

Fleece production, shown in Table 2, represents an average of the ewe's first and second shearing. The ewes from Rambouillet dams have shorn approximately 10 per cent more pounds of grease wool than those from Columbia dams. Staple length, on the other hand, was approximately 14 per cent greater for ewes from Columbia dams. Although clean fleece weight was not determined, it is expected that little difference existed in clean fleece weight since longer staple fleeces are also higher yielding fleeces.

Border Leicester sired ewes produced longer staple fleeces. This trait is particularly noted in the offspring of Columbia dams. The staple on these ewes was extremely long and fleeces tended to be open. Some ewes from this cross produced braid wool.

North Country Cheviot sired ewes sheared the lightest fleeces. The use of North Country Cheviot rams decreased wool production by approximately two pounds per head in this study. Staple length, however, was actually somewhat longer than that of Columbia and Rambouillet sired ewes.

Summary

Data have been presented characterizing the foundation ewes under study at Hettinger Experiment Station.

Ewes from Rambouillet dams have been heavier and have produced approximately 10 per cent more grease wool than those from Columbia dams.

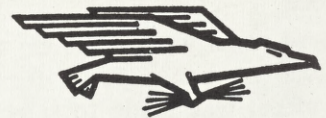
Staple length was 14 per cent longer on ewes from Columbia dams.

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