wat tans toegepas word is dit egter die enigste manier om presterende skape te teel.
It will remain unpopular until breeders see the change in their animals. It is not a successful sales gimmick. With current management practices it is however the only way to breed animals that perform well.

8. Hoekom is die Griekwastad veiling spesifiek so suksesvol?
Why is the Griekwastad sale specifically such a success?

Ek glo dat die kopers wat hierdie veiling ondersteun, kan 'n positiewe verandering in hul kuddes raaksien en dat, die sukses van hierdie veiling te danke is daaraan dat die bestuur van hierdie veiling waarskynlik die beste van alle veldram-veilings is.
I believe the buyers supporting this sale can observe a positive change in their flocks and that the success of this sale is due to the excellent management of this sale, which is probably the best managed of all the veldram sales.

John Dell sê/says:

1. Hoe het u met Dorpers begin boer?
How did you start farming with Dorpers?

Ek het by my pa oorgeneem in 1978. Die stoet bestaan sedert 1958.
I took over from my father in 1978. The Stud was started in 1958.

2. Hoogte en laagte punte in jou stoetery en die bedryf?
A climax and anti-climax in your stud and industry?

Om die hoogste gemiddeld by 'n Nasionale veiling te behaal. In die bedryf – politiek!
Topping the average on a National Sale. In the industry – politics!

3. As u vandag weer moet begin wat sal u anders doen?
If you had to start again today what would you do differently?

Ek is tevrede met wat ek bereik het en gevolglik dink ek nie ek sal iets verander nie.
I am satisfied with what I achieved in the past therefore I do not think I will do anything differently.

4. Raad aan voornemende telers?
Advice to prospective breeders?

Integriteit en eerlikheid te alle tye
Integrity and honesty at all times.

5. Waar sien u die bedryf oor 5 jaar?
Where do you see the industry in 5 years?

As ons die foute wat ons in die verlede gemaak het kan erken en so gou moontlik aanspreek, kan die bedryf weer wees waar dit hoort – heel bo – na vyf jaar.
If we can admit to the mistakes we have made in the past and address those ASAP, the industry could again be where we should be – on top – in 5 years.

6. Wat sou u vandag graag wil verander aan die Dorper?
What would you like to see change on the Dorper today?

'n Meer aangepaste skaap, geteel om onder ekstensiewe omstandighede goed te vaar soos dit aanvanklik bedoel was.
A more adapted sheep bred to do well in extensive conditions as it was meant to be.

7. Prestasietoetsing?
Performance testing?

'n Baie goeie konsep – dit het my geweldig gehelp. Die res van die wêreld meet.
Dit is nou hoog tyd dat ons die belangrikheid van prestasietoetsing besef. Die dae van raaiwerk is verby.
An excellent innovation – it helped me tremendously. The rest of the world is measuring. It is about time we realized the importance of performance testing. The days of guess work are over.

8. Hoekom is die Griekwastad veiling spesifiek so suksesvol?
Why is the Griekwastad sale so successful?

Die projek word baie goed bestuur en prestasietoetsing word hier bewys. Kopers het vertroue in die projek en behaal sukses met die diere wat hulle hier koop.
A very well managed project where performance testing is coming to the fore. Buyers have confidence in the project and are achieving success with animals from this project.

Albert Van Niekerk sê/says:

1. Hoe het u met Dorpers begin boer
How did you start farming with Dorpers

Na matriek an die HJS Paarl, volg ek die 2 jaar diploma kursus te Grootfontein Landbou Kollege Middelburg OKP(1951-52) Ons was uitsluitlik Merino boere. Die Dorper proewe te Grootfontein was reeds ver gevorder. Ek raak so verlief op die ras dat ek besluit om met Dorpers te boer.(1953) en huur 'n plaas vir die doel waar ons begin met Dorper-tipe ooie en ramme gekoop van Mnr Hennie de Smidt (voorste teler van die tyd).
After matric HJS Paarl, I did the 2 year diploma course at Grootfontein College of Agriculture Middelburg ECP (1951-52). We were mainly Merino farmers. The Dorper trails at Grootfontein were well progressed. I fell in love with the breed and decided to farm with Dorpers (1953). We hired a farm for this purpose and started with Dorper-type ewes and rams bought from Mr Hennie de Smidt (prominent breeder of the time).

2. Hoogte en laagte punte in jou stoetery en die bedryf?
A Climax and anti-climax in you stud and industry?

Ek het nooit laagte punte in ons boerdery gehad nie, want ek het geskou vanaf 1962-1972 toe die "mooi-maak" proses begin is by die voorkwarte, was dit vir my 'n fout alhoewel ek ook klein aanpassings gemaak het.

a) My eerste hoogte punt was 20/1/1960: eerste inspeksie deur Mnr Hennie de Smidt;
b) 2014: 15 648 diere op BLUP rekordstelses;
c) 15 017 geregistreerde stoet diere;
d) Sedert 2004 is meer as 40 gemete ramme geidentifiseer wat van 30-70% per trop ooie gepaar, tweeling teel.
e) 1973: Ooie se gemiddelde tussen lamperiodes is 353 dae.

I never experienced an anti-climax in my farming as I showed from 1962 -1972 when the "beautifying" process started for the front quarters. I did not agree with all of this although I did make small adjustments.

a) My first climax was 20/1/1960: first inspection by Mr Hennie de Smidt
b) 2014: 15648 animals on BLUP record system;
c) 15 017 registered stud animals;
d) Since 2004 more than 40 performance tested rams were identified of which 30-70% mated per flock of ewes, bred twins;
e) 1973: the average between lambing periods for ewes is353 days.

3. As u vandag weer moet begin wat sal u anders doen?
If you had to start again today what would you do differently?

Ek sal op bogenoemde wil verbeter
I would like to improve on the above

4. Raad aan voornemende telers?
Advice to prospective breeders?

Hou goeie rekords en neem deel aan prestasie-toetsing met BLUP waardes om te weet wat in jou boerdery gebeur van dag tot dag en geniet jou lewe in die boerdery.
Keep good records en participate in performance testing with BLUP values in order to know what is happening in your farming on a daily basis and enjoy your life in your farming.

5. Waar sien u die bedryf oor 5 jaar?
Where do you see the industry in 5 years?

As die foute wat gemaak was, reggestel kan word, is daar 'n baie goeie toekoms vir die ras. Gelukkig is daar nog baie Dorpers met min foute wat uiters vrugbaar is.
If the mistakes of the past is rectified, there is a bright future for the breed. Fortunately there are still many good Dorpers, with high fertility and few faults around.

6. Wat sou u vandag graag wil verander aan die Dorper?
What would you like to see change on the Dorper today?

Dat diere met lae produksie en reproduksie waardes, uit die bedryf verwyder word.
That animals with low production and reproduction values be removed from the industry.

7. Prestasietoetsing?
Performance testing?

Prestasietoetsing is om te weeg en te meet sodat jy rekord het van elke stoet- en gekeurde dier in jou boerdery. Dit bly die A-Z van elke stoetery.
Performance testing is to weigh and to measure in order to have a record of each selected stud animal in your flock. It remains the A – Z of each stud.

8. Hoekom is die Griekwastad veiling spesifiek so suksesvol?
Why is the Griekwastad sale specifically such a success?

Die deelnemers aan Griekwastad is almal telers wat prestasietoetsing doen. Die fenotipe is belangrik, maar die genetiese teelwaardes is van meer belang. Die toetsing van die ramme is goed beplan en word noukeurig uitgevoer. Die kopers word jaarliks meer want hulle koop ramme wat geensins oorvoer is nie, ramme is aangepas om te oorleef onder normale boerdery omstandighede.
The participants at Griekwastad all do performance testing. The phenotype is important, but the genetic breed values are more important. The testing of rams is well planned and properly executed. Buyer numbers increase each year as the rams they purchase are not over fed, rams are adapted and can survive under normal farming conditions.

My beste wense en voorspoed aan die SADTG raad, personeel en amptenare met hulle taak vorentoe.
My best wishes for prosperity to the SADBS council, staff and officials with their task ahead.

Mickey Phillips DORPERS

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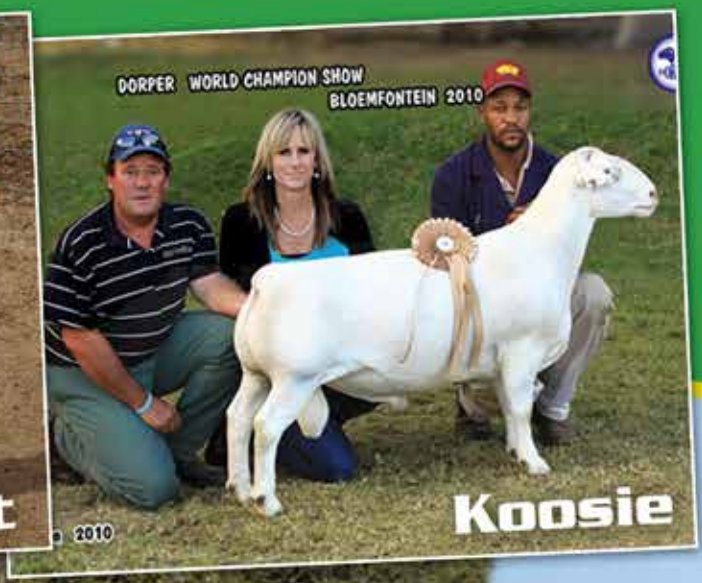
Embryos and Semen Always Available



Production Sales

Tarkastad - **18 February 2015**

Cilliers, Phillips & Phillips, Upington - **3 September 2015**

Diamond Dorper Sale, Kimberley - **15 July 2015**

Heritage Sale, Rustenburg - **19 November 2015**

Visitors are always welcome

BRUCELLA OVIS EN PEESTERSIEKTE

By/deur: Dr Jaco Pienaar
Beaufort Wes
082 907 1140 /023 415 2266

Erkenning en dank aan die ondergemelde veeartse wat hierdie protokol opgestel het en aan al die persone wat die werkwinkel bygewoon het en bygedra het tot hierdie projek.

- Dr JA van Rooyen — Steynsburg
- Dr R Larson — Graaff Reinet
- Dr J Pienaar — Beaufort Wes
- Dr G van Aardt — Kroonstad

RAPPORTEER asseblief alle uitbrake aan die Genootskap of u veearts sodat ons rekord van die vordering kan hou en kuddes met probleme kan help om die siekte uit te wis. Ons sal insette en verslae van boere en veeartse wat die protokol beproef het, waardeer. Ons beoog om die siekte uit te wis en ons benodig bystand van elke persoon betrokke in die bedryf.

Peestersiekte protokol soos bespreek op 29 September 2003 tydens 'n vergadering waar lede van die bestuur van die Dorpertelersgenootskap, provinsiale veeartsenydienste en privaat veeartse teenwoordig was.

'N KUDDE KAN AS VOLG GEKLASSIFISEER WORD:

1. Skoon met geen kliniese gevalle of tipe 4 letsels nie.

1.1 Koop slegs "skoon" ramme.

1.2 Doen proefparing op 10 jong ooitjies en hou afgesonder vir 30 dae. Ondersoek ramme voor toevoeging tot ramtrop.

1.3 Stel streng biologiese sekuriteitsmaatreëls in:

1.3.1 Instandhouding van grensdrade en vermy kontak met aangrensende moontlik besmette kuddes

1.3.2 Instelling van kwarantynstasie/ siekte waar toetreders vir 30 dae waargeneem kan word voor toevoeging tot kudde. Pas ook bosluisbeheer en vliegbeheer toe.

1.3.3 Voorkoming van meganiese oordrag deur hanteerders, voetsole, skeerders, KI tegnici (kunsvagina skedes) vanaf besmette kuddes.

1.4 In geval van nuwe uitbreking:

1.4.1 Drastiese optrede soos isolasie, uitslag, verkoop. Of

1.4.2 Hanteer soos besmette onstabiele kudde.

2. Stabiel besmette kudde: Besmet met min of geen kliniese gevalle. Nuwe toevoegings tot kudde word kliniese gevalle.

2.1 Stel voedingstekorte, parasietprobleme en stres reg.

Veral toediening van Vitamine A,D en E en Sink voor paring. Plaaslike tekorte moet ook aandag kry.

2.2 Pas voorkomend antimikrobiese behandeling toe.

2.2.1 Half buisie masitismiddel in elke skede voor paring. Mag herhaal word. Of

2.2.2 Inspuiting van langwerkende Tetrasikliene of Penisilien voor paring. Mag herhaal word. Of

2.2.3 Inspuiting plus lokale behandeling met Acriflavien/Gliserien of Getemde Jodium (Povodien) voor paring.

2.3 Merk alle ramme na ondersoek

2.3.1 Groen oorplaatjie – geen letsel of geskiedenis van peestersiekte

2.3.2 Geel oorplaatjie – een episode van peestersiekte

2.3.3 Rooi oorplaatjie – meer as een episode van peestersiekte

BEHEERPROGRAM

FASE 1 (5 jaar)

1. Stel vaste paarseisoen in: 34 dae (2 siklusse) 42 dae of 51 dae (3 siklusse)
2. Stel streng biologiese sekuriteit in.
   2.1 Instandhouding van grensdrade en vermy kontak met aangrensende moontlik besmette kuddes.
   2.2 Instelling van kwarantynstasie/seksie waar toetreders vir 30 dae waargeneem kan word voor toevoeging tot kudde. Pas ook bosluisbeheer en vliegbeheer toe.
   2.3 Voorkoming van meganiese oordrag deur hanteerders, voetsole, skeerders, KI tegnici (kunsvagina skedes) vanaf besmette kuddes.
3. Geen dekking in biologiese sekuriteits-afdeling na paartyd totdat 8 maande siklus voltooi is nie. 'n Boerdery kan meer as een afdeling instel met geen kontak tussen verskillende afdelings.
4. Alle droë ooie moet verwyder word na sonarondersoek of op die laaste dag van die lamseisoen.
5. Merk alle ramme na ondersoek.
   5.1 Groen oorplaatjie – geen letsel of geskiedenis van peestersiekte
   5.2 Geel oorplaatjie – een episode van peestersiekte
   5.3 Rooi oorplaatjie – meer as een episode van peestersiekte
6. Koop slegs "skoon" ramme. Doen proefparing op 10 jong ooitjies en hou afgesonder vir 30 dae. Ondersoek ramme voor toevoeging tot ramtrop.
7. Hou van voorgeskrewe rekords t.o.v. individuele ramme, paringsrekords en lamresultate.

FASE 2

8. Eerste sertifikaat na 3 opeenvolgende skoon paarseisoene en moontlike toekomstige bloedtoetse om besmetting te bepaal.
9. Jaarlikse of tweejaarlikse instandhoudingsertifikaat.
10. Erkenning en voordele vir gesertifiseerde kuddes.

3. Onstabiele besmette kudde

3.1 Stel voedingstekorte, parasietprobleme en stres reg.

Veral toediening van Vitamine A,D en E en Sink voor paring. Plaaslike tekorte moet ook aandag kry.

3.2 Behandel akute gevalle:

In alle gevalle kan toediening van Vitamine A, E en Sink asook ammoniumchloried genesing moontlik bespoedig.

3.2.1 Tipe 1 letsel: Behandel met inspuitbare antimikrobiese middel met bewese effektiwiteit teen Mycoplasm spp. (Advocin, Baytril en Tylan).

3.2.2 Tipe 2 letsel: Behandel en plaas terug na herstel.

Spuit langwerkende Tetrasikline of Penisilien in, opsioneel:

Herhaal 'n verdere 2 inspuitings m.a.w. 8 dae antibiotiese dekking, opsioneel;

Skedebehandeling met Acriflavine/ Gliserien of Getemde Jodium (Povodien).

Hanteer penis en skede so min as moontlik. Ontsmet hande en apparaat tussen gevalle.

3.2.3 Tipe 3 letsel kan behandel word soos Tipe 2 maar sal gewoonlik geprul word.

4. Merk alle ramme na ondersoek

4.1 Groen oorplaatjie – geen letsel of geskiedenis van peestersiekte
Geel oorplaatjie – een episode van peestersiekte
Rooi oorplaatjie – meer as een episode van peestersiekte

KLASSIFIKASIE VAN LETSELS BY RAMME

Letsel op penis	Tipe 1	Tipe 2	Tipe3	Tipe
Inflammasie	Ja			
Eksudaat		Ja	Ja	
Blasie	Ja			
Ulkus		Ja	Ja	
Paraphimose				Ja
Letsel				Ja

Bestuur jou kudde
Managing your flock

Garry Simon

Die volgende manier van kudde-bestuur sal dalk nie orals werk nie of elke boer pas nie. Areas, distrikte, plase en selfs buurplase verskil. 'n Mens moet by die toestande op jou plaas aanpas en poog om optimale produksie in 'n ekstensiewe omgewing te bekom.

The following way of managing your flock will not necessarily work everywhere or suit every farmer. Areas, districts, farms and even neighbouring farms differ. You have to adapt to conditions on your farm and attempt to gain optimal production in an extensive environment.

Ramvoorbereiding:

Hou altyd in gedagte dat die ram die helfte van die kudde is en hulle nie verwaarloos moet word nie. Maak seker dat jy jou ramme ent en doseer nes enige van die ander skape. Gee die ramme Multimin 1 maand voor paring. Ramme moet 'n goeie lek gegee word 6 weke voor hulle tussen die ooie geplaas word. Die doel hiervan is om te verseker dat hulle in 'n goeie kondisie is, spermtelling verhoog, die kwantiteit verhoog en die kwaliteit verbeter. Baie belangrik: toets die ramme vir brucella ovis, vrugbaarheid en enige ander siektetoestande wat prestasie en resultate kan beïnvloed.

Ram preparation:

Always keep in mind that the ram is half the flock, so remember not to neglect them. Make sure that you inoculate and dose them just as you would any other sheep. Give them Multimin 1 month prior to mating. Six weeks before you put the rams to the ewes, rams should be given a good lick. The purpose for this is to make sure that they are in a good condition, sperm count increases, quantity increases and quality improves. Very important – test the rams yearly for brucella ovis, fertility and any other disease that could affect performance and results.

Paring:

Maak weereens seker dat die ooikuddes se ente en doserings op datum is. Dit is goeie praktyk om die ooie Multimin te gee 1 maand voor paring. Die kondisie van die ooie moet 'n opwaartse kurwe toon wanneer hulle by die ramme gesit word. Kleiner geselekteerde groepe (ongeveer 50) kan met sekere ramme gepaar word vir 2 siklusse – ongeveer 35 dae. KI is ook baie effektief. Na hierdie fase kan die betrokke ooie weer na die groter groepe geskuif word. Groepparing kan nou gedoen word tot op dag 42 wanneer die ramme dan uit geskuif word. Groepparing kan op groter groepe ooie vir 6 weke gedoen word as selektiewe paring nie 'n gekose opsie is nie. Gee ooie weer Multimin 1 maand voor lamtyd.

Om die ooie te skandeer vir dragtigheid 6 weke na paring, is goeie praktyk. Dit maak die bestuur van jou kudde soveel makliker, want enkelinge, tweelinge en oorslaners word maklik geïdentifiseer. Raak ontslae van oorslaners behalwe as dit jong ooie is wat vir die eerste keer gepaar is rondom 10 maande. Gee hierdie ooie 'n tweede kans in 'n groepparing.

Mating:

Once again make sure that the ewe flocks' inoculations and dosages are up to date. Here it is also good practice to give the ewes Multimin one month prior to mating. The condition of ewes should be in an upward curve when they are put to the ram. Smaller selected groups (± 50) can be mated to specific sires for 2 cycles – 35 days. AI is also very effective. After this ewes can be mixed into bigger groups with multiple sires – group mating until day 42. Then rams can be removed. Larger groups of ewes can be group or mass mated

for 6 weeks if you don't want to do selective matings. Give ewes Multimin one month before lambing. It is good practice to have the ewes scanned for pregnancy 6 weeks after mating. This makes management so much easier as twins, singles and 'skips' are easily identified. Get rid of 'skips' unless they are young ewes that were mated for the first time, usually at 10 months of age. Give these ewes a second chance in a group mating.

Lamtyd:

Plaas ooie 14 dae voor lam in maklik hanteerbare groepe volgens die skanderings. Dus enkelinge en tweelinge apart. Gaan die groepe daagliks deur met die oog op enige geboorteprobleme. Enige sulke ooie wat sukkel, word saam met hulle lammers verkoop. Dat 'n ooi met gemak moet geboorte skenk, is van kardinale belang en daarom word ontslae geraak van swak gene. Elke tweede dag word die ooie wat gelam het geskuif na 'n nuwe kamp. Hou deeglik telling van die lammers want daar is altyd 'n roofdier in die nabyheid wat op soek is na 'n vinnige wegneemete. Ramlammers kan gespeen word op ongeveer 100 dae om te voorkom dat hulle die ooie begin dek. As ramlammers op 'n jong ouderdom gekastreer word, kan hulle by die ooie bly. Alle lammers moet egter teen 4½ maande gespeen wees.

Lambing:

14 days before lambing – put ewes into manageable groups according to pregnancy scan – twins or singles. Check daily for any birthing problems. Any such ewes should be marked and sold as well as her lamb/s. Lambing ease is very important therefore get rid of any weak genes. Every second day ewes that have lambed can be drafted off into another camp. Here they can be left alone where hopefully the lambs can grow successfully. Keep tabs on your lamb count as predators are always prowling. Ram lambs can be weaned at about 100 days of age, otherwise they start serving the ewes. If ram lambs are castrated at a young age they can be left with their mothers. By 4½ months of age all lambs should be weaned.

Na lamtyd:

Lammers moet gespeen word om die ooie 'n kans te gee om hul kondisie te verbeter voor die volgende paring. Tydens spening moet die ooi kudde deurgegaan word aan hul oorplaatjies rakende hul ouderdom of aan die toestand van hulle tande. Daar moet gekyk word vir moontlike abnormaliteite aan die uiers van die ooie. Alle ou ooie moet verkoop word sodra hulle in 'n goeie kondisie is. Enige lammers wat reg is vir die mark kan dan nou bemark word op ongeveer 40 kg of meer. Die bestuur moet poog dat die ooie elke 10 maande lam. Op 'n sekere punt in hierdie siklus gebeur dit dat ooie soms lam gedurende minder geskikte maande. Pas jou bestuur aan as dit vir jou 'n probleem is. En so begin die hele siklus weer van voor af. Behou genoeg ooilammers om die ou ooie wat verkoop is te vervang – gewoonlik ongeveer 20%.

Post lambing:

Lambs should be weaned to give the ewe a break so that her condition can improve before the next mating. At weaning the ewe flock should be checked for age, either by your tag colours and or the state of their teeth. Udders should be checked for any abnormalities. Any old ewes should be sold once they are in a reasonable condition. Any lambs that are ready for the market can now also be sold, at ± 40 kg or more. Management should attempt that the ewes lamb every 10 months. At some stage during this cycle, some of the ewe groups will lamb during less suitable months. If this does not suit you, adapt to your situation. And so the whole cycle will be repeated again and again. Keep enough ewe lambs to replace old ewes sold, usually about 20%.

Samevatting:

Rekordhouding is ook baie belangrik. Daar is verskeie programme hiervoor beskikbaar. Dit is 'n waardevolle hulpmiddel wat jou bestuur kan vergemaklik. 'n

Hoë besettingspersentasie, lampersentasie en belangrikste speenpersentasie moet voor gemik word. Speenpersentasie is wat die pot aan die kook hou. Meerlinggeboortes, veral tweelinge is altyd 'n bonus. Poog om jaarliks hierdie syfer te verhoog. Die Dorperskaap is geteel om homself te kan onderhou, vleis te produseer en te reproduseer onder sub-optimale omstandighede. As jy goed na jou kudde omsien, sal hulle goed na jou omsien.

Conclusion:

Record keeping is also very important and there are many programmes available. This is a useful tool which can be used to improve your management. A

and most important weaning percentage should be aimed for. Weaning percentage is what keeps the pot boiling. Multiple births, especially twins, are always a bonus. Attempt to increase this number every year. The Dorper sheep was bred to be able to maintain itself, produce meat and reproduce under sub-optimal conditions. If you manage your sheep properly, they will take care of you in return.

Hou altyd in gedagte dat jy die bestuurder van 'n fabriek is. En … die defenisie van 'n vegetariër is 'n "missed steak" of dan "what a chop"!!

Always keep in mind that you are the manager of a factory. The definition of a vegetarian is a 'missed steak' or rather 'what a chop'!!

ROLBAL — Besigheidsliga 2013

Die kantoor hou Dorpers se naam hoog!

Juanita Steenberg

Die Middelburg rolbalklub bied jaarliks 'n besigheidsliga aan. Al die besighede in die dorp word betrek en moet 'n span van 3 lede hê om deel te neem. Die Dorperskaaptelersgenootskap se kantoor was ook genader om aan die kompetisie deel te neem.

Elke span kry 'n "skip" wat lid van die rolbalklub is en wat die spel ken en gereeld speel. Daar word dan Dinsdagaande wedstryde gespeel.
Alhoewel die kompetisie baie informeel is, het ons gou besef dat die ander besighede die kompetisie baie ernstig opneem.
Ons het ook nie elke Dinsdag dieselfde span ingeskryf nie, aangesien Attie somtyds by vergaderings was en Maggie uitstedig was vir besigheid. Juanita en haar man JF het elke wedstryd gespeel en Ronel het ingestaan vir Attie.

Die Dorpers se "skip" was tannie Magdaleen Lessing, wat, ten spyte van haar jarelange betrokkenheid by hul Merino boerdery, die Dorper hemp week na week aangetrek het en ons gelei het tot hoë hoogtes.

Van die besighede wat deelgeneem het was: Spar, BKB, Skole, GBG, Plus 10, OVK, PSG en baie ander.

Na die tweede rondte was die Dorpers voor op die punte leer en al die ander spanne het ons in hul visier gehad.

Die Dorperspan het die besigheidsliga kompetisie gewen en ons "Skip" was baie trots saam met ons. Ons dank aan tannie Magdaleen Lessing vir haar eindelose geduld en die lekker gees wat daar deurentyd in ons span geheers het.

MEESTER 20
'N MÓÉT VIR ELKE PLAAS

MOLATEK MEESTER 20
MAAK WINSGEWENDE BOERDERY SO MAKLIK

UITGROEI VAN KALWERS

Meester 20	kg	280
Sout	kg	50
Totaal	**kg**	**330**

Verskaf mengsel teen
1,5 – 2,0 kg/vers/dag
Meester 20 kan skoon teen
1,5 – 2,0 kg/vers/dag
gegee word

HERKOUER WILDSLEK

Meester 20	kg	200
Sout	kg	50
Totaal	**kg**	**250**

Kleinwild: 250 – 300 g/dag
Grootwild: 500 – 600 g/dag

PRODUKSIELEK VIR KOEIE, KALWERS EN VELDAFRONDING

Meester 20	kg	280
Mieliemeel	kg	280
Sout	kg	100
Totaal	**kg**	**660**

Verskaf mengsel teen
1,5 – 2,0 kg/koei/dag

SOMER FOSFAATLEK

Meester 20	kg	40
P12	kg	50
Sout	kg	50
Totaal	**kg**	**140**

Skape:
22 – 25 g/ooi/dag
Beeste:
150 – 200 g/bees/dag

OOIE LAATDRAGTIG EN VROEË LAKTASIE

Meester 20	kg	200
Mieliemeel	kg	150
Molatek Bypass	kg	100
Sout	kg	50
Totaal	**kg**	**500**

Verskaf mengsel teen
350 en 450 g/ooi/dag
1-ling en 2-ling ooie

PRIKKELVOEDING VIR OOIE

Meester 20	kg	600
Mieliemeel	kg	300
Sout	kg	100
Totaal	**kg**	**1000**

Verskaf mengsel teen
300 g/ooi/dag
Verskaf **Meester 20** skoon teen
250 – 300 g/ooi/dag

uppe marketing A11058/Rev

VERSEKER BETER DIEREPRESTASIE

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A Global View of the Dorper

Dr Francois Marais

I have been in the fortunate position to follow the Dorper breed on its journey all over the world. My career has been to take Dorper genetics from South Africa to Australia, Canada, USA and South America. Then I followed the Dorper to these countries to increase the numbers and the quality of the genetics by means of embryo transfer. During this time I realised how successful the Dorper became all over the world and how excited the breeders became about the new genetics from South Africa. I have seen how the Dorper transformed the sheep industry in Australia from my first visit in 1997 to now. How exciting it was to be at the sheep show in Dubbo NSW Australia in May 2014 and see how my Dorper and White Dorper clients take six of the seven categories at the carcass competition ("Hoof n Hook Competition") from 240 entries. For the first time in Australian history the Dorper was recognised for its magnificent yield and carcass quality. This would be the most important event since the breed came to this country.

Every week I receive emails from somewhere in the world of someone that wants Dorper genetics in Norway, Germany, Serbia, USA, South America, Australia, New Zealand, England or China. Some of them we can service sending embryos and others we cannot due to import/export restrictions or cost factors. It is clear that the Dorper is the most successful meat sheep in the world.

We have made the most wonderful Dorper friends in South Africa and all over the world. They are people with passion for the Dorper breed and passionate about people. They are a breed of their own. When I go around working in Dorperland I realise they all phone each other at six in the morning to talk about Dorpers. It became one big family and it is great to be part of the Dorper family!

The Dorper family went international and Dorper Facebook friends are everywhere. People travel international to attend Dorper events. We met up with Dorper friends in Dallas Texas to travel to the Dubbo National Dorper show and sale. We bring friends with from Sydney Australia to attend the Dorper world show in Bredasdorp. It is fantastic to see how much effort the South African Dorper people take to travel abroad to assist new breeders at shows, courses and farm visits.

I know the feeling of driving up and down the Australian countryside making more Dorper embryos. I know the feeling of collecting 10 000 Dorper embryos in China in the last three years. I also know the feeling to come back to the Dorperland breeders that will never stop to try and breed the perfect Dorper. And it is a great feeling! Thank you to the Dorper.

We hope to see you in Bredasdorp!

Francois with new Dorper genetics in Oz.

Francois with Dorper breeders Nina & Sophie Curtis

Paarseisoene teenoor Tropboerdery
Mating seasons versus Flock farming

Dr Dave Midgley se lesing by Samehaling
Dr Dave Midgley's lecture at Samehaling

Dit is vir my 'n besonderse eer en voorreg om by die mylpaal, die 50 jaar viering en veiling van hierdie stoet, betrokke te kan wees.
It is a privilege to share the 50th anniversary of this stud and be involved today.

Ek weet dat ek vandag baie goed met julle gaan deel – die kuns of geheim gaan wees om die "goudstukkies" te identifiseer en vorentoe te implimenteer.
I know that I am going to share a lot of things with you today. The art will be to identify the "gold nuggets" and implement that in the future.

Ek sal jok as ek nie erken dat ek verbaas was toe Pieter my gevra het om oor die onderwerp te praat nie. My eerste reaksie was uiteraard – kan dit wees dat daar nog boere is wat "ramme heeltyd by los"? Tog weet ek dat dit so is – nie net hier in Namibië nie, maar ook in die droë dele van S.A.
I will fib if I do not acknowledge that I was surprised when Pieter requested me to talk on this subject. My first reaction was – can it be that farmers still leave rams with the ewes the whole year? Yet, I know it is happening –not only in Namibia, but also in the arid parts of SA.

Hoekom, met alles wat ons vandag weet, sal iemand nog so iets wil doen?
Why would anybody still practise this method of farming after all the knowledge we possess today?

Onkunde? *Ignorance?*

'n Weerstand teen verandering? "My Pa en Oupa het dit dan so gedoen…."
Resistance to change? " My Father and Grandfather farmed this way…"

'n Gebrek aan rekordhouding sodat ons nie die teendeel kan bewys nie?
A lack of recording causing it impossible to prove the contrary?

Miskien omdat dit nogsteeds, ten spyte van swak prestasie, eintlik baie goed gaan met julle en/of dat boere "ten spyte hiervan" steeds goed doen uit hul skape/boerdery uit?
Possibly because, in spite of poor performance, you are still surviving and many farmers are still very lucrative.

Ek weet regtig nie… *I really do not know…..*

My moeilike taak is dan om vir julle te oortuig dat julle meer lammers gaan aankry deur jul ramme tussen die ooie uit te haal! Dit maak op die oog af mos nie sin nie!
My difficult task today is to convince you that you will produce more lambs by removing your rams from the ewes at intervals. Obviously it does not make sense.

Hoe dan nou? *What now?*

Probleemstelling/Problem proposition

Prestasie en winsgewendheid is direk gekoppel aan – Meer lammers, Beter lammers, Gereeld (?) en verkieslik gesinchroniseerd met jou omgewing/kos/reënval.

Performance and profitability is directly linked to – more lambs, better lambs, regularly(?) and preferably synchronized with your area/feed/rainfall.

Dit help geweldig as jy 'n skaap, en hoe sy liggaam werk, deeglik verstaan – die fisiologies belangrike tye of dan wanneer wat in die liggaam plaasvind/gebeur.

It helps tremendously if you understand a sheep and its body functions – the physiological important times or then when what happens in the body.

Boerdery is lankal nie meer 'n "leefwyse" nie – dit is deesdae 'n BESIGHEID.
Farming is not a "life style" any more – it is a BUSINESS.

Sleutelwoorde is BEPLAN, BEGROOT en BESTUUR… (Bemark + Beperk verliese)
Key words are: PLAN, BUDGET AND MANAGE…(marker and limit losses)

Meet, Weeg, Rekordhouding…- 'n skaal is 'n belegging, nie 'n uitgawe nie!

Measure, Weigh, Record……..a scale is an invenstment, not an expence!

Kan 'n saaiboer of groenteboer enigsins bekostig om iets in die grond te sit sonder om die saadbedding voor te berei?
Can a crop or vegetable farmer afford to sow anything without preparing the soil?

Is 'n baarmoeder nie ook maar net 'n meer gevorderde "saadbedding" nie? Die bevrugte embriotjie soek hierin 'n "vashegplek" waar dit dan verder kan groei en ontwikkel in 'n lammetjie met die goeie genetika in hom vasgelê - wat julle vandag hopelik hier gaan koop…
Is a womb not also just an advanced "seed bed"? The fertilized embryo seeks a place to attach itself where it can grow and develop into a lamb with the good genetics embedded in it – good genetics which you are hopefully going to purchase here today.

Hoekom het Pieter dit dan goedgedink om my so ver te laat kom om vir julle te probeer oortuig dat gekontrolleerde paartye moontlik 'n beter opsie is? – Hy doen dit uit besorgdheid vir julle! Omdat hy omgee vir die Dorperras, asook vir sy medeboere!
Why dit Pieter feel the need to let me come from so far away to come and convince you that controlled mating is a better option? He did it out of concern for his fellow farmers. He cares for the Dorper Breed and his fellow farmers.

Sover ek kon vasstel is die gemiddelde speen % in Namibië niks verskillend van die in SA en baie ander skaapproduserende lande in die wêreld nie, naamlik ongeveer 72%. In vandag se tye is 72% net nie meer goed genoeg nie! Anders gestel – ongeveer ¾ van alle ooie wat 'n lam behoort te gee, gee wel jaarliks 'n lam. Of een ooi gee die jaar 'n lam en 'n ander een volgende jaar. Die uitsondering lam sommer 2 keer in een jaar, en so gaan dit aan. Ongelukkig is dit net hier waar daar verwarring inkom - 'n ooi lam vanjaar in Januarie (Augustus ram gevat), maar volgende jaar eers weer in September? Dan lam sy mos "elke jaar" – sy het in 2014 gelam en gaan weer lam in 2015! Die verskil is dat sy nie elke jaar op dieselfde tyd lam nie – of wanneer ons dalk wil hê sy moet lam nie en tussen lamtye in meeste gevalle langer moet rus omdat sy "buitenstyd" lam of swaargekry het toe sy moes "vat" as gevolg van verskeie redes soos droogte byvoorbeeld…
As far as I could determine the average weaning % in Namibia is no different from that in SA and many other sheep producing countries in the world, namely 72%. In current times 72% is just not enough! In other words – only about ¾ of all ewes that should produce a lamb annually, do produce a lamb! Or one ewe produces a lamb this year and the other one next year. The exception lambs twice a year and so forth. Unfortunately it is here where the confusion sets in – an ewe lambs in January (took ram in August) but next year she lambs in September? This means she lambs every year – she lambed in 2014 and will lamb again in 2015. The difference is that she does not lamb at the same time every year- or when we wanted her to lamb and have a longer resting period between lambing intervals due to hardship through lack of good nutrition or health.

Net so gebeur dit dat 'n ooi in Januarie lam en dan weer in Desember van dieselfde jaar – sy lam dus 2 keer in die betrokke jaar, maar haar interlamperiode kan byna 12 maande wees as sy op die eerste Januarie gelam het en dan weer op 31 Desember…
In the same way a ewe that lambs in January and again in December of the same year- lambs 2 x in the same year, but her inter-lamb period can be nearly 12 months if she lambed on the 1st of January and again on the 31st December.

Die uiteinde van die saak is dat ons in meeste gevalle net onsself om die bos lei en uiteindelik minder lammers uit

sulke ooie uit kry in hul "leeftyd" as wat ons dink of besef.
The result is that in most cases we are bluffing ourselves and eventually receive less lambs from such ewes in their lifetime than what we realize.

Al maniere hoe ons meer lammers kan aankry is deur:
The only way to receive more lambs is by:

> Alles draai maar om **goeie rekordhouding** en dit is waar ek sal begin as ek een van julle was.
> *Everything evolves around **good recording** and this is where I would start if I were you.*

Om konsepsiesyfers te verhoog – dit gaan gebeur as ons deur beheerde teling ons ooie se baarmoeders ordentlik kan "voorberei" om die embriotjie te ontvang. Onder andere deur hulle 2 siklusse te gee om die baarmoeder self te probeer "skoonmaak" van infeksies na lamtyd…
Increasing our conception figure – this will happen if we, by controlled breeding, prepare the ewe's womb properly to receive the embryo. For example by allowing the ewes 2 cycles to endeavour them to naturally clear the womb from infections after lambing.

Ons tweede opsie is om die getal lammers per lamgeleentheid te probeer verhoog – m.a.w. om te **selekteer vir meerlinge**. Vir my is dit 'n baie "onlogiese aksie" onder ekstensiewe boerdery-omstandighede! Meeste ooie sukkel alreeds om sonder byvoeding 'n enkeling groot te maak – hoekom dan doelbewus gaan vir meerlinge?
Our second option is to increase the number of lambs per lambing opportunity – in other words select for twins. To me this is a very illogical action under extensive farming circumstances. Most ewes battle already to raise one lamb without additional feed – why purposely have twins?

Ek glo dat ons ramme moet kies/koop wie se moeders dit regkry om jaar na jaar, elke 8 maande vir ons 'n lam te gee. M.a.w. sy moet soos 'n vleisbeeskoei elke keer 3 maande nadat sy gekalf het, weer besit raak. Indien so 'n ooi elke jaar vir ons 'n enkeling gee, kry ons 3 lammers in twee jaar se tyd, of 'n 150% lam% - "1½ lam" per ooi per jaar! Teen $800-00 praat ons van 'n inkomste van $1 200-00 per jaar uit so 'n ooi uit!
I believe that we must select/buy rams whose mothers managed to produce a lamb every 8 months. In other words a ewe should, just as a beef cow, be pregnant three months after calving. Should such ewe produce a single lamb every year, we receive 3 lambs in two year's time, or a 150% lambing percentage – 1½ lamb per year per ewe. At $800 per lamb we are talking about $1 200 from such ewe per year!

Alles draai maar om **goeie rekordhouding** en dit is waar ek sal begin as ek een van julle was
(Mnr Len de Jager en die spreker van Standard Bank het presies dieselfde gesê – o.a. dat ons sal moet meet wat ons produksie per hektaar, per kg vleis en per mm reënval is…).
*Everything evolves around **good recording** and this is where I would start if I were you.*
(Mr Len de Jager, speaker from Standard Bank made the same statement – namely that we must measure our production per hectare, per kg meat and per mm rainfall)

Hoe oud word 'n ooi hier by julle? (6 jaar?)
What age does a ewe reach? (6 years?)

Wanneer bereik sy puberteit/geslagsvolwas-senheid?
When does she reach puberty/sexual maturity?

Is dit afhanklik van ouderdom en/of liggaams-gewig? Of van beide af? (beide, hoewel dit lyk asof gewig belangriker is as ouderdom).

Is this dependent on age or body weight? Or both? (both, although it seems that weight is more important than age)

Wat gebeur as ons geneties vorder en geweldige vordering maak ten opsigte van byvoorbeeld groei en die tydperk wat dit neem vir 'n lam om op die "veld"/ons voedingsomstandighede, markklaar te raak? Ons selekteer indirek ook vir ooilammers wat vinniger groei en vroeër in hul lewens geslagsryp raak. 'n Ooilam begin "siklus" wanneer sy ongeveer 5+ maande oud is en wanneer sy dan by ongeveer 50% van haar volwasse massa uitkom:
What happens if we progress genetically and make great progress regarding growth and the time it takes a lamb to be market ready, under natural grazing circumstances? We indirectly also select ewe lambs for quicker growth and earlier sexual maturity. A ewe lamb starts cycle when she is about 5 months of age and when she reaches about 50% of her mature body weight:

As 'n volwasse ooi dus 50 kg weeg in ekstensiewe gebiede, praat ons van puberteit in en om 25kg by jong ooitjies…

If an adult ewe weighs 50 kg in extensive areas, we are talking about puberty at about 25kg in young ewes.

En 'n mikpunt paarmassa van 35kg by eerste paar as ons die riglyn van 70% van volwasse massa neem.
And a goal mating weight of 35 kg at first mating as our guideline of 70% of adult weight.

Op watter *ouderdom* gebeur dit in 'n goeie jaar by julle? (6 -11 maande ouderdom – selfs vroeër).
At what age does this happen in a good year with you? (6-11 months or earlier)

Wanneer speen julle? Op watter gewig?
When do you wean? At what weight?

> Om vandag te oorleef moet 'n boer somme kan maak! *To survive today a farmer must do his maths.*

Van my vriende in Kois se wêreld weet ek bemark hul lammers van die ooie af op ongeveer 6-7 maande ouderdom wanneer hulle oor 40kg weeg.
My friends in Kois area markets their lambs from the ewes at about 6-7 months age when they weigh over 40 kg.

Maak dit dus sin om die ramme heeltyd by te los en hierdie jongooitjies so vroeg te laat "verkrag"? Ek vra maar net?
Does is make any since to leave the rams among the ewes and have these young ewes "raped"? I am just asking?

En wat gebeur dan? Sy vat en vrek moontlik by geboorte of hardloop weg van die lam af net na geboorte omdat sy nog "kind" is en nie regtig weet wat om te doen nie? Of haar lammetjie is klein en swak by geboorte en vrek sommer van "moedeloosheid" – en die jakkals as aasdier vreet hom en ons blameer dan "gemaklikheidshalwe" die ongediertes…(L.W. Ongediertes/Jakkalse is 'n probleem – dis net interessant hoe "ongedierte-vrektes" begin afneem op die plase waar ons dinge reg begin doen!).
This results in the ewe dying while giving birth or running away from her lamb because she is herself still a "child" and does not know how to react. Or her lamb is small and weak at birth and dies without hope – here the jackal or other vermin steps in and we blame vermin for our low lambing percentages. Vermin is a problem, but it is interesting to see how the vermin problem decreases a soon as proper management is implemented.

En indien alles wel vlot verloop – hoe gou raak sy daarna weer besit? Net soos by beeste is dit nie 'n kuns om 'n jong vers vroeg te laat kalf nie – nee, die "manne en muise" word die volgende paartyd geskei. Die eerstekalf-koeie is op al die plase waar ek kom/werk, die groep wat die swakste vat of konsepsie het. Hoekom?Omdat hulle nie net vir hul kalf moet sorg nie, maar ook nog moet groei. Indien die "petrol" dan bietjie te min raak, slaan sy vir eie oorlewing "oor" en verloor jy as boer wins/'n lam.
Should everything run smoothly – when does this young animal fall pregnant again? As with cattle it is no art to have heifers calve at a young age – no, it is at the next mating where the problems set in. The first-calve group of cows are the ones with the weakest conception rate on all the farms where I work/come. Why? Because they do not only have to care for the calve, but also still have to grow themselves. If the "juice" is too low, she will skip for self preservation and the farmer looses income.

Hoe meer haas hoe minder spoed! More haste less speed!

Hoe lank neem dit vir 'n baarmoeder om homself "skoon te maak" na lamtyd en verder voor te berei vir die volgende dragtigheid?

(Ons noem die proses **involusie)**.
How long does it take for a womb to "clear" itself after lambing and prepare further for the next pregnancy? (we call this process involution)

Bakteriologiese herstel (om van kieme ontslae te raak wat in en om lamtyd die baarmoeder binnedring) neem ongeveer 35 dae en "Fisiologiese herstel" (dit is vir die binnewand om weer behoorlik te vorm) neem ongeveer 6 weke (42 dae).
Bacterial recovery (to get rid of germs which penetrate the womb during lambing) takes about 35 days and physiological recovery (that is for the inner wall to recover) takes about 6 weeks (42 days)

Hoe maak 'n ooi haarself "skoon"? Deur op hitte te kom – dan trek die baarmoeder saam en oortollige vloeistof word as't ware uitgedruk buite-toe. Vir 'n ram wat heeltyd sy kans afwag, beteken dit net een ding – 'n dekgeleentheid!
How does a ewe "clean" herself? By oestrous- the womb contracts and excess fluids are forced out. For a ram , alert to opportunity this only means one thing – mating time!

Wat gebeur nou? Die ooi ovuleer en bevrugting kan plaasvind, maar as die embriotjie kom "vasheg" is die baarmoeder nie volledig skoon en "voorberei" nie. Vashegting kan plaasvind en die embrio sal selfs begin ontwikkel, net om soos 'n "buitenstydse" mielieplant, te besef dat daar nie genoeg vog en voedingstowwe is nie en dan of afsterwe en/of in 'n swak nie-lewensvatbare lammetjie ontwikkel…
What happens now? The ewe ovulates and conceives but when the embryo has to latch on the womb is not clean or ready. The embryo may latch on and even develop up to a stage and just like a plant growing out of season, realising there is not sufficient nutrients available, it will die or be born as a weakling dying after birth.

Net so dien die ram as verspreider van kieme tussen ooie – hy dek 'n "vuil ooi' (een wat haarself nog nie skoongemaak het nie) en daarna 'n gesonde een. Sodoende kry die skoon ooitjie saadselletjies PLUS etterselle as "bonus" en is die kans op 'n suksesvolle dragtigheid gedoem!
In the same way the ram is a spreader of germs among the ewes – he serves a "dirty ewe" (one that did not have opportunity to clean herself) and then goes to a healthy ewe. The clean ewe now receives semen cells PLUS purulent cells as a "bonus" and her chances of successful conception is reduced.

Die ooie "vat", net om later die lammetjie te "verloor" en daardeur haar tussenlamperiode/interlamperiode te verleng – nou lam sy steeds moontlik elke jaar, maar nie jaarliks nie = haar interlamperiode rek en haar lewensdagproduksie verlaag.
The ewe "takes" only to later loose the lamb and this lengthens her inter lambing period. She still possibly lambs every year, but not annually- her inter lambing period is stretched and her lifetime production is lowered.

Goedbedoelend doen ons dus meer "kwaad" as goed – skade al die pad!
Meaning well we have thus done more bad than good all the way!!

"HAASTG IS NIE NOODWENDIG VINNIG NIE"!
"QUICKLY IS NOT NECESSARILY FASTER"

Kom ek gebruik 'n voorbeeld – skaapboerdery is 'n syferspel. Om vandag te oorleef moet 'n boer somme kan maak! (of Matriek wiskunde hê?).
Let me give you an example –sheep farming is a game of figures. To survive today a farmer must do his sums. (or know some Maths!)

Op plase in die Karoo waar ons vaste teeltye het en ook rekords het wat ek glo ek kan vertrou, vind ons dat sommige (deesdae meeste) ooie as ons hulle op 11 maande ouderdom die eerste keer ram gee, sodat hulle op 16 maande ouderdom die eerste keer lam, daarna in staat is om aan te hou om elke 8 maande te lam.
On Karoo farms where we have set breeding times and trustworthy records, we find that some ewes (these days most ewes), given ram at 11months of age, to lamb at 16 months of age, are capable lambing every 8 months afterwards.

Kom ons kyk weer mooi hierna – ons verwag van 'n koei om elke jaar vir ons 'n kalf te gee. Om dit te vermag moet sy 3 maande nadat sy gekalf het, weer beset raak. Sy dra mos 9 maande en 3 maande is voldoende vir die baarmoeder om in te herstel en om homself "voor te berei"om die volgende embriotjie te ontvang…
Let us have a look at this again – we expect a cow to produce a calf every year. To manage this, she must conceive 3 months after calving. She is pregnant for 9 months and 3 months is sufficient time for the womb to recover and prepare to receive the next embryo.

Hoekom kan 'n skaap dit nie ook regkry nie?
Why can a sheep not do the same?

So, soos wat ons nou al bewys het, kan dit gebeur en kan so 'n ooitjie in haar "leeftyd van 6 jaar" voordat haar tande redelik "op" is, lam op 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, 56 en 64 maande (5 jaar en 4 maande) en haar lam dan grootmaak op die veld voordat sy op 71-72 maande ouderdom (6 jaar) verkoop kan word. Die "ideale ooi" kan dus vir ons 7 lammers gee in 'n leeftyd van 6 jaar. Met bietjie "geluk" twee keer tweelinge gee en skielik is ons op 9 lammers per "leeftyd"…
*Like we indicated, it can happen and a ewe can in her lifespan of 6 years before her teeth are finished, lambs at *16, 24, 32, 40, 48, 56 & 64 months (5 years and 4 months) and rear her lamb on the veld before she is sold at 71-72 months (6 years). The ideal ewe should thus produce 7 lambs in a lifespan of 6 years. With a little*

bit of luck two sets of twins and suddenly we have 9 lambs per lifespan.

Hoeveel lammers kry jy/julle wat die ramme heeljaar bylos?
How many lambs do you get when leaving the rams in the whole year?

'n Goeie begin is deur jou totale vleis/ skaapverkope deur die gemiddelde prys wat jy kry te deel en sodoende te bepaal hoeveel "koppe" jy verkoop het…
A good start is by dividing your total meat/ sheep sales with the average price you received and thus determining how many heads you sold….

Indien die land se gemiddeld van 72% waar is, praat ons van 3 lammers per "leeftyd"! (in "Tradisionele stelsels" paar boere hul jongooitjies op 19 maande ouderdom en daarna jaarliks om op 24 maande ouderdom (2-tand) en weer op 36, 48 en 60 maande ouderdom te lam. 'n "Gemiddelde ooi" lam dus op hierdie plase 4 keer in haar leeftyd van 6 jaar en as sy 72% speen, kom ek ook op die manier by 3 lammers per leeftyd uit…
If the country's average of 72% is just, we are talking about 3 lambs per lifespan! (in Traditional systems farmers mate their young ewes at 19 months and afterwards annually to produce a lamb again at 24 months (2 tooth) and again on 36, 48 and 60 months. An average ewe thus lambs 4 times in her life of 6 years on these farms and if she weaned 72% I also reach a figure or 3 lambs per lifespan.

Dieselfde som kom ter sprake by stoetboere wat 'n "oorslaanooi" 'n tweede kans gee indien sy nie binne 12 maande gelam het nie – haar interlamperiode skuif aan en haar lewensdagproduksie verlaag – nou lam sy die eerste keer op 24 maande en daarna elke keer ongeveer 6 maande later, afhangende van die paartye – op "aftree-ouderdom" moet sy of langer gehou word, wat jou geld en produksie kan kos omdat hierdie ouer ooie se produktiwiteit afneem, of jy boet 'n lam op die einde in. Hoe dit ookal sy – verloor gaan jy!
The *same sum pops up with stud farmers who allow a ewe a second chance that skips when she has not lambed within 12 months – her inter lambing period shifts and her lifespan production reduces – now she lambs the first time at 24 months and afterwards each time about 6 months later, depending on the mating times – on "pension day" she has to be kept longer and this will cost you money and production as her productivity has declined or you loose a lamb in the end of the day. Whatever happens – you are going to loose.*

Met 'n klein bietjie inisiatief en veranderde denke is dit moontlik om die inkomste wat julle uit jul skape uit verdien, te VERDUBBEL. Ons doen dit deur jou speen%, en daarmee saam die getal lammers wat jy verkoop, te vermeerder.
With a little bit of initiative and changed ways of thinking it is possible to DOUBLE the income you receive from your sheep. We do that by increasing your weaning percentage and with that the number of lambs sold.

Anders gestel – al wat ek vra is dat julle 'n stelsel implimenteer waar julle 6 lammers per "leeftyd" van 6 jaar in kan kry i.p.v. 3 – dan verdubbel jy mos jou verkope. Dan praat ons nie eens van die boere wat beter as dit doen nie…

In other words – all I ask is that you implement a system where you receive 6 lambs per lifespan in stead of only 3 – then you double your sales. Not to mention farmers who already do better.

Stel vir jouself mikpunte of "afsnypunte" – indien 'n ooi byvoorbeeld op 3 jarige ouderdom nog nie 2 lammers gegee het nie, moet sy haarself gee! Op die manier raak ons vroeër van onproduktiewe en **minder produktiewe ooie** ontslae – dit is juis hulle wat ons winste "opvreet"!
Set goals and deadlines for yourself – if a ewe for example has not produced 2 lambs at 3 years of age – she must be sacrificed. In this way we get rid of unproductive and less productive ewes as they are the ones reducing our profit.

Biosekuriteit: Biosecurity:

Hoe versprei geslagsiektes en "reproduksiesiektes" in kuddes – Brucellose, "Ramsiekte/Jongramsiekte" (die sg. HPA-groep = *Histophyllis, Pasteurella/ Mannheimia en Actinomyces/Arcanobacterium*), Peestersiekte, Bybalontsteking/"Dikbalsiekte

"(*Corynebacterium* ook hierby betrokke saam met *Brucella* en die HPA's), Ensoötiese aborsie, Slenkdalkoors…
How do sexually transmitted diseases and reproduction diseases spread in flocks? Brucella (Ram disease/Young ram disease). The so called HPA group = Histophyllis, Pasteurella/Mannheimia and Actinomyces/Arcanobacterium) Pizzle disease. Testicle infection (Corynebacterium also involved with Brucella and the HPA), enzootic abortion, Rift Valley fewer….

Wanneer laat toets jy jou ramme vir geslags-geskiktheid? Die beste tyd is immers voor paartyd – mens gaan mos nie met 'n stukkende of ongedienste trekker ploeg of met so 'n saaimasjien saai nie!
When do you have your rams tested for sexual maturity and capability? The best time is just prior to mating – you do not plough with a broken tractor or plant with a broken planter.

Net so weet ons dat 'n ooi ten minste twee siklusse nodig het om haarself na lamtyd in "skoon te maak" = 34 dae na 'n 42 dae lamseisoen – dit gee vir ons 76 dae of 2½ maande na die eerste lammetjie geval het. Dit is dan ook die rede hoekom ons nie langer as 6 weke op 'n slag die ramme by die ooie behoort te hê nie…

Ons leef in die tyd van PRESIESIEBOERDERY
We are living in times of PRECISION FARMING

In the same way we know that a ewe needs at least two cycles to clear herself – 34 days after a 42 day lambing season – that leave 76 days or 2½ months after the first lamb was born. This is then also the reason why we should not have the rams between the ewes for longer than 6 weeks at a time.

Hoe pas iemand wat sy ramme heeltyd by het al die nodige inentings en ontwurmings op die regte tye in sy bestuursprogram in?
How does a farmer who leaves the rams between the ewes manage the necessary inoculations, de-worming etc. at the correct times?

Wat doen boere wat begin "benoud raak" – i.p.v. om die oorsaak te soek en reg te stel, begin hulle met allerhande "trieks" soos om "baster-ramme" by te sit in die hoop om skielik "sterker" lammers aan te kry. PASOP – ek beveel oordeelkundige kruisteling aan, MAAR eers as jy oor 120% begin speen, anders gaan jy nie genetiese vordering kan toon deur streng seleksie van teelmateriaal nie! (vervangingsooitjies).

What do farmers who feel worried do? Instead of looking for the reason, they start with all sorts of plans like cross-breeding hoping for stronger lambs. BEWARE I recommend sensible cross breeding BUT only when you start weaning 120%, otherwise you will *show no genetic progress by strict selection of breeding material (replacement ewes)*

Ons leef in die tyd van PRESIESIEBOERDERY – dit behels nie om alles presies te doen nie, maar wel om daarna te streef om dit wat ons wel doen, BETER (meer presies) te doen. Ek sê altyd dat mens die regte ding, op die manier en op die regte tyd moet doen om sukses te probeer "verseker":
We are living in times of PRECISION FARMING – it does not entail doing everything perfectly, but to strive to do it BETTER (more perfect). I always maintain that a person should try to do the right thing, the right way at the right time to try to be successful.

Ons wil graag die ooie voor lamtyd inent sodat sy/hulle die bes moontlike biesmelk kan maak wat die lammetjie die beste gaan beskerm teen die siektes van die omgewing wat hom net na geboorte gaan toetakel. Die beste tyd van inenting is net voordat sy, die moederdier, ooi dan tog die biesmelk "maak" – ons weet dat dit ongeveer 6-4 weke voor lamtyd is. Hoe gee mens die inentings dan op die regte tyd as jy nie seker is wanneer jou ooie gaan lam nie?
We would like to inoculate the ewes before lambing to produce the best colostrum for the best protection of the lamb against diseases of the surrounding which may tackle him after birth. The best time for inoculation is just prior to production of colostrum – that is about 4-6 weeks before lambing. How do you inoculate at the right time if you do not know when your ewe must lamb?

Dieselfde geld vir Slenkdalkoors en Bloutong inentings – hulle is lewendige entstowwe wat misvormde en dooie lammers kan gee as hulle nie streng volgens voorskrif gegee word nie. Ons het dus 2 opsies:
The same goes for Rift Valley fewer and Blue tongue inoculations – these are live inoculants which could cause deformed and dead lambs if not used strictly according to prescription. We have 2 options:

Los dit heeltemal uit en blameer dan weer die jakkalse as jy nie lammers aankry nie of jou skaapvrektes baie hoog is, of :
Gee dit wel, maar moontlik op die "verkeerde tyd" en blameer die vervaardiger as die entstowwe nie "werk" soos ons verwag nie…
Leave it altogether and again blame the vermin when you have no lambs, or:
Do the inoculation but at the wrong time and blame the pharmaceutical company when the results are not what was expected.

Dieselfde ook vir ontwurming – daar is 'n "beste tyd" om ook hierdie toedienings te gee. Ons

weet dat ooie net voor lamtyd meer parasieteiers afskei omdat die wyfie-parasiete dan meer eiers lê (sg voorlam weerstandsverslapping). Verkeerde toedienings van wurmmiddels bevorder die ontwikkeling van weerstand deur die parasiete teen die aktiewe bestanddele in doseergoed. Weereens – hoe kan mens dit enigsins bestuur as jy nie weet wanneer jou ooie gaan lam nie?
De-worming also has a good and a better time. We know that ewes discharge more parasite eggs as the female parasite then produces more eggs (pre lamb resistance Relapse). Incorrect doses of worm remedies promotes the development of resistance by the parasites against the active ingredients in the dose. Once again – how can a person manage this if you do not know when the ewe must lamb?

Kom ons som op – indien jy nie die regte goed op die regte tye doen nie, moet ons maar aanvaar dat jou skade as gevolg van vrektes en "erosie-siektes", asook jou verliese, groter gaan wees as by iemand wat die goed reg doen. Sonder vaste paartye is dit haas onmoontlik "presiesieboerdery" enigsins toe te kan pas!
Let us summarize – if you do not do the right things at the right times you must accept that you will have losses due to deaths and erosion –illnesses and that your losses will be greater than that of the person who did everything correctly. Without set mating times it is impossible to apply precision farming.

Oplossings:

Ons het nou na die probleem/probleme gekyk – wat is die oplosssings en/of hoe glo ek behoort julle te maak?
We have looked at the problems – what are the solutions or what do I propose you should do?

Begin deur ten minste 'n **goeie rekordhoustelsel** in plek te kry.
*Start by at least putting a **good recording system** in place.*

Ek en een van my kliënte het so paar jaar gelede 'n kleurkodestelsel ontwikkel waar ons d.m.v. bindkabeltjies ("cable ties") 'n rekordhoustelsel op die oor van skape kon implimenteer. As gevolg van verskeie probleme soos dat die kabeltjies uitval, was ons verplig om na ander opsies te begin kyk en is ons tans besig met die ontwikkeling van 'n oorplaatjiestelsel wat 'n beter oplossing blyk te wees. Julle kan my gerus oor 'n maand of 2 skakel vir meer inligting hieroor…
Myself and one of my clients developed a colour coding system a few years ago by which we used cable ties to apply a recording system on the ears of sheep. As a result of problems such as the cable ties falling out, we were forced to look at other option s and are currently busy with the development of an ear tag which seems to be better. Contact me in a month or two for more information.

Wat wil ons graag weet?
What do we want to know?

Hoeveel skape jy het?
How many sheep do you have?

Hoeveel ooie?
How many ewes ?

Hoeveel lammers jy jaarliks aankry en verkoop?
How many lambs do you receive and how many do you sell?

Verder wil ek graag weet wanneer die meeste lammers by jou gebore word en indien jou ram heeltyd byloop, of jy dan heeltyd/elke maand lammers aankry? (Terloops, indien ek 'n jakkals was, sou ek baie van jou hou as jy sorg dat ek heeltyd kos het – nageboortes en lammertjies wat deurentyd gebore word! Ek sou sommer op die plaas WIL aanbly!)
When are the most lambs born and if you have the ram in all the time, do you receive lambs continuously. (By the way, if I were a jackal, I would really like you as you supply me with food full time – afterbirth of lambs being born continuously! I would LOVE to stay on your farm!)

Begin om die ramme vir kort periodes uit te haal
Start by removing rams for short periods

Dalk 'n **skaal** aanskaf en indien jy klaar een het, hom oordeelkundig gebruik om jou bestuursprogram mee te monitor. Alles draai uiteindelik oor die kg vleis wat jy op jou grond produseer. Weeg alle skape jaarliks (Beginvoorraad) en weer 'n jaar later (Eindvoorraad). Weeg alle verkope. Sodoende kan jy mos bepaal wat jou vleisproduksie per ha per of per mm reënval per jaar is. Net so kan jy meet of dit wat ek aanbeveel, werklik waar is!
Maybe you should buy a scale and if you already have one start using it to monitor your management program. Everything evolves around the kg of meat which you produce on your farm. Weigh sheep annually and again at the end of the year. Weigh all sales to determine production per ha of per mm rain measured per year. You can also determine whether what I recommend is working!

Om te meet is om te weet, maar dit gaan ook oor "wat ons meet, om wat te weet…"
To measure is to know……..but it actually is (what we measure to know what?)

Daar is 'n massiewe verskil tussen / There are vast differences between:

Om jou ramme heeljaar by te los, en
To leave your rams in all year round and

Om heeljaar paartye te hê
To have mating times all year round

Begin om die ramme vir kort periodes uit te haal, en:
Start by removing rams for short periods and :

Indien dit nie moontlik is nie, om dan 'n bestuursprogram te implimenteer wat die ooie elke 4 maande "prikkel" om op hitte te kom en te "vat" – onthou in die natuur is dit die ooi/vroulike dier wat bepaal of paring/dek gaan of mag plaasvind. As sy nie op hitte is nie kan die ram absoluut niks vermag nie! (Die sg 1,2,3,4-stelsel het ek ontwkkel om in kommunale gebiede, waar daar nie drade is nie en ramme nie uitgehaal kan word nie, bietjie"struktuur" te gee en reproduksie te manipuleer om vir die eienaar meer lammers te laat kry en daardeur sy wins te probeer verhoog). Indien u meer inligting hieroor verlang, kan julle my skakel.
If this is not possible, implement a management program which teases the ewes every 4 months to ovulate and conceive – remember in nature it is the female animal/ewe who determine whether mating takes place or not. If she is not in oestrus the ram will not be able to do a thing. The so-called 1,2,3,4 system I developed to try to create some structure in the communal areas where there are no fences and rams cannot be removed, in order to manipulate reproduction a little and in this way obtain more lambs for the farmer by increasing his profit margin. Should you require more information about this please contact me.

Een van die stelsels waarmee ek goeie resultate mee kry is om te begin deur die ramme elke 4 maande vir 1½ maande in te sit en"uit te haal" –op die manier begin ons dan met die sg "Eentrop-Halfpaarstelsel" waar jy steeds heeljaar lammers aankry maar ten minste in vaste paartye, wat dit moontlik maak om jou bestuurs-aktiwiteite strategies in te pas of te implimenteer. Die ramme moet uitkom voordat die meeste ooie sterk aan die lam is!
One of the systems which I have good results with is to add the rams every 4 months for 1½ months and then remove them – this is called the One Flock Halfmating system where you receive lambs all year round but at least according to set mating times, which enable you to implement or adapt your management strategies. The rams must be removed when the ewes are all starting to lamb.

Die geheim hier lê daarin om die regte paartye te kies – en dat hulle presies 4 maande uitmekaar uit is (Bv Feb, Junie en Oktober).

The secret is in selecting the correct mating times – and to have them exactly 4 months apart. (eg. Feb, June, October)

'n Ander stelsel wat goed werk is om die ramme al om die ander maand in en uit te haal – dit gee aanleiding tot die "Eentrop-Kwartpaarstelsel". Hierdie stelsel raak bietjie meer ingewikkeld om goed te bestuur, maar indien dit byval vind, is dit moontlik om met behulp van byvoorbeeld 'n sonarmasjien meer struktuur aan die boerdery te gee. (Uiteraard ook by die vorige stelsel!).
Another system that works well is to put rams in one month and remove them the next – that induces the One Flock Quarter mating system. This system gets complicated to manage but if you like it, it is possible to manage by using sonar scanning to structure your management. (Scanning also recommended for previous system).

Hierdie stelsel kan maak dat jongooitjies soms te vroeg gedek word en verder is die heeltyd se uithaal van die ramme redelik "arbeidsintensief" – ek verkies dus die vorige stelsel.
This system could result in young ewes being served too early and the continual putting in and taking out of rams is rather labour intensive. Therefore I prefer the first option.

Dit is dus nie nodig om die hele proses van beheerde teling of paarseisoene onnodiglik ingewikkeld te maak nie – al wat jy moet doen is om jou ramme op 'n gestruktureerde manier in te sit en dan weer op 'n spesifieke tyd uit te haal en voordat jy mooi besef, is jy in 'n "hoogs wetenskaplike stelsel"…!!!
Therefore it is not necessary to complicate the process of controlled mating –all you have to do is to structure the way you add and remove the rams to and from the flock and before you know you have a scientific system which works.

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Dear Breeder

Buiatrica Farming SA encompasses a vast range of experience in the field of Domestic Livestock Breeding and Production accumulated during almost 30 years of work in the field of Animal Husbandry and Livestock Improvement.

Dr Pier RONCHIETTO, the Founder Member of Buiatrica gained his experience in the above fields working as Field Officer for the Animal & Dairy Science Research Institute which later became the Animal Improvement Institute of the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa. From the begginning of his career he became involved with indigenous livestock, particularly the Ngunis of which he is one of the Founder Members of the Nguni Breed Society. He retired from the Council as Chief Research Officer and Manager of the Foreign Services Division. In the latter capacity he travelled extensively, particularly in the Middle East, South East Asia and Africa. He has also a very good knowledge of South America where he lived for 12 years. He became involved with the export of breeding stock since 1984 and the activities grew steadily until 1992, when all doors opened and the demand for South African Genetic Material increased exponentially. Since then Beef and Dairy Cattle, Goats and Sheep were exported and/or Consulting Services were provided to many countries such as:

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Een van die grootste voordele van beheerde teling wat maklik misgekyk word, is die feit dat jou ramme 'n "ruskans" kry – 'n tyd vir "batterye herlaai" en kondisie opbou sodat hulle weer vars en uitgerus is as hulle weer moet gaan "werk"!
One of the greatest advantages of controlled breeding which is so easily overlooked is the fact that your rams also have a resting period to recharge their batteries, build up condition and are well rested before they have to work again.

Afsluiting/ Conclusion

Ek glo in **VOORKOMENDE DIEREGESONDHEID** – ek wil graag die "gesonde diere" op jou plaas gesonder hou SODAT hulle beter kan produseer en reproduseer. Dit behels dat ek die regte dinge op die regte tye doen – uiteraard onmoontlik indien jy nie 'n vaste paartyd/lamtyd het nie en ek nie weet wanneer die beste tye is om dit wat ek wil doen, te doen nie…
I believe in **PREVENTATIVE ANIMAL HEALTH** *– I want to keep the "healthy animals" on your farm healthier to make them more productive and improve reproduction. That entails doing the correct things at the right time – this is impossible if you do not have a set mating/lambing time and you do not know when the best times are to do what I would like to do…..*

Ek dink hier is baie geleenthede ter verbetering – julle moet dit net begin raaksien en WIL verbeter.
I think there are lots that could be improved – you must realize it and WANT to improve.

Vandag is die eerste dag van die res van jou lewe…
Today is the first day of the rest of your life…

Julle het klaar die "valskerm" aan – al wat nou voorlê is om te spring!
You have the parachute- all that remains is to jump!

Waar moet/kan ons begin?
Where do we start?

Haal ramme uit – sorg veral dat daar nie ramme by die ooie is tydens lamtyd nie! Dis wanneer siektes die meeste versprei en onsuksesvolle dragtighede die meeste voorkom. Laat toets hulle vir geslagsgeskiktheid – dit sluit 'n **saadondersoek** in.
Take rams out – see that there are no rams with the ewes during lambing. This is when diseases spread and failed pregnancies appear. Test rams for diseases and do ***semen check*** *as well.*

Haal die onproduktiewe diere so gou as moontlik uit – hulle vreet jou wins!
Remove the unproductive animals as soon as possible – they eat your profit!

Haal jou jongdiere uit en versorg hulle beter – bestuur hulle apart. Hulle is immer jou toekoms!
Take your young animals out and look after them – manage them separately. They are your future!

Kry 'n bestuurstelsel in plek wat sin maak en vir jou meer geld in die sak bring.
Implement a sensible management system to put more money in your pocket.

Stop die lorrie – DINK mooi oor al die dinge, en begin dan êrens…
Stop the bus – THINK well about all these things and start somewhere….

Daar is mense wat daarin "spesialiseer" om julle/ boere te help om die regte stelsel vir jou plaas en jou omstandighede uit te werk, of te ontwikkel. Raadpleeg hierdie konsultante! Ek sou immers tog nie na 3 jaar steeds in die bedryf gewees het indien ek nie sukses behaal nie, of hoe?Ek het niks behalwe inligting om te verkoop nie – die wiel is rond – hoekom nou onnodige "skoolgeld" gaan betaal?
There are people who specialize to help farmers to implement the correct system for your farm, make use of their services. I would not have been in the industry after 3 years if people do not need me. All I sell is information – the wheel is round – why pay unnecessary school fees?

Ek verstaan dat Bloutong tans bietjie "laf" is in sekere areas in Namibia. So ook dat van julle moontlik met parasietweerstand sukkel. Ook dat lintwurm hier en daar begin "lol", o.a. dat die geriffelde lintwurm (*Avetelina*) sy kop op sekere plase begin uitsteek. So ook lewerlintwurm, veral op plase waar wisselweiding nie gedoen word nie. Ongelukkig is al hierdie goed onderwerpe waaroor mens 'n dag lank kan gesels en vandag is nie daardie dag nie!
I understand that blue tongue is rife in certain areas in Namibia. Also that some of you are possibly have parasite resistance, tape worm becoming a problem, Avetilina (worm) appearing on farms, liver fluke – things which could be talked about for ages but not today.

Praat asseblief as ek met iets moet/kan help…
Please talk to me – I may be able to help.

Dr Andrew Vizzard van Australië het gesê dat ons nie 'n ander uitslag/uitkoms moet verwag as ons elke keer dieselfde goed bly doen nie – die beste tyd om te begin verander, is NOU!

Dr Andrew Vizzard from Australia said that we must not expect a new result if we keep on practising the old methods. The best time to change is NOW.

Verder wens ek julle sterkte en voerspoed toe! En laat die lammers val!
Best wishes! Let the lambs drop!!!

VERHOOG REPRODUKSIE VIR MEER WINS

deur Dr Willem Olivier
WillemO@daff.gov.za

VERHOOG REPRODUKSIE VIR MEER WINS

Vleisproduksie is die belangrikse bron van inkomste vir Suid-Afrikaanse kleinveeboere. Daar is twee faktore wat tot 'n verhoging in vleisproduksie kan lei; die seleksie vir verhoogde groeitempo en lamgewig of die verbetering van die reproduksiepotensiaal van die ooikudde. Die verbetering van die reproduksiepotensiaal van die ooikudde. Die verbetering van die reproduksiepotensiaal kan 'n onmiddellike uitwerking op die doeltreffendheid en winsgewendheid van die boerdery hê. Daarteenoor sal seleksie vir groei eers in die volgende generasie 'n uitwerking hê. Om hierdie rede hang die ekonomiese oorlewing van kleinveeboerderyvertakkings in Suid-Afrika in verskillende produksie-omgewings en –stelsels grootliks van die reproduksiepotensiaal van die ooikudde af.

Die verhoging in reproduksie het 'n tweeledige uitwerking in die winsgewendheid van 'n boerdery. Dit het eerstens 'n direkte uitwerking deur die getal en gehalte van beskikbare lammers te verhoog. Tweedens maak dit dat meer lammers beskikbaar is vir seleksie en gevolglik kan strenger geselekteer word. Dit wil sê indien daar 100 vervangingsooie uit 'n kudde van 400 ooie geselekteer moet word met speenpersentasie (aantal lammers gespeen per ooi gepaar) van 70%, kan slegs 29 ooilammers uitgeskot word. Daarteenoor, in 'n kudde met 120% speenpersentasie kan 60% van die ooilammers uitgeskot word. Dit beteken dat 'n kudde wat laag reproduseer, ooilammers geselekteer moet word wat onder gemiddeld gepresteer het ten opsigte van groei. Dit gaan die seleksievordering onderdruk en laer winsgewendheid oor die langtermyn tot gevolg hê.

Dit is dus van kardinale belang dat ons die effek, wat seleksie vir verhoogde reproduksie op die kudde het, verstaan. Ooiproduktiwiteit is die eienskap wat reproduksiepotensiaal grootliks beïnvloed en word gedefinieer as totale massa lam gespeen (TMLG). TMLG is 'n ingewikkelde saamgestelde eienskap wat die volgende komponent eienskappe insluit: moedereienskappe, vrugbaarheid, meerlingtempo, asook groeivermoë.

Hierdie ingewikkeldheid en die feit dat dit eers later in 'n ooi se lewe gemeet kan word, kompliseer die seleksieproses. Dit het daartoe gelei dat van die komponent-eienskappe in die seleksiedoelwitte ingesluit word eerder as direkte seleksie vir TMLG. Dit moet egter oordeelkundig gebruik word, aangesien dit tot ander probleme kan lei weens ongunstige verwantskappe.

Die insluiting van seleksie vir meerlinge in die doelwitte kan verseker dat doeltreffend in kuddes met lae reproduksiepeil gevorder word. Dit sal beteken dat meer vrugbare ooie geselekteer word, wat tot verhoogde reproduksiepotensiaal van die ooikudde sal lei. Dit is egter belangrik dat in kuddes, met hoë produksiepotensiaal ,seleksie vir meerlinge oordeelkunidg gedoen moet word en dat die seleksie van TMLG eerder oorweeg moet word.

Indien akkurate teelwaardes vir reproduksie -eienskappe nie beskikbaar is nie, moet gekyk word na die ma se reproduksiepotensiaal en na ander vroulike voorgeslagte. Die syfers kan dus gebruik word as 'n aanduiding van die ooilam se reproduksiepotensiaal.

Dieselfde beginsel moet by ramme toegepas word, aangesien hulle vroulike nageslag gaan teel, wat in die kudde moet reproduseer. 'n Ram wat dus uit 'n onvrugbare lyn kom, kan 'n nadelige effek op die kudde hê indien van sy nageslag geselekteer word.

Die effek van reproduksie op die winsgewendheid van kleinveeboerdery kan duidelik in die waardes in Tabel 1 gesien word. Die 20 beste en swakste Dorperooie van Carnarvon Dorper-navorsingskudde is oor vier lamkanse met mekaar vergelyk. Dit is duidelik dat

die swakste ooie slegs gemiddeld twee lammers gespeen het, teenoor die byna sewe lammers van die beste ooie oor vier lamkanse. Dit beteken dat die inkomste gegenereer van die beste ooie R 6 100 per ooi meer is as die swakste ooie.

	Swakste 20	Beste 20
Lammers gebore / ooi	2,6	7.,1
Lammers gespeen/ooi	2,0	6,9
Speenmassa (kg/lam)	26,9	27,9
Speenmassa (kg/ooi)	53,8	192,3
Inkomste (r/ooi) vleisprys 2012/2013	R 2 333	R 8 452

Dit is dus van uiterste belang vir die kleinvee-produsente om ooie wat swak reproduseer, te identifiseer en uit hulle kudde te verwyder. Produsente moet ook verseker dat hulle nie hierdie ramme en ooie selekteer om as ouers te dien vir die volgende generasie nie.

Produsente moet dus verseker dat hulle die nodige stelsels in plek het om die swak ooie te identifiseer. Daar is verskeie opsies vir produsente beskikbaar – van die sogenaamde "wet and dry"-metode tot volwaardige prestasietoetsing. Dit sal alles afhang van die produsent se omgewing en produksiestelsel. Dit is egter waardevolle inligting wat noodsaaklik is vir doeltreffende en akkurate sakebesluite.

Dit is in verskeie studies bewys dat daar doeltrefend en suksesvol vir reproduksie-eienskappe geselekteer kan word, ondanks die feit dat die eienskappe gewoonlik laag oorerflik is. Dit beteken dus dat die seleksie vir meerlinge of totale massa lam gespeen tot verhoogde reproduksiepotensiaal kan lei, wat gevolglik die winsgewendheid gaan verhoog.

Dit is egter belangrik om in gedagte te hou dat daar verskeie ander eienskappe is, wat ook vir die kleinveeprodusent ekonomies belangrik is, veral as dit 'n verselproduserende ras is. Wat die proses verder belemmer is die ongunstige korrelasies tussen reproduksie-eienskappe en veseleienskappe. Dit is dus belangrik dat produsente 'n holistiese benadering volg met hulle seleksieprogramme deur vir ander eienskappe ook te selekteer of minstens te monitor vir ongewenste veranderinge.

INCREASE REPRODUCTION FOR SUSTAINABLE PROFIT

by Dr Willem Olivier
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The production of meat products is the main source of income for South Africa's small stock producers. There are two factors responsible for increasing meat production, namely selection for growth rate, lamb weight and improving the reproduction potential of the ewe flock, which can lead to an immediate effect on the profitability of the farming enterprise. Selection for growth will only benefit the following generation. For this reason the economic viability of small stock enterprises depends on the reproduction potential of the ewe flock.

Increasing reproduction has a two- fold effect on the profitability of the enterprise; firstly with a larger number and better quality offspring, secondly a lager number of lambs from which to select from. For example, if a 100 replacement ewes are required from a flock of 400 ewes, with a lambing percentage of 70% (number of lambs weaned per ewe

mated) only 29% of the progeny can be culled. Whereas in a flock with a weaning percentage of 120%, up to 60% of the progeny can be culled. Making it evident that a flock with a lower lambing percentage leads to lambs being selected which are not up to standard and below average for growth – effecting selection improvement and ultimately the profitability of the enterprise in the long term.

It is therefore of cardinal importance, that we understand the effect selection has on increased reproduction. Ewe productivity is the characteristic mostly influencing the reproduction potential and is defined as total weight of Lamb weaned (TWLW). TWLW is a complex combined characteristic of the following components:-

Mothering ability, fertility, twinning frequency and growth; complicating the selection process which can only be measured much later in the ewes life. This resulted in some of the component characteristics being included in the selection goals rather than the direct selection for TWLW. This must be used with discretion, otherwise it could lead to other problems. The reproduction potential in low reproduction flocks can be increased by selecting for a higher twinning percentage, which will lead to more fertile ewes being selected thus increasing the reproduction potential of the flock. In flocks with a higher production potential selection for twinning should not be the main criterion, but rather the selection of total weight lamb weaned (TWLW).

Should accurate breeding values for reproduction characteristics not be available, focus on the ewe reproduction potential and other female background records. These figures can serve as a guide of the ewe lamb's reproduction potential.

The same criterion must be followed when selecting rams as they have an impact on the ewe progeny of the flock. No doubt a ram bred from an infertile line can have a negative effect on the flock should any of the progeny be selected.

The effect of reproduction on the profitability of small stock farming can clearly be seen in Table 1.

	Weakest 20	Best 20
Lambs born/ewe	2,6	7.,1
Lambs weaned/ewe	2,0	6,9
Weaning weight Kg/lam	26,9	27,9
Weaning weight kg/ewe	53,8	192,3
Income (R/ewe) meat price 2012/2013	R 2 333	R 8 452

The 20 best and weakest Dorper ewes of the Carnarvon Dorper Experimental flock were monitored over 4 lambing cycles and compared. It can be seen that on average the weakest ewes produced 2 lambs weaned as opposed to the 7 lambs from the best ewes over 4 lambing opportunities. Signifying that the income generated from the best ewes amounted to R 6 100 per ewe more per ewe than the weakest ewes.

For the small stock producer it is therefore of prime importance that weak ewes be identified and culled. Avoid, at all costs, using such rams and ewes to serve as replacement for the following generation.

Practical options: The producers can make use of the so-called wet and dry method and performance testing to identify weak performers. This will all depend on the producer's area and system of production. It is however valuable information that is vital to efficient and accurate business decisions.

It has been proved by several studies that selection for reproductive traits can be done efficiently and with success in spite of the fact that these traits are normally low hereditable. It follows that selection for twinning or total mass of lamb weaned can lead to increased reproduction potential which in turn will increase your profit.

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GROWING OUT OF MAIDEN EWES DETERMINE THEIR LIFETIME REPRODUCTION AND PRODUCTION POTENTIAL

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Optimal growing out of suckling ewe lambs and maiden ewes is of the utmost importance because it increases their lifetime production and reproduction potential. Weight loss at any time from birth to first mating as well poorly growing out can permanently and irreversibly reduce lifetime reproduction and production.

Can poor growing out of maiden ewes impair their future lambing percentage?

- Poor growing out of maiden ewes is one of the main reasons for a low lambing percentage in many sheep flocks. The nutrition and care of ewe lambs from weaning until first mating is sometimes badly neglected because the animal's growth and development is not an immediate economic benefit to the producer.
- To ensure a high lifetime reproduction rate, ewe lambs must maintain a high growth rate until weaning and at least a moderate growth rate thereafter until first mating. Overseas researchers make it clear that at no time replacement ewes from birth to first mating should lose weight, because otherwise their lifetime reproductive potential is reduced permanently and irreversibly.

How can suckling ewe lambs' future lambing percentage be increased?

- Improving the growth of the suckling ewe lamb is the first step in the creation of a highly productive and reproductive flock. Ewe lambs which experience nutritional stress during the first few months of their lives will have a lower ovulation rate and produce fewer lambs in their lifetime than those who received good nutrition (Williams, 1984).
- Where suckling ewe lambs before weaning and their mothers were on a high feeding level (good quality pasture) as well as these lambs after weaning until 12 months of age, their average lifetime lambing percentage was 170 % compared to the 118% of the ewe lambs which were on a low feeding level (poor quality grazing) during the same period (Gunn, 1977).
- Where suckling ewe lambs and their mothers were grazing poor quality pasture before weaning as well as these lambs post weaning until nine months of age, these lambs produced on average only 8 % of twins per year over their lifetime. In contrast, the group on good quality pasture produced 23 % twins on average per year over their lifetime (Lambourne & Reardon, 1966).
- To ensure optimal growing out of suckling ewe lambs, their lactating mothers should be fed a high bypass protein lick on good quality pasture, preferably green pastures, to ensure that lactating ewes maintain a high milk production.
- Due to the lambs' increasing nutritional needs as they grow older and the fact that the ewes' milk production starts to decline after ± 3 weeks; the lamb's relatively small rumen size when pastures with a high moisture content

are grazed; the inability of the lamb's rumen to effectively utilize pastures (Rattray & Joyce, 1970); the fact that the lamb's rumen is only fully developed after ± 8 weeks to handle grazing and also because the lambs compete with the ewes for the available pasture and they always come second, necessitates the provision of creep feed to the lambs.

- Creep feeding also prevents loss of mass due to weaning shock. For each day that the lambs lose weight due to weaning shock, it takes them about three days to regain it (Scott, 2012). Depending on circumstances, this weight loss can take seven days or more which means a production loss of 21 days or more. This mass loss affects the lambs' lifetime reproductive potential permanently and irreversibly. Suckling lambs should be fed a high quality creep feed *ad lib.* from 10 days of age until two weeks post weaning.

Can post weaning growth of ewe lambs affect their lifetime production and reproduction potential?

- Sheep producers often tend to place their ewe lambs on a so-called "survival course" with the aim to select for hardiness and adaptability. However, if they lose weight before first mating, their lifetime production and reproduction are permanently and irreversibly reduced although they are placed on the best grazing later in their life. They will therefore never reach their full genetic potential. Selection for hardiness and adaptability must therefore mainly be done from the ram's side by selecting rams under field conditions with minimal supplementation. Feeding of rams for auctions should only be done after final selection took place.
- Weaned ewe lambs should be reared on natural veld or cultivated pasture until first mating. Newly weaned lambs should be fed creep feed until at least 14 days post weaning to help them over the weaning shock or until they weigh at least 35 kg to promote muscle growth. A special concentrate supplement should thereafter be fed to weaned lambs at such a level that it is sufficient to maintain their growth target.

What is the recommended target mating weight of maiden ewes?

To ensure a high lambing percentage, ewe lambs may not lose any weight from weaning until they lamb themselves for the first time. The target mating weight of maiden ewes should be at least 70 % of mature body weight when mated younger than 10 months of age; 80 % of mature body weight when mated at 11 – 14 months (Fogarty *et al.*, 2007; AWI, 2009; Earl, 2010; Kirk, 2012) and 90 % if mated older than 14 months (Vosloo, 1967).

What is the recommended post weaning target growth rate of maiden ewes?

- The post weaning minimum growth rate of weaned ewe lambs can be calculated with the formula below. Suppose the mature ewes weight is 60 kg and that the maiden ewes are mated for the first time at 12 months of age (i.e. 365 days), then the target mating weight of the maiden ewes is 48 kg (i.e. 80 % of 60 kg). If the lambs are weaned at 120 days of age at say 30 kg, the minimum post weaning target growth rate (ADG) of the maiden ewes from weaning until first mating at 12 months of age (producers can use the following formula to calculate their maiden ewes' minimum post weaning target growth rate):

$$\frac{\text{Target mating weight (48 kg)} - \text{weaning weight (30kg)}}{\text{Number of days from weaning until first mating (365 – 120days)}}$$

$$= 74 \text{ g/day}$$

- By regularly (e.g. every two to three weeks) weighing all the maiden ewes; or only 100 maiden ewes (indiscriminately) or a marker group of 40 (Campbell, 2010), the feeding level of the concentrate supplementation can be adjusted so that the calculated target growth rate can be maintained to reach their target weight at first mating. It is the most cost-effective manner, so-called precision feeding, in which maiden ewes can be fed. Research done over the past years shows that in practice it is often not possible to reach the target growth rate of grazing maiden ewes by supplementing them a lick.
- However, this is possible with a special concentrate supplement (recipes available on request). For optimal growing out of maiden ewes the concentrate supplement should contain adequate bypass protein to promote muscle growth. Concentrate supplementation should be continued until 30 days post first mating. The concentrate supplement should be fed daily with adequate feeding space so that all the animals can eat simultaneously.
- According to Seymour (1996), the low lambing percentages of maiden ewes which lamb for the first time can also be attributed to inadequate nutrition six months prior to mating. As with mature ewes the ova (egg cells) in the ovaries of maiden ewes take approximately six months from the time

it started to develop and grow until it is ready for ovulation and fertilization by ram sperm. Inadequate nutrition six months before mating is often the reason why poor conception and fewer twins are found, although the ewes were in an excellent condition at mating (Fletcher, 1974). Where replacement ewes grazed poor quality pasture six months prior to mating for three months, their conception was only 75 % compared to the 97 % of those on good grazing during the same period (Lambourne & Reardon, 1966). In 2006 Christo van Vuuren from Kestell's SA Mutton Merino maiden ewes weighed 55 to 60 kg at first mating at 17 months of age. It is more than 80 % of mature weight. Only 45 % of these maiden ewes conceived due to the very poor feeding conditions about six months prior to mating because of a severe drought. The ewes which skipped were immediately re-mated, but only half of them conceived.

Can growing out of maiden ewes impair their future milk production?

- By ensuring that weaned ewe lambs maintain the previous calculated target growth rate, it will ensure that weaned ewe lambs are not over fed which will then result in a too high growth rate. A too high growth rate may adversely affect optimal udder development due to excessive fat deposition in the udder which will limit the milk producing tissue (alveoli). Early weaned lambs which grew at 200 g/day from weaning until first mating at nine months of age had a lower and less persistent milk production than their contemporaries who grew at about 100 g/day grew (Umberger, 1980). Wallace *et al.* (1996) found that weaned ewe lambs which grew very rapidly (± 234 g/day) had a lower colostrum production at parturition than those growing at a normal rate (± 75 g/day). Umberger *et al.* (1985) found that ewe lambs that grew at a high rate had less udder tissue growth than those growing at a moderate rate.

- Based on the latest research in this regard, the best system is to grow lambs at a high rate prior to weaning because it is very cost-effective since the young lamb's excellent feed conversion can then be utilized maximally. Weaned ewe lambs are then grown out on the available pasture with a concentrate supplementation at a moderate growth rate (< 120 g/day), as calculated with previous formula, to maximize simultaneously udder development and reproduction rate. Research shows that the maximum growth of ewe lambs should be no more than 65 to 75 % of their maximum genetic potential (Tolman & McKusick, 2001), otherwise their future milk production will be negatively affected. The maximum recommended post weaning growth rate of maiden ewes is normally ± 150 to 200 g/day.

What guidelines should be followed to select maiden ewes for a higher lambing percentage?

- In the case of commercial producers maiden ewes should not necessarily be culled on breed characteristics. There must first be determined whether a maiden ewe is fertile and what her lamb rearing ability is.
- As much as possible of the weaned ewe lambs should be kept for replacements and only those with obvious cull faults should be culled at weaning. At weaning ± 15 to 20 % of the weaned lambs (e.g. smallest, runt lambs and obvious culls) should be culled and the remainder of the ewe lambs must be reared until first mating. Before first mating not more than ± 5 to 10 % of the weakest and those that developed cull faults since weaning should be culled. As many as possible of the maiden ewes should be mated. If it is not practically possible, at least 25 % more maiden ewes, as required for replacement, should be kept (ADAS, 2010).
- Select maiden ewes which were born during the first 17 to 21 days of lambing season (Vipond et al., 2009) because they have a higher inherent fertility.
- Scan maiden ewes about 42 days after ram removal and cull all maiden ewes which skipped. The pregnant maiden ewes are then selected on conformation and wool

characteristics based on breed standards and those that are not acceptable are culled and sold as pregnant young ewes. Try to keep as many young ewes which are pregnant with twins.

Guidelines to ensure a high conception and lambing percentage of maiden ewes?

- Maiden ewes must receive flush feeding prior to the mating season and should also be teased with teaser rams.
- Maiden ewes, especially those younger than 12 months at first mating, have a shorter and less intense heat period (oestrus) than mature ewes and are less likely to look for the rams during oestrus (Edey et al., 1978; Dyrmundsson, 1973a). Because of this and because the mature ewes monopolize the rams, maiden ewes do not compete so well with mature ewes for the ram (Lindsay, 1966). Rams experience more difficulty to serve maiden ewes than mature ewes (Edey et al., 1978; Rosciszewska, 1985). Researchers recommend that maiden ewes should be teased, not only to synchronize them, but also to accustom them to the rams.
- Nowadays it is a standard practice to mate maiden ewes separate from mature ewes with 4 % experienced rams to ensure a high conception and lambing percentage. Where maiden ewes were mated with young, inexperienced rams, the scan percentage (potential lambing percentage) was 80 % compared to the 102 – 104 % where maiden ewes were mated with mature and experienced rams (Kenyon et al., 2007). The percentage of maiden ewes which skipped, was 15 % (young rams) and 2 to 9 % (experienced rams), respectively (Kenyon et al., 2007). Young rams also experience more problems to detect maiden ewes in heat and to mount maiden ewes.

Success stories

- Research conducted at the time with the Elsenburg SA Mutton Merino ewes by dr. Lammie Vosloo (1967), shows that, approximately 50 % of maiden ewes at first mating at about 19 months of age weighing ± 72 kg (i.e. 90 % of mature weight of 80 kg) produced twins at first lambing compared to only 22 % twins of those weighing only 60 % of mature weight.
- The Dohne Merino maiden ewes of Richard Krige of Boontjeskraal Estate, Sheep Farmer of the Year in 2007, weighed 80 % of their mature ewe weight at first mating at 11 or 14 months of age. These maiden ewes received creep feed as lambs and a concentrate supplement post weaning until 30 days after mating. The result was that 55 % of the maiden ewes were pregnant with twins with first mating.
- The SA Mutton Merino maiden ewes of Piet Meyer of Vredefort reached their target mating weight at 11 to 15 months of age and lambed 72 % twins at 16 to 20 months of age.
- Maiden ewes in the Trompsburg area that received supplementation on the veld grew at 106 g/day compared to the 85 g/day of the control group which received no supplementation. The better growing out of the former group resulted in a 6.8 % higher lambing percentage; 13 % higher weaning percentage and 8.9 % higher weaning weight of their lambs. It is currently the equivalent of R54/ewe extra income as a result of well grown out maiden ewes before mating (Hoon, 2007).
- Mating maiden ewes at a young age of 11 to 13 months of age had the greatest influence on flock efficiency. Gross income increased by up to 14.6 %; and the ewe produces one extra lamb in her lifetime (Muir & Thomson, 2009); her lifetime production and consequently productivity increases by 10 to 20 % (Lynch et al., 2013) compared to maiden ewes that are first mated at 19 – 20 months of age.

Conclusion

Replacement ewes are considered one of the most important assets of sheep producers. In this regard the improvement of growing out of maiden ewes is the first step in the establishment of a highly productive and reproductive ewe flock. The maiden ewe of today is in about 5 or 6 years the oldest ewes in the flock. The production and reproduction of the entire ewe flock can thus be at a much higher level within 5 years if starting today to ensure that maiden ewes are well grown out. Therefore, sheep producers are advised to pay special attention to the nutrition and care of their newly weaned ewe lambs and replacement ewes because it is the most important investment they can make to ensure a highly productive and profitable sheep farming enterprise. Overseas researchers agree that optimal growing out of maiden ewes is essential because well growing out of replacement ewes increases the pelvis size and thus reduces birth problems.

Uit die pen van 'n Oud-President...
Thoughts from an Ex President...

Die Ontstaan en Ontwikkeling van die Dorperras

Albert van Niekerk
Oud-President/Ex-President
(1989 – 1996)
Ere Visie-President
Honorary Vice President

(Met spesiale verwysing na die nadelige invloed van die teel van 'n "mooier" Dorper, op die ras.)
(*With special reference to the detrimental influence of breeding a "beautiful" Dorper, on the breed)*

Na die Eerste Wêreldoorlog (1914 – 1918), het daar toenemende belangstelling ontstaan vir die verbetering van die inheemse skaaprasse, soos onder andere die Swartkop Persie en Afrikaner tipes wat in groot getalle beskikbaar was.
After the first World War (1914-1918), increased interest existed for the improvement of the indigenous sheep breeds, such as the Black Head Persian and Afrikander-type, which was available in large numbers.

Besendings proefkarkasse is met sekere mate van sukses na Engeland uitgevoer. Volgens die Engelse mark en vleisgraderings-standaarde was hierdie karkasse nie die gewenste tipe en kwaliteit nie, hoofsaaklik vanweë die vetheidsgraad en swak bouvorm.
Consignments of trail carcasses were exported to England with a certain degree of success. According to the English market and meat grading standards these carcasses were not of the desired type and quality, mainly due to the fat content and poor conformation.

Verskillende vleisrasramme is ingevoer van Brittanje, bv die Dorset Horn tipes, wat kruis geteel was met hoofsaaklik die Swartkop Persie ooie, asook Afrikaner tipes. Verskillende Landbou inrigtings, soos Potchefstroom, Grootfontein en Elsenburg het kruisteël proewe begin doen.
Various mutton breed rams were imported from Britain -the Dorset Horn types, which were mainly crossed with Black Head Persian ewes and Afrikander-type ewes. Various Agricultural institutions such as Potchefstroom, Grootfontein and Elsenburg started with cross-breeding trials.

Dosente en amptenare van Grootfontein Landboukollege het 'n geweldige groot rol gespeel by die ontwikkeling van die Dorperras. Proewe het reeds so vroeg as 1936 begin. Dit is later uitgebrei na boere koöperateurs in die streke van Hopetown, Douglas en Upington.
Lecturers and officials at Grootfontein College of Agriculture played an enormous part in developing the Dorper Breed. Trials started as early as 1936. It was later expanded to farmer co-operators in the regions of Hopetown, Douglas and Upington.

Die Dorpergemeenskap van Suid-Afrika sal altyd dank verskuldig bly aan die hardwerkende en entoesiastiese pioniers van Dorperteelt. 'n Mens dink onwillekeurig aan 'n paar baanbrekers wat verbonde was aan verskillende instansies nl, Mnre DJ Engela, SW Bosman, Drs Quintin Campbel, JJ Olivier en Proff HC Bonsma, JW Nel en JA Nel. Van die boere wat in hierdie verband 'n groot bydrae gelewer het, was die De Smidt broers, (Hennie en Rossouw), die Stander broers, Mnre WB Ludik, WA Stahl en G Cole Rous. Bogenoemde persone, tesame met vele ander het oor jare vir die stoetteler, kuddeboer en 'n ras geteel wat gehard, aanpasbaar en baie vrugbaar was. Die ooie kon maklik lam en beweeg. Die kwaliteit vleis was smaaklik en gesog.
The Dorper fraternity of South Africa will always owe gratitude to the hardworking and enthusiastic pioneers of Dorper breeding. A person remembers officials from institutions like Messrs D J Engela, S W Bosman, Drs Q P Campbel, J J Olivier and Professors J W Nel and J A Nel. Farmers who contributed largely were the De Smidt Brothers, (Hennie and Rossouw), the Stander Brothers, R Edmeads, W B Ludik, W A Stahl and G Cole Rous and a number of others who, over the years, produced a breed which was hardy, adaptable and very fertile. Ewes lambed and moved with ease. The meat quality was tasty and sought after.

Die volgende fase was op die hoef beoordeling en karkas gradering. Dorperkarkasse het van die begin af baie goed by hierdie graderings gedoen en later die karkas kompetisies oorheers.
The next phase was judging on the hoof and carcass grading. Dorper carcasses fared very well during this grading process and later started ruling over all carcass competitions.

Stoettelers het toe begin skou en die "mooimaak" proses het begin.
This was when Stud Breeders started with the process of "beautification".

Mnr Hennie de Smidt was in die jare 1950 die voorste teler in die Dorperbedryf. Ek haal hom aan: "As ek net 'n ram kan teel wat anders lyk met die volgende groep ramlammers, dan verhoog ek dadelik my rampryse en die boere moet maar betaal!" Die mooimaakproses was dus van die begin af gekoppel aan 'n finansiële waarde en dit is tans steeds die geval.
In the 1950's Mr Hennie de Smidt was the leading breeder in the Dorper industry. I quote him: "If I can breed a ram which looks different in my next batch of lambs, I immediately increase my prices and farmers must just pay up!" The beautification process was therefore linked to financial value right from the word go and it is still the case today.
Vanaf die 1960's het die proses vinniger ontwikkel en het die volgende veranderinge plaasgevind:

From the 1960's the process progressed faster and the following changes took place:

Voorkwart/ *Front Quarter*
Die uitstaande Persie borsbeen is teruggeskuif en verbreed sodat daar meer wydte en beter stand van die voorbene kon wees. Met hierdie veranderinge het daar egter uiterstes ontwikkel wat negatief vir die ras is. So byvoorbeeld is die loopvermoë benadeel, die aanhegting van die voorbene aan die voorkwart is versteur en los skouers kom voor. By die ooie is die lamproses bemoeilik, as gevolg van groter en breër ongebore lammers.
The protruding Persian sternum was moved back and broadened to obtain more width and improved positioning of the front legs. However, with this change extremes were developed which had a negative influence. The ability to walk was affected, the connection of the front legs to the front quarter was disturbed and loose shoulders appeared. The lambing process was complicated due to larger and broader unborn lambs.

Kopvorm/Head shape
Verskillende kopvorms was destyds teenwoordig. Die kop moet mooi gevorm wees met sterk bek en kake wat goed opmekaar pas. In baie gevalle het die kop egter te groot geword en word die lamproses daardeur bemoeilik.
In the past there were various shapes of heads. The head should be well shaped with a strong mouth and jaws which fit together well. In many instances the head has become too big and this causes lambing problems.

Bene/Legs
Die bene was aanvanklik te lank en moes korter gemaak word en beter geplaas wees. Die resultaat was dat die bene in baie gevalle te kort was. Hierdeur is die dek vermoë van groter ooie bemoeilik. (Die lyflengte was in baie gevalle ook versteur.)
Initially the legs were too long and had to be shortened and better positioned. The result was that the legs become too short in many instances. Through this the covering ability of certain ewes were impeded.(The body length were also disturbed in many instances)

Agterkwart/Hind-Quarter
Die agterkwart moes verander word. Die normale effens hang-kruis moes verander na 'n lang reguit breë agterkwart wat laag tussen die agterbene afgaan.
The hind quarter had to change. The normal, slightly slanted rump had to change to a long, straight, broad hind quarter which extended low between the hind-legs.

Spiere/Muscle
Meer vleis (spier) moes bygesit word, ten einde die dier so te verander dat dit 'n mooi bouvorm het. Oor die jare is daar by die ramme, veral by skouramme, al hoe meer spiere bygesit en daar is regtig prentjie mooi skouramme geteel. Die diere, veral die ramme, was mooi en die waarde daarvan het toegeneem. Volgens wyle oom Hennie, moet die kopers maar betaal!
More muscle had to be added to change the animal to obtain a beautiful conformation. Over the years, more and more muscle was added to rams, especially show rams and a truly picturesque show ram was bred. The animals, especially the rams, were beautiful and the value increased. According to the late "oom" Hennie – the buyers had to pay!!

Die aansit van te veel bespiering word egter later dubbele bespiering. In alle gevalle is daar oorerflike eienskappe en by hierdie mooi ramme is gene oorgedra na hulle dogters. Gevolglik is die agterkwarte van ooie wat dubbele bespiering dra, se beenstruktuur oor jare so verander dat normale geboorte van die lammers bykans nie kan plaasvind nie.
The addition of too much musculature later turned into double musculature. In all cases there are hereditary traits and these good looking rams carried genes over to their daughter. Resulting in ewes with hind-quarters with double musculature which changed their bone structure to such an extend that normal lambing could not take place any longer.

Gedurende die tagtiger jare reeds, het kuddeboere by die Raad gekla oor die vrugbaarheid en lamprobleme by die ras. Die Raad van Dorperskaaptelersgenootskap het gevolglik gedurende 1998 twee ooi-projekte by boere geloods om sekere mates van proefooie te neem. Inwendige metings het gevolg wat baie interessante resultate, veral wat die grootte en vorm van die pelvisoppervlakte betref, opgelewer het. Oormatige bespiering van die ooi se agterkwart het hier 'n baie groot rol gespeel in die verandering van die beenstruktuur. Verdere studies op ander Dorperooie is gedoen waarvan die resultate beskikbaar is by die Kantoor van die Dorperskaaptelersgenootskap. Verwys artikel deur Prof PJ Fourie en Mnr IM van Rooyen van die Sentrale Universiteit van Tegnologie Vrystaat in Bloemfontein.
During the 80's flock farmers started complaining to the Council about the fertility and lambing problems of the breed. The Council of the Dorper Sheep Breeders Society decided in 1998 to start two ewe projects on various farms to measure ewes in the trials. Internal measurements followed which proved very interesting especially regarding the size and shape of the pelvic surface. Excessive musculature of the hind-quarter of a ewe played a major part in the change of bone structure. Further studies were done on a different group of ewes (the results are available at the Dorper Society's office) Refer to Articles by Prof P J Fourie and assistant Mr I M Van Rooyen of the Central University of Technology of the Free State in Bloemfontein.

Die resultate van laasgenoemde twee projekte moet as waarskuwing dien dat die proses van verandering, ten einde 'n mooier Dorper te teel, nie te ver gevoer moet word nie. Indien dit te ver gevoer sou word, is dit nadelig vir die reproduksie van die Dorperras.
The result of the last two projects must serve as a warning that the process of change, in order to breed a beautiful Dorper, must not be taken too far. Should it be exaggerated it is detrimental to the reproduction of the Dorper breed.

'n Insiggewende artikel deur Dr JJ Olivier in hierdie verband verskyn in hierdie Dorpernuus as herdruk "Kan die mooier maak van Dorpers nadelig wees?"
A most revealing article by Dr J J Olivier appears in this Dorper News as a reprint " Could the beautification of Dorpers be detrimental?"

U as Dorper stoetteler ken elkeen u stoet kuddes. Laat ons die foute gemaak, uitskakel en tesame met u, die Raad van die SADTG en sy inspekteurs, ons kuddes regstel.
You as Dorper Breeder know your stud flock. Let us eliminate the mistakes f the past and together with you, the Council of the SADBS and its inspectors, rectify our flocks.

Ek wens u alle voorspoed toe met u Dorper boerdery.
I wish you all the best with your Dorper farming.

Kan die "mooier maak" van Dorpers nadelig wees? Could the "beautification" of Dorpers be detrimental?

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(Article from 2005 Dorper News reprinted and translated on special request)

By Dr J J Olivier

INLEIDING:

Die Dorperras het oor die laaste aantal dekades uitgetroon as 'n baie effektiewe omsetter van natuurlike weiding na vleis. Hierdie goeie eienskappe van die ras het daartoe gelei dat die ras steeds wêreldwyd uitbrei en as bobaas vleisras erken word.

Die ras se verandering die laaste tyd, is hoofsaaklik geskoei op rasstandaarde wat deur prestasie in die skouring bepaal word. In hierdie speelveld is eienskappe soos simmetriese bouvorm en bespiering belangrik. Beoordelaars kan maklik hulle plasings verdedig ten opsigte van korrekte bouvorms en meer bespiering. Dit is egter baie moeilik om 'n vroulike vorm wat meer lammers sal produseer, te verdedig. Groeisnelheid (en gevolglik gehardheid/aanpasbaarheid) onder natuurlike produksie-omgewings speel ook feitlik geen rol in hierdie beoordeling van die "beter" skaap nie. Reproduksie prestasie - die belangrikste ekonomiese eienskap - word ook nie in ag geneem nie. Omrede die omgewing waarin diere geselekteer word meer verwyderd geraak het van die produksie-omgewing, kan die vraag dus gevra word of die ras nie dalk "te mooi" geword het vir die ekstensiewe produksie-omgewings in Suid Afrika nie?

KAN TE VEEL BESPIERING NADELIG WEES?

Spier oorontwikkeling (muscle hypertrophy) of dubbelbespiering is, 'n oorerfbare eienskap en word feitlik by alle beesrasse aangetref

INTRODUCTION:

The Dorper Breed has over the last few decades distinguished itself as a very effective converter of natural feed into meat. These good traits of the breed increased its popularity world wide and gained acknowledgement for the breed as the top carcass producer.

The change in the breed the last while, is mainly due to the breed standards which were determined by the performance of the breed in the show ring. In this playfield, traits like symmetrical conformation and musculature becomes important. Judges can easily justify their view regarding conformation and more muscularity. It is however very difficult to defend a more feminine shape, which produces more lambs. Growth (and accordingly adaptability/hardiness) under natural conditions plays no role in this judging of the 'better" sheep. Reproduction performance – the most important economical trait – is also not taken into consideration. Because the environment in which the animals are selected, became further from the production environment, the question could now be asked whether the breed has not become "too beautiful" for the extensive production areas in South Africa?

(Arthur,1995). Beeste met hierdie sindroom het karkasse met groter massa vleisinhoud (dus ook hoër uitslagpersentasies), groter proporsie van duurder snitte en maerder, sagter vleis. Beeste met dubbelbespiering word gekenmerk deur stywe "greyhound" tipe bespiering rondom die maag en ronde bespiering op die agterkwart. Die getal spiere is egter dieselfde (hulle het dus nie meer spiere nie). Die voorkoms van dubbelbespiering word veroorsaak deur oorontwikkeling in spierbundels en baie min intermuskulêre vet (Arthur,1995). Hierdie oorontwikkeling word verkry waar die werking van die proteien myostatien - wat oorontwikkeling van spiere voorkom - geblokkeer word.

Dubbelbespiering word egter geassosieer met verlaagde vrugbaarheid, bouvorm abnormaliteite, respiratoriese en kardiovaskulêre nadele (Arnold et al., 2001). Die dragtigheidsperiode van dubbelbespierde koeie is langer wat veroorsaak dat die geboortegewig van die kalf hoog is en dus geboorte probleme veroorsaak. So byvoorbeeld was die voorkoms van doodgebore kalwers by dubbelbespierde koeie 85% teenoor 43% by normale koeie (soos aangehaal deur Arnold et al., 2001). Volgens Coopman et al (2003) is die geboorte van kalwers in dubbelbespierde Belgian Blue beeste slegs moontlik deur 'n keisersnee. Die oorsaak hiervan is waarskynlik te hoë geboortegewigte en relatief klein pelvisoppervlakte. Weens verskeie respiratoriese en kadriovaskulêre probleme is die leeftyd van dubbel bespierde diere ook korter as normaal.

Daar is verskillende tipes oorbespiering by skape geïdentifiseer. Die Belgiese Texel skaap is 'n voorbeeld van dubbelbespiering wat ooreenstem met die van beeste. Soos by beeste word die afwesigheid van die proteien myostatin, geassosieer met ekstreme spierontwikkeling. Oor jare is daar in die spesifieke ras vir ekstreme voorkoms en bespiering geselekteer (Janssens et al., 2000). 'n Groter persentasie duurder snitte met baie minder vet, is verkry. In proewe wat gedoen is, was die uitslag % ook tot so veel as 7% beter as skape wat nie die effek het nie. Dubbelbespiering het geen effek op groeisnelheid nie. As gevolg van oorbeklemtoning van bespiering, het hierdie ras sy groeipotensiaal verloor en het jaaroud gewig afgeneem met 1.3kg per jaar. Hierdie seleksiedoelwit het ook gelei tot swakker vrugbaarheid en algemene gesondheid (Janssens, et al., 2002). Alhoewel meer vleis verkry is, het dit teen 'n koste geskied wat een outeur 'n artikel laat skryf het met titel "Is dit 'n seën of is dit 'n vloek?".

In 1983 is 'n Dorset Horn ram in Oklahoma gevind met baie

COULD TOO MUCH MUSCULATURE BE DETRIMENTAL?

Muscle hypertrophy or double musculature, is an hereditary trait which is familiar almost all cattle breeds. (Arthur 1995). Cattle with this syndrome have carcasses with greater mass of meat content (therefore higher slaughter percentage) , greater proportion of expensive cuts, leaner and more tender meat. Cattle with muscle hypertrophy are identified by the tight "greyhound" type of musculature around the stomach and round musculature on the hind quarter. The amount of muscle is the same (they do not have more muscle).

The appearance of hypertrophy is caused by overdeveloped muscle-bundles and very little inter-muscular fat (Arthur 1995). This over-development is obtained where the function of the protein myostatin – which is found in the over-development of muscles- is blocked.

Muscle hypertrophy is however associated with low fertility, conformation abnormalities, respiratory and cardiovascular problems (Arnold et.al 2001). The pregnancy period of cows with muscle hypertrophy is longer which causes that the birth weight of the calf is high and therefore result in calving problems. For example the occurrence of dead born calves in cows with muscle hypertrophy is 85% compared with 43% in normal cows. (Arnold et al. 2001)

According to Coopman et al 2003 the births of calves in double musculature Belgian Blue cattle are only possible via Caesarean section. The cause for this is possibly the high birth weight and relatively small pelvis surface. Due to various respiratory and cardiovascular problems the lifespan of animals with double musculature animals is also shorter than normal.

Various types of muscle hypertrophy have been identified in sheep. The Belgian Texel sheep is an example of muscle hypertrophy which corresponds with that of cattle. As in cattle absence of the protein myostatin, associated with extreme muscle development. Over many years selection for extreme appearance and muscle development was exercised with this breed. (Janssens et al. 200). A greater percentage expensive cuts and less fat was obtained. In tests done, the slaughter % was also 7% better than sheep without this effect. Muscle hypertrophy has no effect on growth rate. As a result of over emphasis of musculature this breed lost its growth potential and the weight of a yearling decreased by 1,3 kg per annum. This selection aim also resulted in lower fertility and poor general health. (Janssens et al. 2002). Although more meat was obtained, it was done at a cost which was described by one author as:- "Is it a blessing or a curse?"

spierontwikkeling in veral die agterkwart. As die ram met "normale" ooie gepaar is, het 'n proporsie van sy nageslag ook die bespiering getoon (Cockett et al., 2005). Die oorerwing van hierdie eienskap is uniek omrede dat dit die eerste keer is wat sogenaamde "polar overdominace" beskryf is. Dit beteken dat slegs lammers wat die geen vanaf hulle vader gekry het, die bespiering sal toon. Die enkele geen staan bekend as die "callipyge geen". (calli = beautifull en pyge = buttocks in grieks). Kenmerke van callipyge skape is dat hulle eers oorontwikkeling van spiere toon 3 weke na geboorte, gevolglik is daar geen geboorteprobleme nie. Dit beïnvloed ook nie speengewig en naspeense groei nie. Die geen verbeter egter wel voeromsettingsdoeltreffendheid (Jackson et al., 1997). Dit is hoofsaaklik die spiere in die pelvisarea en agterbene wat baie ontwikkel. Callipyge lammers het ook 'n hoër uitslag % met meer spierweefsel en minder vet. Die probleem is egter dat vleis van hierdie lammers baie taaier is en tot so 'n mate dat dit onaanvaarbaar vir die verbruiker is (Duckett et al., 2000).

> Oor tyd, is daar vir sekere spesifieke bouvormeienskappe in die Dorper geselekteer.

Uit voorafgaande is dit duidelik dat fenotipiese seleksie vir bespiering wel gedoen kan word. Dit wil verder voorkom of enkele gene of klein groepies van gene vir spierontwikkeling verantwoordelik (of om te keer dat spiere oorontwikkel) is. Dit blyk egter dat daar ook sekere ernstige nadelige gevolge is wat nie sondermeer ignoreer kan word nie. Dus kan seleksie vir spierontwikkeling in die Dorperras nie gedoen word sonder om ook groeisnelheid, netto aanteeltempo en algemene gesondheid (soos gemeet in langslewendheid) in ag te neem nie.

KAN SIMMETRIESE BOUVORM VERKEERD WEES?

Oor tyd, is daar vir sekere spesifieke bouvorm-eienskappe in die Dorper geselekteer. Baie van hierdie eienskappe was om die dier meer simmetries te laat lyk. Die reguit rug met realtief plat kruis is sprekende bewys hiervan.

Cloete et al. (1998) het by SA Vleismerinos gevind dat die subjektiewe punt vir kruisvorm betekenisvol korreleerd was met pelvisoppervlakte (-hoe platter hoe kleiner is die pelvisoppervlakte). Soortgelyke resultate is verkry by melkbeeste maar nie by vleisbeeste nie. Pelvisoppervlakte blyk volgens

In 1983 a Dorset Horne ram was found in Oklahoma with heavy musculature in the hind quarter. The ram was mated to "normal" ewes and a proportion of the progeny also showed this musculature. (Cocket et al. 2005). The hereditary of this trait is unique as it was the first time that so-called "Polar over -dominance" was described. It meant that only lambs receiving this gene from their father would show the musculature. The single gene is known as the "callipyge gene" (calli=beautiful and pyge=buttocks in Greek). Characteristic of callipyge sheep is they only show development of musculature at 3 weeks after birth, consequently there are no lambing problems. This does not influence weaning weight or after weaning growth. The gene improves feed conversion (Jackson et al. 1997). It is mainly muscles in the pelvic area and hind legs which develops. Callipyge lambs has a higher slaughter % with more muscle fiber and less fat. The problem however is that meat from such lambs is normally tough to such an extent that it is not acceptable to the consumer. (Ducket et al. 2000)

> Over time, selection took place for certain conformation traits in the Dorper.

From the preceding it is clear that phenotype selection for musculature can be done. It further appears that single genes or small groups of genes are responsible for musculature. (or to prevent over-development of muscle). It also seems that there are serious consequences which cannot merely be ignored. Therefore selection in the Dorper for musculature cannot be done without consideration of growth rate, netto reproduction rate and general health (as measured in longevity).

COULD SYMMETRICAL CONFORMATION BE WRONG?

Over time, selection took place for certain conformation traits in the Dorper. Many of these were to create a more symmetrical animal. The straight back with relatively flat rump being a proof of that.

(Cloete et al. 1998) found in the SA Mutton Merino that the subjective point for the rump shape had significant correlation with the pelvic surface (the flatter, the smaller the pelvic surface was) Similar results were achieved with dairy cattle but not with beef cattle. According to several research results, pelvic surface plays an important role in the occurrence of still born lambs and difficult births.

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verskeie navorsing 'n belangrike rol te speel in die voorkoms van distokia en moeilike geboortes. Tagtig persent van die vrektes voor speen kom binne die eerste 7 dae na geboorte voor. Hiervan kan tot 60% die oorsaak wees van moeilike geboortes (Cloete et al., 1998). Moeilike geboortes word ook geassosieer met swakker binding tussen ooi en lam, en swakker suipreflekse van die lam self (Haughey, 1991).

Tydens ondersoeke in skape (Fogarty en Thompson, 1974) en beeste (Sieber et al., 1989) is gevind dat dit nie maklik is om spesifieke liggaamsmates of bouvorm-eienskappe aan doodgebore lammers (kalwers) en moeilike geboortes te koppel nie. Die rede hiervoor is dat distokia (doodgebore lammers) beïnvloed word deur geboortegewig, swak ontsluiting van geboortekanaal, en ouderdom en kondisie van moeder (Fogarty en Thompson, 1974). Tog blyk dit dat die grootte en vorm van die bekkenbene ook 'n bydraende faktor kan wees. Volgens Fogarty en Thompson (1974) blyk dit dat indien die pelvisoppervlakte onder 'n sekere waarde is, dit distokia veroorsaak. Kilgour en Haughey (1993) rapporteer dat 'n kudde wat geselekteer is vir die vermoë om baie lammers te speen, se pelvis dimensies groter was as die van die kontrole. Uit verskeie navorsing wil dit voorkom asof die lengte (diepte) van die pelvis meer belangrik is as die wydte (Fogarty en Thompson, 1974). Dieselfde outeurs het ook probeer vasstel wat die verwanskap is tussen metings op die lewendige dier en verskillende pelvis mates is. Die enigste mate wat akkuraat (r=0.89) bepaal kon word was wydte van die pelvis. Betekenisvolle korrelasie is ook tussen pelvisoppervlakte en pelvisdiepte met lengte van voorbeen en liggaamslengte verkry. Hierdie mates kon egter net 35% van die variasie in pelvisoppervlakte voorspel.

Uit voorafgaande kan dus afgelei word dat die grootte van die pelvisoppervlakte 'n belangrike rol in die voorkoms van distokia speel. Dit is egter nie die enigste bydraende faktor nie en ander faktore soos geboortegewig speel ook 'n rol. Verder blyk dit moeilik te wees om vanaf eksterne mates pelvisoppervlakte te voorspel. Seleksie vir groter pelvisoppervlaktes vanaf eksterne gemete eienskappe is dus onprakties. Seleksie vir afwesigheid van moeilike geboortes by ooie en vroulike afstammelinge van spesifieke ramme, blyk die meer suksesvolle metode te wees om distokia te voorkom (McSporran en Fielden, 1979). Seleksie vir die vermoë om lammers te speen in Romney skape (Knight et al., 1988) het nie net alleen distokia en moeilike geboortes beperk nie, maar ook tot gevolg gehad dat algemene gedrag van die ooie tydens geboorte verbeter het. In 'n seleksielyn waar daar geselekteer is vir die vermoë van 'n ooi om meer lammers te speen as die aantal lamkanse wat sy gehad het, het Cloete et al., (2004) gevind dat lammers gespeen per ooie gepaar met 1-2% per

Eighty percent of deaths before weaning occurs within 7 days after birth. Of this up to 60% can be due to difficult births. (Cloete et al. 1998). Difficult births are associated with weaker bonding between the ewe and lamb and poor suckling reflexes of the lamb. (Haugey 1991).

During examination of sheep (Fogarty & Thompson 1974) and cattle (Sieber et al 1989) it was found that it is difficult to connect specific body measurements and conformation traits to stillborn sheep (calves) and difficult births. The reason for this being that stillborn lambs are influenced by birth weight, poor dilation of the birth channel, age and condition of the mother (Fogarty & Thompson 1974). Yet is appears that the size and shape of the pelvic bones could be a contributing factor. According to Fogarty & Thompson 1974 it seems that should the pelvic surface be under a certain value, it causes still born lambs. Kilgour & Haughey 1993 reports that a flock selected for the ability to wean lambs, had larger pelvic dimensions than the control group. From various research it appears that the length (depth) of the pelvis is more important than the width (Fogarty & Thompson 1974) The same authors also tried to determine the relation between measurements on live animals and the different pelvic measurements. The only measurement which could be accurately determined (r=0.89) was the width of the pelvis. Meaningful correlation was also found between pelvic surface and pelvic depth with length of front leg and body length. These measurement could however only predict 35% of the variation in the pelvic surface.

From the preceding we can deduct that the size of the pelvic surface plays an important role in still born lambs. It is however not the only contributing factor and other factors like birth weight also plays a role. It further proves difficult to predict pelvic surface from external measurement. Selection for larger pelvic surface from externally measured traits is therefore impractical Selection for the absence of difficult births in ewes and female progeny of specific rams, appears to be the more successful method to prevent still born lambs. (McSporran & Fielden 1979) Selection for the ability to wean lambs in the Romney sheep (Knight et al 1989) not only limited still born lambs and difficult births, but also resulted in the improvement of behaviour of ewes during the birth process. In a selection line where selection took place for the ability of the ewe to wean more lambs than the lambing opportunities she had, Cloete et al. 2004 found that lambs weaned per ewe mated increased by 1-2% per annum. It is therefore better to measure reproduction directly in terms of weight of lamb weaned per ewe per year than to search for indirect measurements of reproduction.

jaar toegeneem het. Dit is dus beter om reproduksie (aanteeltempo) direk te meet in terme van die gewig lammers gespeen per ooi per jaar as om na indirekte maatstawwe van reproduksie te soek.

MEET OM TE WEET!

Daar is 'n spreekwoord wat lui "There ain't no such thing as a free lunch" (Robert A Heinlein). Met die ontwikkeling en verbetering van 'n ras is dit ook baie waar. Om 'n ras mooi te maak in terme van sekere voorafopgestelde idees is baie moontlik. Die probleem hiermee is egter dat sekere ander eienskappe wat direk met ekonomiese vleisproduksie verband hou, nadelig beïnvloed kan word. Soms is hierdie verandering gering terwyl ander meer ernstig kan wees. Dit is dus belangrik "om te meet en te weet".

> Dit het werklik tyd geword dat met die verdere verbetering van die ras, die raaiwerk gelos word.

Vir die Doperras om plaaslik en internasionaal kompeterend te bly, moet die hoof drywers van winsgewende skaapproduksie dus nooit uit die oog verloor word nie. Hierdie drywers is:

- Getal lammers bemark
- Gewig lammers bemark op jong ouderdom
- Gehalte van vleis (karkas)
- Lae mortaliteite

Increased by 1-2% per annum. It is therefore better to measure reproduction directly in terms of weight of lamb weaned per ewe per year than to search for indirect measurements of reproduction.

MEASURE AND BE CERTAIN

There is a saying "There ain't no such thing as a free lunch" (Robert A Heinlein) With the development and improvement of a breed this is also very true. To beautify a breed in terms of certain pre-concluded ideas is possible The problem with this is however that certain traits, directly correlated with the economical meat production, can be negatively influenced. This change is often very slight but it can also be more serious. Therefore it is important to measure and to be certain.

> The time has really come that the improvement of the breed must not be done by guesswork any longer.

For the Dorper breed to compete locally and internationally, the main profit drivers of sheep production must never be lost from sight. These drivers are:

- Amount of lambs marketed;
- Weight of lambs marketed at a young age;
- Quality of meat (carcass)
- Low mortality