2007

2006 Review—ISU Sheep Teaching Farm, South State Avenue, Ames, Iowa

Scott Smalley
Iowa State University

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ans_air/vol653/iss1/74

This Teaching is brought to you for free and open access by the Animal Science Research Reports at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Animal Industry Report by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
2006 Review - ISU Sheep Teaching Farm
South State Avenue, Ames, Iowa

A.S. Leaflet R2248
Scott Smalley, superintendent
Animal Science Sheep Teaching Unit

Mission
Provide facilities, livestock, and instruction for undergraduate education, and extension outreach programs, on sheep production, and flock management.

History
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

Facilities
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

History
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

Facilities
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

History
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

History
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

Facilities
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

Facilities
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

Facilities
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

Facilities
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

Facilities
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

Facilities
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

Facilities
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

Facilities
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

Facilities
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

Facilities
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

Facilities
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

Facilities
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm is one that is steeped in tradition and excellence. Iowa State University has been exhibiting sheep at the highest levels of competition since the very beginnings of livestock shows in the United States. Iowa State College’s interest in sheep production dates back to the early 1900’s when the college exhibited Oxford and Southdown wethers at the 1912 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill. The farm still continues to raise productive, competitive breeding stock today.

Teaching Activities
The Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm plays a critical role in undergraduate education providing hands on interaction with various components of sheep production. The farm aids in the following undergraduate classes both on and off campus.

Animal Science 101 L Working with Animals
Animal Science 214 L Domestic Animal Physiology Lab
Animal Science 229 Sheep Science
Animal Science 270 Foods of Animal Origin
Animal Science 305 Livestock Evaluation
Animal Science 332 Laboratory Methods in Animal Reproduction
Animal Science 336 Livestock Behavior and Well-Being
Animal Science 429 Sheep Systems Management
Animal Science 475 Intercollegiate Judging Training and Competition

Farm Area and land use
The farm is currently being transitioned into more of a rotational cropping system in an attempt to keep soil phosphorous levels down, and increase productivity per acre. The rotation consists of corn/soybean production, hays stands consisting of an alfalfa bromes and bluegrass mixture, and pastures of that same composition. In the previous 35 years pastures and hay fields were much more static resulting in eventual losses in both productivity and grass and legume species diversity in pastures.
The farm and its livestock are also used for a variety of events for the Block and Bridle club including Little North American Showmanship Competition, The Junior Livestock Evaluation Competition, The VEISHA petting zoo, and Ag Olympics. Block and Bridle club members also organize and schedule tours of the farm for daycare centers and preschools in the area.

In addition to classes, in the last few years the sheep teaching farm has also held several programs and labs for the Iowa State 4-H office, as well as providing judging workouts for 4-H, junior college, and senior college judging teams from across the country.

**Flock Composition**

The farm consists of 250 mature ewes, and comprises of three different production systems. The first is a 110 head commercial white face flock which is mainly comprised of polypay and polypay cross females. This flock is a low input, low labor management system where ewes are moderate to small framed, easy fleshing, durable and prolific. Ewes are fed average to low quality forages during the dry lot period and little or no concentrate. Lambing is done on spring pastures in May on a rotational grazing system. Weaning usually occurs between August 1 and September 1 depending on pasture availability.

The second production system is a 40 head registered Hampshire flock. These ewes are lambed inside in January and February. Moderate frame size, and rapid growth, in combination with desirable phenotype are the selection criteria in the Hampshire flock. Breeding stock are sold off the farm and at state and national sales.

The third and final management system is a flock of 100 wether type Hampshire and suffolk cross ewes, which lamb in January and February. The objectives of this flock are to produce competitive show lambs for sale to junior livestock exhibitors for local, county, state, and national exhibition. Select stud ram prospects and replacement ewe lambs are also sold off the farm and at state and national sales.