

RAMS FOR EWE LAMBS

For 20 + years I have breed a genetic line of sheep that were designed for producing easy born lambs. We used to assess rams by pushing their head down and placing your fingers between the shoulder blades. If you could fit 3 fingers (adult male size) side ways in the area between the shoulder blades they were deemed to be broad and were not recommended for use over ewe lambs.

The selection criteria can be far more scientific than that method these days but the genetic trend of easy lambing is still strong in our composite sheep line and has been further enhanced with the infusion of the Charollais into the genetic line in 2015. Lambing ewes at 12-15 months of age is common in our sheep business and we incur minimal difficulties in the delivery of lambs. We don't head around the paddock at lambing time with a bucket and scales weighing stud lambs. The lambs are typically born under 4 kg .

- The financial loss associated with lamb loss is detrimental to the value of the ewe that you may have purchased or bred.
- WHY?
- Lamb or lambs may die
- Ewe may die
- Stress on farmer and dogs to catch ewe in trouble
- Mismothering of other lambs while catching ewe
- Damage to ewe that prevents further breeding