HF4 Ranch

You can't make progress without change, but not all change is progress.
History

5th Generation Rancher
2010 - ranch established

- 5000 acres
- 300 sheep

2020

- 25,500 acres
- 1300 sheep
Reasons to Transition

1. Increase Lamb Crop
2. Track Growth
3. Improve Wool
4. Gather Data Efficiently
EID

Winter 2015

Lets Grow Project w/ Dr. Reid Redden & Dr. Ron Pope

- Implemented Use of EID Tags
- Tested Shearwell Program
- Incorporated Bluetooth Scale
- Track Lamb Growth through slaughter
- Individual Carcass Data

GOAL: Utilize EID tags to collect pertinent data
Pregnancy Scanning

Scanned 400 Ewes
Learned to ultrasound
Learned how to identify twinning ewes
Incorporate Selective Replacement Strategy based upon ultrasound data

GOAL: Increase lamb crop to 125% without sacrificing wool or growth traits
Estimated Breeding Value

- Purchased Rams from Montana with EBV Data
- Track and Improve
  - Wool Traits
  - Growth Traits
  - Priority on Number of Lambs Born (NLB)

GOAL: Focus on the genetics instead of depending on visual selection
NSIP  National Sheep Improvement Program

2018

Confined lambing in order to collect parentage data
Not efficient for us, we traditionally pasture lamb
Able to collect all the data we wanted & needed

GOAL: Determine best process for our operation to gather necessary data
NSIP  National Sheep Improvement Program

2019

Transitioned back to pasture lambing
Participated in Texas Agrilife Flock 54 project
Collected DNA samples on approximately 200 ewes, rams, and their offspring

GOAL: Determine best process for our operation to gather necessary data
Transitioning with Technology

EID Tags  EID Reader  Ultrasound Technology  Bluetooth Scale
Transitioning with Technology

Collecting Wool Data

NSIP & EBV

Livestock Protection Dogs
2016
400 ewes x 95% lamb crop = 380 lambs @ $150 head = $57,000

2019
400 ewes x 117% lamb crop = 468 lambs @ $150 head = $70,200
Future of the Industry