What Benefits Could GenOvis Bring Me?

Genetic selection helps to increase the productivity of your ewes

Genetic evaluation may help you to select for more productive animals in your flock. A little difference in genetic value can result in a big difference in your overall productivity. For example, an EPD of +0.1 for number of lambs born means that the progeny of that animal will have 0.1 more lambs than the progeny of an animal with an EPD of 0. If the average is 1.9 lambs born then the progeny of an animal with a +0.1 for number of lambs born will on average have 2.0 lambs. To put this in dollars and cents, if 400 ewes had the genetic capability to produce +0.1 more lambs, 40 more lambs would theoretically be produced by them resulting in an extra $5600, assuming a market value of $140 per lamb.

GenOvis helps to detect unproductive ewes

Unproductive ewes cost you a lot of money throughout the year. The GenOvis program has many reports that may help you to identify the unproductive ewes and cull them quickly. The average of kg weaned per ewe per year is a good indication of which ewes are the more productive. By looking at the average of your flock, it is easy to find the ewes that are less productive than the rest of the flock given the same management. Whether you have a commercial or a registered flock, identifying those ewes who are significantly below your flocks average will help you to cull unproductive ewes, resulting in increased flock productivity.

Tattoo	# Lambing	# Lambs born	Average 50 days weight	Average lambing interval	Average born per year	Average weaned per year	Total kg weaned	Average kg weaned per year
CEPO8250P	3	6	21.1	686.5	1.26	0.42	42.30	8.89
CEPO8974T	2	3	23.4	504	1.26	0.42	23.36	9.82
CEPO7094W	2	2	21.6	281	1.13	0.57	21.56	12.18
CEPO8698T	4	4	32.1	311	1.13	1.13	128.46	36.14
CEPO7055W	2	2	30.9	258	1.17	1.17	61.80	36.22
CEPO6862U	2	2	30.9	258	1.17	1.17	61.80	36.22
CEPO8628R	8	12	27.8	244.1	2.11	2.11	333.70	58.76

Commercial and Registered producers alike will benefit from using the information generated by the GenOvis program to manage their ewes. Identifying and culling unproductive and poorly performing ewes is the first step towards improving flock profits.

Once you know who the slackers are, why would you keep them? In the above example, the first three ewes are obviously not covering their maintenance costs or returning a profit to the operation and need to be culled. The GenOvis program allows you to work with your production report information in an Excel file. You will be able to sort the data according to the importance you attributed for each trait in your farm and to calculate the average of your own flock for each performance trait. The three ewes in red should definitively be culled, in anybody's flock.

Producers keep records, GenOvis helps to turn that information into knowledge

The first step is to record the information needed by GenOvis to generate the information that you need to make informed culling decisions. Once you have the information provided by GenOvis it is easier to see if the performance of your flock is either improving, staying the same, or getting worse. You may not like what the reports tell you but at least you will know where you stand. Productivity data is essential to determine the actual performance of your flock. The GenOvis program is a tool that allows you to easily track the performance of your flock by using its flock evaluation report.

For example, a decrease of only 0.05 lambs weaned per ewe per year in your 400 ewes flock is really difficult to detect. This will also be more difficult if you don't keep your productivity records. In fact, this little decrease represents 20 lambs weaned less per year. If we estimate that all of these lambs would be sold at an average of $140, this would result in made $2 800 less gross revenue at the end of the year. That is only a change of one half of one percent and look at the opportunity for profit! Having access to performance records through the GenOvis program may help you to detect this situation quickly and respond.

GenOvis helps to identify profitable sire lines

For example, if you use a ram as a herdsire that has progeny and his EPDs are lower than the average of the breed, this means that the progeny of this ram may have a lower performance than the average of the breed. If you decided to use a ram that has breeding values below the average of the breed you would expect that his progeny will have also have lower performance than the average of the breed. The GenOvis program provides you with the performance information that you need to select rams that are at least above average for their breed for performance. The more progeny information that a ram has available for evaluation, the more reliable the results are and the more you can count on the genetic benefit of a particular sireline.

GenOvis is a good tool to help you to monitor and manage the performance of your flock. You cannot manage what you do not measure. The choice is yours, leave the performance of your flock up to chance or depend on measures of performance on which to base your management decisions on. GenOvis is an easy home performance program for the Commercial and Registered producers alike. Take control of your flock's future with GenOvis! For more information, please visit the GenOvis website (www.genovis.ca), email (genovis@cepoq.com), or phone (418) 856-1200 ext. 226.