

1997-98 REPRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE OF THE SPOONER AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION FLOCK

Yves Berger
Spooner Agricultural Research Station
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Table 1. 1998 Reproductive performance of ewe lambs[†] bred to Texel rams^f

	Breed of Dam*			
	$\frac{1}{4}$ E, C	$\frac{3}{8}$ E, C	$\frac{1}{2}$ E, C	D, C
No. of ewes at breeding	17	24	44	16
No. of ewes at lambing	16	24	44	16
No. of ewes aborted	1	0	0	0
No. of ewes lambed	14	23	42	14
No. of lambs born	30	46	80	18
No. of lambs died before weaning	3	4	3	0
Birth weight of males	9.9	10.5	10.4	10.3
Birth weight of females	9.2	9.0	10.1	9.7
30 d. weight of males	32.8	34.2	33.7	33.9
30 d. weight of females	30.6	30.1	31.7	35.9
Fertility	93%	100%	95.4%	87.5%
Litter size	2.14	2.0	1.9	1.28
Survival rate	90%	91.3%	96.3%	100%
Total 30 d. wt./ewe	50.6	56.1	57.1	39.4

* $\frac{1}{4}$ E, C = $\frac{1}{4}$ East Friesian
 $\frac{3}{8}$ E, C = $\frac{3}{8}$ East Friesian
 $\frac{1}{2}$ E, C = $\frac{1}{2}$ East Friesian
D, C = $\frac{3}{4}$ Dorset

[†]Ewe lambs born between February and March, 1997.

^fEwe lambs were exposed to Texel rams between October 26, 1997 and January 1, 1998.

Table 2. 1998 Reproductive performance of artificially inseminated[†] commercial ewes^f

No. of ewes at breeding	58
No. of ewes at lambing	56
No. of ewes aborted	1
No. of ewes lambed	42
No. of lambs born	95
No. of lambs died before weaning	7
Birth wt. of males	9.1
Birth wt. of females	9.2
60 day wt. of males	56.0
60 day wt. of females	54.1
Fertility [‡]	72
Litter size	2.26
Survival rate	92.6%
Total 60 d. wt./ewe	81.5

[†]Artificial insemination was performed on November 13 and 14, 1997. Intact East Friesian rams were put with the ewes from November 20, 1997 until January 2, 1998.

[‡]10 ewes out of 22 ewes that did not lamb were seven and eight years of age.

^f: $\frac{1}{2}$ Dorset, $\frac{1}{4}$ Romanov, $\frac{1}{4}$ Targhee
or $\frac{1}{2}$ Dorset, $\frac{1}{4}$ Finn, $\frac{1}{4}$ Targhee

Table 3. 1998 Reproductive performance of mature dairy ewes bred to Texel rams^f

	Breed of Dam*			
	$\frac{1}{4}$ E, C	$\frac{3}{8}$ E, C	$\frac{1}{2}$ E, C	D, C
No. of ewes at breeding	82	34	12	11
No. of ewes at lambing	82	34	12	11
No. of ewes aborted	1	0	0	0
No. of ewes lambed	81	33	12	11
No. of lambs born	182	74	28	22
No. of lambs died before weaning	5	9	2	0
Birth weight of males	10.8	11.4	11.4	11.5
Birth weight of females	10.2	10.0	9.9	9.4
30 d. weight of males	32.3	34.1	32.4	32.9
30 d. weight of females	29.7	31.4	29.8	27.8
Fertility	100%	97%	100%	100%
Litter size	2.25	2.24	2.33	2.0
Survival rate	97.2%	87.8%	92.8%	100%
Total 30 d. wt./ewe	60.6	64.3	68.3	59.3

* $\frac{1}{4}$ E, C = $\frac{1}{4}$ East Friesian
 $\frac{3}{8}$ E, C = $\frac{3}{8}$ East Friesian
 $\frac{1}{2}$ E, C = $\frac{1}{2}$ East Friesian
D, C = $\frac{3}{4}$ Dorset

^fEstrus was synchronized for breeding to occur on September 17 and September 19, 1997..
Rams were removed from the ewes on October 26, 1997.

Table 4. 1998 Reproductive performance for the Spooner sheep flock.

No. of ewes at breeding	298
No. of ewes at lambing	295
No. of ewes lambed	272
No. of ewes aborted	3
No. of lambs born	575
No. of lambs died before weaning	33
Fertility	92.3%
Litter size	2.11
Survival rate	94.3%