



Mission

To advance agriculture using multidisciplinary approaches to teach, generate, disseminate and apply knowledge in sheep biology and management

Vision

The center will be utilized by dedicated faculty, staff and students to develop successful graduates, conduct innovative research and engage stakeholders.

Visiting

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily for self-guided tours. Visitors must not have visited a foreign country in the 7 days prior to visiting the farm. Groups may request guided tours.

Location

3885 Hagadorn Road
Okemos, MI 48864

Manager

Tristan Foster
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STATISTICS & INFORMATION

The MSU Sheep Teaching and Research Farm practices accelerated lambing utilizing commercial Polypay and Dorset crossbred sheep with birthing seasons in January, May and September of each year.

Home to:

- 300 lambing ewes
- 60 replacement ewe lambs
- 16 breeding rams

Production Performance Highlights

- 195% average lamb drop rate with 175% average live lamb drop rate annually

Farm Upgrades & Capital Improvements

- New concrete under pens in Bennett lambing barn to aid in pen cleaning and disinfection between lambing seasons
- New UTV for use in daily operations and animal husbandry chores

RESEARCH

This past year, research at the unit focused primarily on nutrition management during the pre-breeding period to optimize flushing responses during breeding in prolific sheep. Studies were also conducted using sheep as equine models to study bone and joint health as it relates to speed and circle diameter exercises, as well as utilizing sheep to develop a vaccine for bovine leukemia virus (BLV).

Highlighted Research:

- Defining and developing guidelines for prebreeding nutritional management of prolific sheep. (Richard Ehrhardt, Ph.D.)
- Use of sheep as an exercising juvenile, large animal model. (Brian Nielsen, Ph.D.)
- Developing integrated crop-lamb grazing systems for Michigan. (Kim Cassida, Ph.D. and Richard Ehrhardt, Ph.D.)

TEACHING

The center regularly provides the facilities or sheep for numerous experiential learning opportunities.

- Host 14 different laboratory and teaching sessions each academic calendar year
- Four different courses involving 230 students
- Classes focus on livestock handling, animal husbandry care, lambing management, post mortality assessment, pasture management, reproductive management, live market and carcass evaluation

Courses offered through:

- Department of Animal Science
- Institute of Agricultural Technology
- Veterinary Medicine

OUTREACH

The center regularly provides the venue and sheep for a wide range of outreach events.

- Birth Management Workshop
- Ohio Sheep Producers Association

