

## News Column *Increasing twinning in flocks by utilizing The Flushing Method and EBVs*

A few steps that have proven to be beneficial in increasing twinning in the flock:

- Purchase rams with proven EBVs for twinning
- Invest money in the Ram battery of the operation. When purchasing Rams, utilize their EBVs to select rams that have high probability for twinning. In three years when the ewe lambs retained from these high % twinning rams lamb for the first time, there will be an increase in twins/multiple births, increase the overall weaned lamb percentage, in turn making the ranch more money from each ewe being run.
- Include pregnancy checking in selecting replacement ewe lambs via purchasing ultrasounding equipment
- Bucks go in with the ewes in December
- Ultrasound at shearing in march
- Ewes carrying singles will be sorted off into a separate corral from ewes carrying multiples
- Once everything is lambd out, ewe lambs will only be selected from the ewes that had multiples.

This will increase the genetic probability of those ewe lambs having multiple lambs.

### **Cost of flushing:**

- Corn- as of 5/25/2021, 0.11cents/lb.
- 10,000 ewes
- Each ewe eats ½ lb. of corn/day
- Feeding corn for 7 days (1 week)

$10,000 \times \frac{1}{2} \text{ lb./ewe/day} = 5,000 \text{ lbs. of corn}$

$5,000 \text{ lbs. corn} \times 0.11 \text{ cents/lb.} = \$550/\text{day}$

$\$550/\text{day} \times 7 \text{ days (1 week)} = \$3,850.00$

By flushing ewes in drought years, lambing percentage can be increased by 15-25% (University of Wyo Ex.Sheep Expert)

10,000 ewes at 100% lambing = 10,000 lambs born

10,000 ewes at 115% lambing = 11,500 lambs born

10,000 ewes at 125% lambing = 12,500 lambs born

\$3,850 for 5,000 lbs. of corn to feed 10,000 ewes for 7 days (1 week)

Ex: 10,000 lambs sold at an average of \$2.23/lb weighing an average of 70 lbs = \$1,561,000

11,500 lambs sold at an average of \$2.23/lb weighing an average of 70 lbs = \$1,795,150

12,500 lambs sold at an average of \$2.23/lb weighing an average of 70 lbs = \$1,951,250

All information and numbers sourced from a project done through University of Wyoming Extension at a camp I attended.

As the numbers prove, flushing can be very beneficial by increasing the number of lambs born, number of lambs weaned, and therefore increasing an operation's paycheck with a small initial investment.

Utilize the information provided in this article to run the numbers for your own flock no matter how big or small and see what flushing can do for you.