



America's
GENETIC FOUNDATION
FOR A PROFITABLE



ABOUT US

The National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) is committed to helping American sheep producers improve profitability through the use of genetic information. NSIP and its membership recognize the importance of combining genetic evaluations derived from performance records with visual assessments when selecting breeding stock for purebred and commercial flocks. Founded in 1986, this non-profit organization is administered by a volunteer board of directors. All breeds are represented. ■

WHAT WE DO

NSIP is the only American organization to offer U.S. sheep producers a proven genetic selection system by which to improve flock productivity and quality. Using a process similar to that used by nearly all other livestock species to aid in genetic selection, NSIP develops Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) which sheep producers can use to select animals for important traits, including productivity, quality and flock health.

In alignment with the U.S. Sheep Industry Roadmap, NSIP is dedicated to helping sheep producers improve traits that result in animals with desirable, profitable characteristics. Ultimately, we offer an excellent tool and method to move the industry toward its goal of value-based carcass pricing, using genetic selection criteria for carcass quality. ■

ESTIMATED BREEDING VALUES LEAD THE WAY TO GENETIC IMPROVEMENT

By using breeding stock with genetic predictability, all types of flocks have a foundation of genetic information upon which to build a superior and more consistent product for their customers, whether this be a feeder, packer or consumer. This genetic predictability is achievable through NSIP's Estimated Breeding Values.

EBVs are science-based, industry-tested measurements of heritable traits that can be tracked and measured. For those familiar with Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) used in cattle, EBVs are very similar. EPDs denote the breeding value of an individual animal's progeny whereas EBVs denote the value of the individual animal. More simply, EBVs equal EPDs times two. ■

BECOMING A MEMBER

To obtain EBVs on your sheep, join NSIP today! With EBVs, purebred and seedstock producers can identify genetics that excel in their flocks and greatly accelerates genetic progress within a breed. A flock with any breed type or multiple breed types can submit data for evaluation through NSIP. The data is calculated on the performance of individual animals, related animals in the same flock and related animals in other flocks when possible.

Your NSIP membership includes:

- Free software for flock data management and submission.
- Free training and mentoring support from a like-minded sheep breeder.
- Advanced genetic evaluation calculations using proven technology.
- Comprehensive reports on both individual animals and breeds.
- Listing on NSIP website.
- News and updates via email.

Associate memberships are available for supporters of NSIP that do not submit data (i.e., breed associations, meat companies, industry affiliates, individuals and flocks generating EBVs and EPDs via other programs). Associate members do not have voting privileges, but will be listed on the NSIP website and receive correspondence sent to all NSIP members. ■

FREE TRIAL MEMBERSHIP OFFER

If you are a new member, or have not been a member for three years, your first year's Flock Enrollment Fee will be waived. Database Fees still apply.

Also, NSIP will waive the annual Flock Enrollment Fee for up to three years for those who are less than 22 years of age as of Jan. 2015. Should that individual not submit data during those three years, they will owe 50% of the enrollment fees.

Our Mission: To provide predictable, economically important genetic evaluation information to the American sheep industry by converting performance records into relevant decision-making tools.

NATIONAL SHEEP IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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FIND US ONLINE FOR MORE INFORMATION

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