ovaflo
GENETICS

Pre-Breeding Recommendations: Laparoscopic Artificial Insemination (AI)

Ideal candidates for laparoscopic AI are ewes that have met the following criteria:
1. Lambed every year without complications
2. Became pregnant within 30 days of buck exposure -or- became pregnant via AI if previously submitted
3. Weaned lambs for more than 30 days prior to initiation of AI synchronization protocol
4. Benefit from nutritional flushing to improve body condition score by 0.5 – 1.0 point
5. Moderate body condition (3 out of 5 BCS) at time of AI
6. Exhibited at least one natural heat cycle after lambs were weaned

Certain management considerations for AI candidates are as follows:
1. Vaccinate ewes with Clostridial C, D &T at least **30** days before the start of programming. If your flock has a history of abortions caused by chlamydia, vaccinate with the chlamydia vaccine at least **60** days before the start of programming.
2. Ewes should be shorn within **60** days of programming.
3. Hoof trimming should be performed as needed **30** days before programming.
4. Deworm only the ewes that require treatment as determined through physical evaluation and/or the utilization of the FAMACHA system.   The combination deworming method should be implemented and ewes should be dewormed at least **30** days before the start of programming.
5. Gradually increase the protein content of the ewes' diet from **0.25lb/head/day to 1lb/head/day** over the course of three weeks prior to the AI date. This is considered nutritional flushing and will increase ovulation rate.
6. Sort ewes in their respective AI groups **60** days before programming to ensure management, environment, and social factors are consistent.
7. Introduce a harnessed implanted wether (1 wether per 15 ewes) **30** days before programming so natural ewe cyclicity can be observed and recorded.
8. Administer a Vitamin A, D, & E shot to each ewe **30** days before programming.