows, perhaps a ram that has a slightly

smaller loin eye measurement may actually have a better genetic standing amongst the breed and have a greater potential to positively influence your flock. This is the beauty of genetics!

So now that we have introduced you to the benefits of NSIP, you may be thinking, what EBV's should I be measuring or looking for when selecting animals to add to my flock. This is a difficult question to answer as everyone has a different goal in mind. Some may want to focus on fat depth, while others are more concerned about maternal characteristics to improve their ewe base. All are great parameters to focus on, but remember, do not focus on just one selection criteria. When we become extremely focused on one parameter that we desire, we lose focus on other important features. For example, if we are only focused on increased weaning weight, this may result in heavy birth weights. This isn't always bad, but this intense selection criteria may lead you to having more issues with dystocia amongst your ewe flock and in the long run require more labor to assist your ewes. Every decision that we make has tradeoffs and it is up to you to decide which is worth the investment for both the welfare of your animals and you.

Now that I have mentioned some traits above that you may be interested in, let us take a moment to outline those that apply to terminal breeds. Of course, those that are related to weight traits and are applicable to all sheep breeds are Birth Weight (BWT), Maternal Birth Weight (MBWT), Weaning Weight (WWT), Maternal Weaning Weight (MWWT), Postweaning Weight (PWWT). Birth Weight and Weaning Weight makes the most sense here as it estimates the weight of the offspring at birth and weaning. As we discussed earlier, if you were interested in decreasing issues associated with dystocia and changing your feeding program did not help, perhaps negatively selecting for birth weight (smaller birth weight) could aid in this management decision. Postweaning Weight is an additional weight that can be collected after weaning weight in which is used to describe the performance of lambs without the influence of their dam.

The other two remaining weight parameters are a bit different from what you may expect for a terminal breed of sheep, but nonetheless are important as we considered the longevity and performance of our ewes. Maternal Birth Weight estimates the effects of the ewe on the lamb(s) growth potential. Ewes with a positive Maternal Birth Weight estimate would be more favorable for producing lambs. In the same regard, Maternal Weaning Weight estimates overall mothering ability, such as ewe behavior and milk production. However, for the purposes of our breed, some of the most important weight parameters to focus on would be the Weaning and Postweaning Weights. These genetic parameters meet the goals of our breed as we are focused on producing fast growing and efficient lambs.

For the purpose of our superior terminal breed, in my opinion if no other data parameters are collected on your flock, I would suggest at least collecting the parameters that are related to body composition such as Postweaning Fat Depth (CF), Postweaning Loin Eye Muscle Depth (EMD), and Carcass Plus. Simply stated, Postweaning Fat Depth is an indicator of genetic differences in carcass fat depth whereas Loin Eye Muscle Depth is an indicator of genetic differences in muscling. Both of these parameters are crucial to our breed as we strive for heavy muscled, lean carcasses. These measurements are adjusted to a standard weight of 110 lbs. In

addition, Carcass Plus, which is a combination of Postweaning Weight, Postweaning Fat Depth, and Postweaning Loin Eye Muscle Depth, provides a nice estimate for terminal sires. This EBV is beneficial as it encompasses three different EBV's and allows for you to compare one EBV rather than three. IN the sense of comparing sires, this makes the process a bit easier.

Although you may not initially consider this with a terminal breed, collecting data on reproductive performance and tolerance to parasitic infection may also be beneficial to your operation. Number of Lambs Born (NLB) and Number of Lambs Weaned (NLW) are great estimates used to determine the overall reproductive performance of your ewes. Although not currently available for terminal breeds, Scrotal Circumference (SC) is an important measurement to take. Regardless if you are recording data for NSIP or not, I would highly recommend taking several Scrotal Circumference measurements on your males. These measurements can help identify rams that have the potential to be more reproductively sound and be used to identify ewe lambs that should be retained in the flock from specific males as it may also influence their reproductive performance.

Finally, parasite resistance estimated by Worm Egg Count (WEC) EBV is not only reserved for hair sheep anymore. Recent research has indicated that Texel sheep have the ability to resist parasitic infection in the same manner as do hair sheep. Including this EBV to your overall genetic assessment of your flock may serve as beneficial as many hair sheep producers are seeking to add value to their lamb carcasses. With the addition of the Worm Egg Count EBV, this would allow hair sheep producers to maintain their parasitic resistance while increasing the value of their grazing lambs.

I realize that all of this information can be a bit daunting at first, but trust me, its well worth the investment. Having a better understanding of the genetic potential of your flock and those that you intend on purchasing from will allow you to make the soundest buying and breeding decisions. Adding value to your flock by recording the genetic potential of your animals seems like a win-win situation to me. Yes, there are still and always will be sheep purchased based on their physical appearance, but when it comes to consistent performance and gaining the greatest return on investment, I'll leave that to science and the data collected through NSIP.

NOTE: Explanations for the description of EBV's comes from the NSIP EBV Notebook written by Dr. David Notter. This notebook can be found online at <http://nsip.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/NSIP-EBV-Descriptions-FINAL-1.16.15.pdf>.

New Name! • New Location! • New Management!

Ohio

SHOWCASE SALE

**Entries
Close
March 1**

MAY 7-9, 2020

**Entries
Close
March 1**

Darke County Fairgrounds, GREENVILLE, OHIO

800 Sweitzer St, Greenville, OH 45331

Formerly "Big Ohio Sale"

AUCTIONEERS:

**Gary Saylor
Danny Westlake
Bill MacCauley**

SALE SCHEDULE

Friday, May 8 - Swine Building - 10:00 a.m.
Breed order same as Show
Saturday, May 9 - Cattle Pavillion - 9:00 a.m.
Breed order same as Show

ONLINE ENTRIES:

**Online Entries
Are Available
www.selectls.net**

SHOW SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MAY 7 - SWINE BUILDING - 8:00 A.M.

Katahdins followed by
Dorpers and White Dorpers
Texels - * Eastern Regional Show & Sale
Natural Colored - * National Show & Sale
Rambouillets - * Eastern Regional Show & Sale
Columbias • Corriedales • Montadales
Cheviots
Tunis - * NEW for 2020!
Wether Sires/Dams

FRIDAY, MAY 8 - CATTLE PAVILLION - 8:00 A.M.

Southdowns followed by
Suffolks
Polled Dorsets
Horned Dorsets
Oxfords
Shropshires - * National Show & Sale
Hampshires - * Eastern Regional Show & Sale

JUDGES

ALEX WOLF, OH - Katahdins, Dorpers & White Dorpers,
Texels, Polled & Horned Dorsets, Oxfords
DAVE COOK, OH - Natural Colored, Rambouillets,
Columbias, Corriedales, Montadales, Cheviots
BILLY WADE, IN - Tunis, Wether Sires & Dams,
Southdowns
MARK JOHNSON, IL - Suffolks, Shropshires,
Hampshires

HOTEL INFORMATION

QUALITY INN GREENVILLE - 1190 East Russ Rd.
937/316-5252, \$90.00 plus tax, room block cut off is April 6
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS - 1195 Russ Rd.
937/548-1328, \$129.99 plus tax, room block cut off April 6
BAYMONT By WYNDHAM - 851 Martin St.
937/548-3613, \$60.00 plus tax, room block cut off April 22
*Specify "Ohio Showcase Sale" to get the locked in rate

OTHER HOTELS Within 30 minutes of the Fairgrounds
FAIRFIELD INN by Marriott 9797 US 40W, 937/437-8009
HOLIDAY INN RICHMOND - 6000 National Rd. E 765/488-1975
MOTEL 6 RICHMOND - 6030 National Rd. E 765/966-6559
BEST WESTERN RICHMOND - 533 W. Eaton Pike 765/939-9500
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS BROOKVILLE - 95 N. Parkview Dr. 937/833-9998



PO Box 25, Rushsylvania, OH 43347

Gary: 937/597-7214 - gary@selectls.net

Pat: 937/935-1975 - pat@selectls.net

Jim: 937/658-3119 - jim@selectls.net

Dan: 937/243-5111 - dan@selectls.net

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