

2001 Sheep Day Report

Montadale Regeneration Project: Progress Report.

NDSU (ARS) Personnel Involved:

Dr. Bert Moore

Mr. Wes Limesand

Ms. Millie Brown

The Montadale Sheep Breeders Association endorsed a regeneration project in 1997. Reports of this project have been detailed in previous Sheep Day Reports (1998 and 1999). NDSU made matings of Columbia ewes to a Border Cheviot ram in the fall of 1997. The F₁ progeny were displayed at the National Montadale Show in Springfield, Illinois, and at the Midwest Stud Ram Sale in Sedalia, Missouri. The F₁ ewe lambs were mated to a purebred Montadale ram in the fall of 1998 and 13 of these ewe lambs lambing a total of 18 lambs, for a 138 percent lambing rate. Average birth weight of these lambs was 11.8 pounds. Fourteen of the 18 F₂ lambs reached 90 days of age and had average adjusted 90 day weights of 94.7 pounds. Both F₁ and F₂ progeny of this project were again exhibited at the previously listed show and sale events.

The F₁ progeny were again mated in the fall of 1999, but this time artificially to one of the top Montadale artificial insemination sires available, a former national champion. Results of these artificial insemination matings arrived in February. Because of the young age, the F₂ ewe lambs were not bred to lamb in the spring of 2000.

Future Projections:

The Mating Scheme for steps in the Regeneration Project is outlined on the following page. This year, lambs which will be considered "purebreds" are born. An attempt will be made to keep this entire group of sheep together by a single breeding establishment