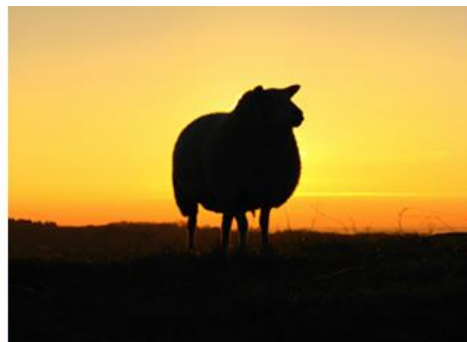


Improving efficiencies in small scale sheep production



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Welcome

Newlands Farm, Darvel
14th October 2017



Programme

- Introduction
- Sheep Terminology
- Breeds
- The Production Cycle
- Topping & Pregnancy
- Feeding The Ewe
- Health
- Handling



Firstly...some terminology for sheep age and sex

What would you call this Suffolk male sheep?



Terminology Quiz



Birth to December of first year.
Age: to approx 8 months.
Approx 40-60% of mature body size.

January to first shearing.
Age: approx 8-14 months.
Approx 60-80% of mature body size.

Second shearing onwards.
Age: 26 months and over.
Mature body size.

First shearing to second shearing.
Age: approx 14-26 months.
Approx 80-90% of mature body size.

A ewe no longer fit for breeding due to lack of teeth, bad udder, bad feet or poor condition. Can be any age.

A ewe still sound in feet, teeth and udder but removed from the hill due to age. Usually purchased by lowground farmers for further breeding(s).

Ewe Hogget

Gimmer

Draft (or Cast) Ewe

Cull Ewe

Ewe Lamb

Ewe

Drag these terms to their matching definitions, then click 'Submit' when you are satisfied that you have matched them all up correctly.

Submit

Terminology: EWE LAMB

- Female lamb from time of birth until weaned
or
until the new year



Terminology: HOGG

- Female - from weaning until shorn for 1st time.

Terminology: GIMMER

- Female sheep after first shearing until has first lamb



Terminology: EWE

- Any female sheep that has lambed



Terminology: DRAFT EWE / CAST EWE

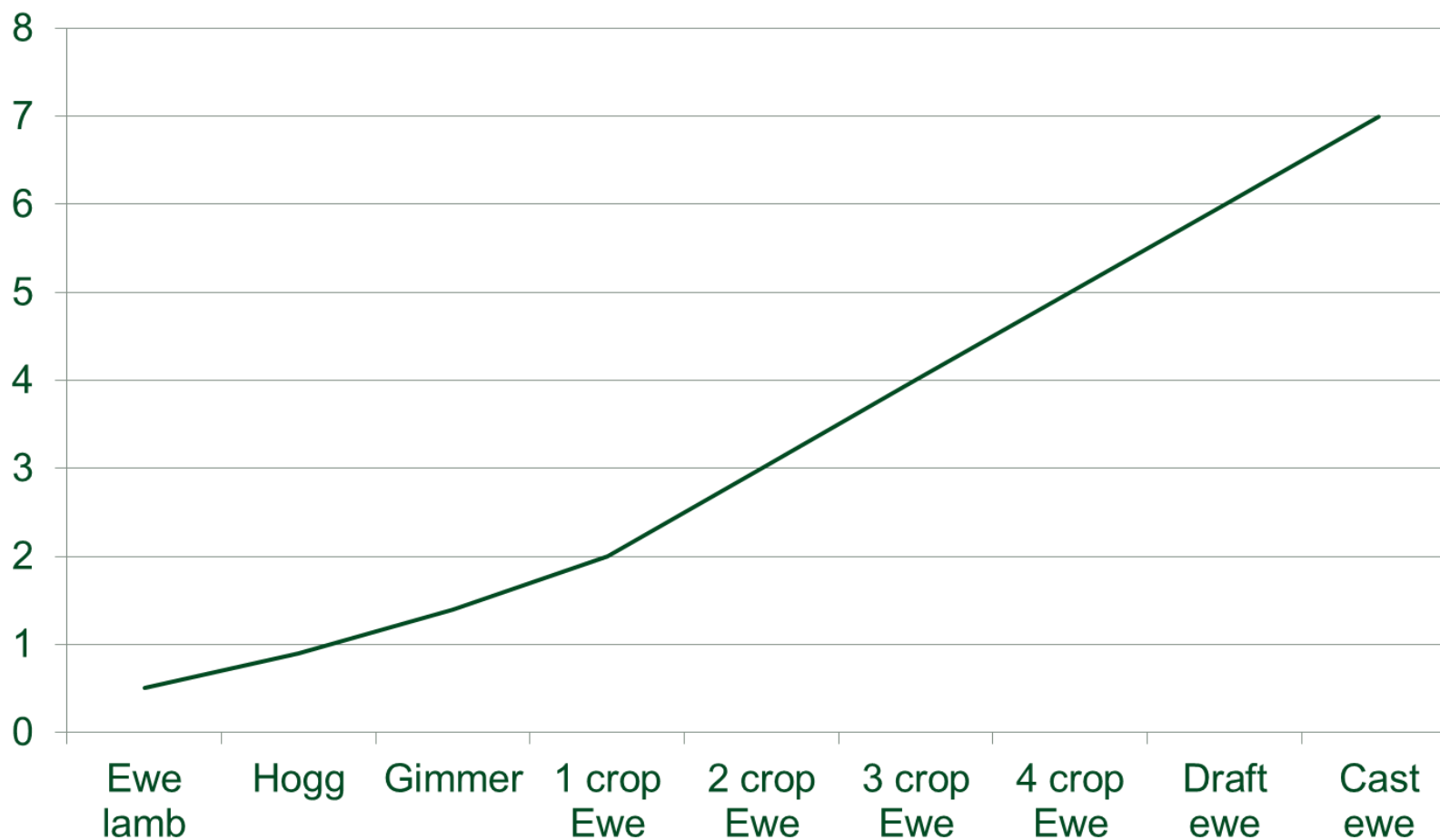


- A ewe removed from hill or upland farm to a lowground unit for further breeding
 - in more favourable conditions!

Age terminology for female sheep



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Terminology: RAM or TUP

- Male - not castrated and left 'entire' for breeding.



Terminology: SHEARLING



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- A ram or tup that has been shorn once.



Terminology: RIG

A Male that is either

- Not properly castrated
- With only one testicle
- With arrested testicles

Terminology: TEASER

A Vasectomised male kept for

- stimulating ewes into oestrus or heat
- identifying non pregnant ewes

Terminology: WETHER/WEDDER /TEGS



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- Male lamb castrated and intended for slaughter.

Terminology: WETHER HOGG

- Wether - from weaning onwards



Terminology: STORE/FINISHING/ FAT LAMB



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- Store- lamb put up for sale in the Autumn
- Finishing- lamb that is being fattened
- Fattening- same as finishing

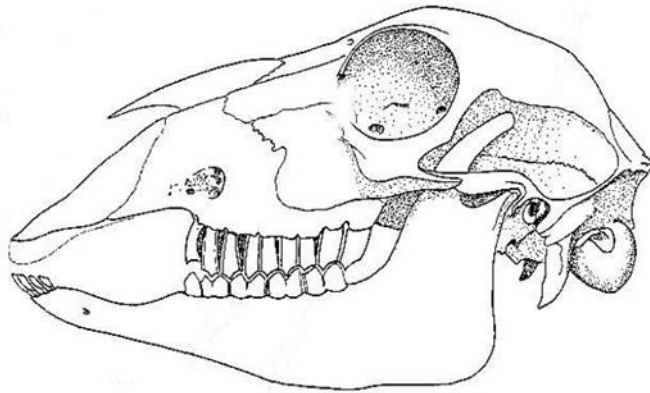
Breeding Flock Structure

Ewes	Gimmers	Ewe Hoggs	Tups	Others
25	5	7	1	0

SMILE! How to tell a sheep's age



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- Sheep have incisors at the front lower jaw, and a dental pad at the front upper.
- At the back of the jaw are molars, top and bottom.
- The age of a sheep can be determined by its teeth.

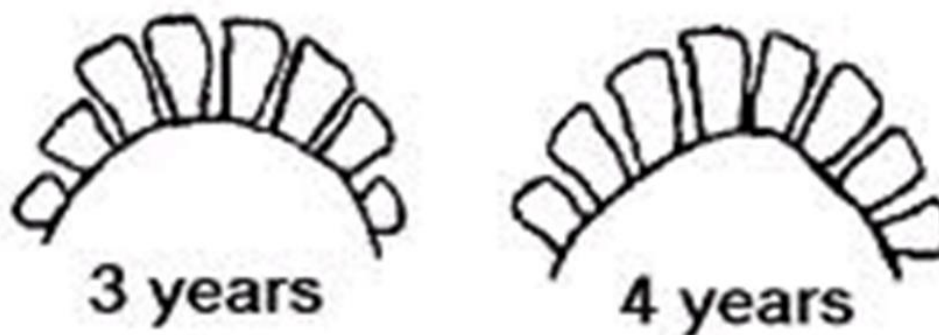
TEETH

- Lamb - starts with 8 temporary incisor (front) milk teeth
- Hogg - the centre pair of permanent teeth start to erupt at 12 months of age.
- At 12-18 months old - first central pair of permanent teeth present (hogg/gimmer/wether/shearling)
- At 21-24 months old - second pair present 4-tooth (gimmer/wether/tup)
- At 30-36 months old - third pair present - 6-tooth (ewe/tup)
- At 42-48 months old – ‘Full mouth’ - complete set of 8 permanent teeth present

Teeth



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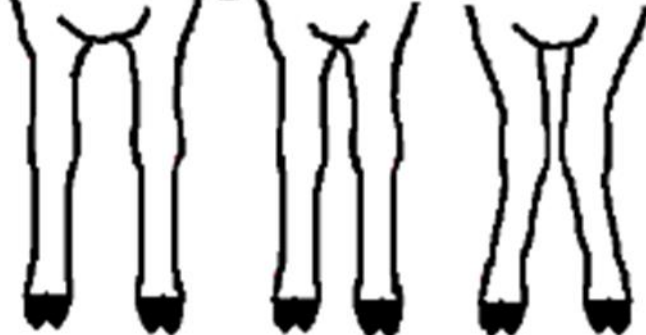
Broken mouth



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Front Legs Front View

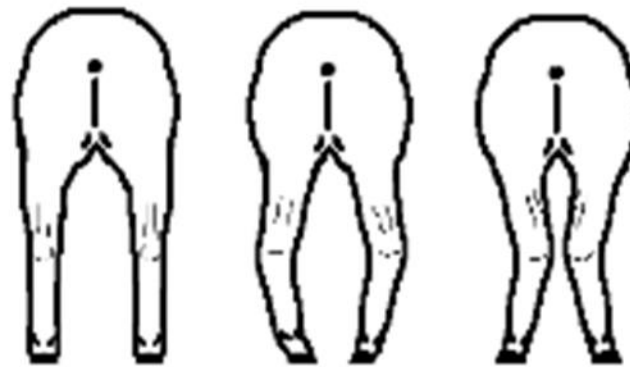


Correct

Narrow

Knock-Kneed

Back Legs - Rear View



Correct

Bowlegged

Cow-Hocked

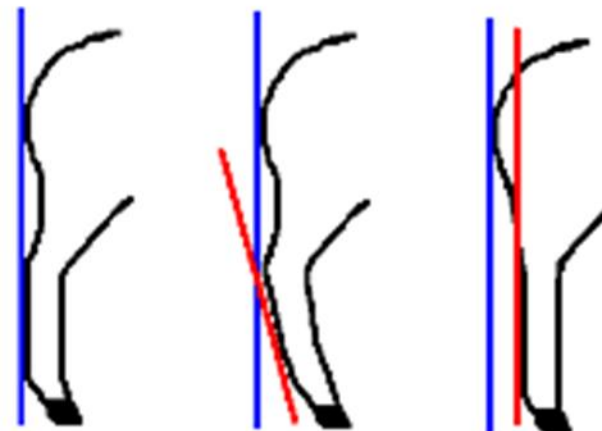


Bow-Legged

**Splay Footed
(Toed out)**

**Pigeon Toed
(Toed in)**

Back Legs - Side View



Correct

Sickle-Hocked

Post-Legged

Breeds

- Hundreds of different breeds of sheep, types within breeds and crosses of breeds!
- What do you need? Hardiness? Coloured wool? Large leg of lamb? Milk?



Breeds: Scottish Blackface

- **Most numerous breed in UK**
- **Very Hardy – suitable for hill grazing**
- **~ 55kg**
- **Strong Hefting**
- **Coarse fleece - for carpets**
- **Lambing percentage of 70 - 150%**



Breeds: North Country Cheviot



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- **Hardy**
- **Grass Hill rather than Heather hill grazing**
- **~ 65kg**
- **Medium fleece – suitable for tweeds**
- **Lambing percentage 70 – 170%**



Breeds: Lleyn

- **Grass Hill or lowground grazing**
- **~ 60kg**
- **Medium fleece – suitable for tweeds**
- **Prolific - Lambing percentage 120 – 240%**



Breeds: Cross breeds

- **Examples are**
- **Shetland Cheviot**
- **Highland Mule**
- **Greyface**
- **Crosses of breeds benefit from**
- **‘Hybrid vigour’**



Breeds: Suffolk

- Terminal Sire'
- For producing finished lamb
- Good Conformation
- Quick growth
- ~ 80kg ewe, 100kg tup



Breeds: Texel

- **Very Lean Carcass**
- **Slower Growing than Suffolk**
- **Smaller frame**
- **Excellent Conformation**



Rare Breeds or unusual breeds



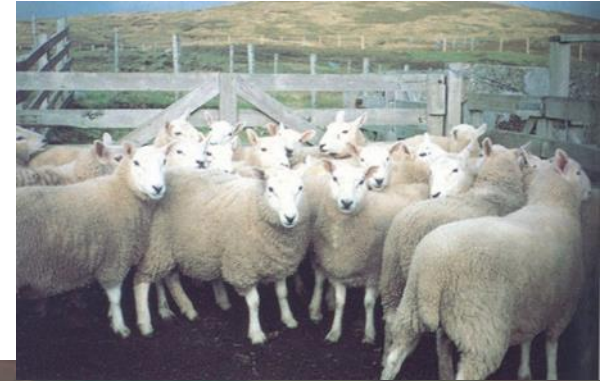
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Quiz



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The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development
Europe investing in rural areas



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What are you trying to achieve?

How many can you keep?

- It depends!
- Type of vegetation:
 - grass – old/new/variety
 - Heather
- Making winter keep (silage or hay)
- Breed
- Production level



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The European Agricultural Fund
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Europe investing in rural areas



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Now for some practical!



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