



NSIP

National Sheep
Improvement
PROGRAM

PedigreeMaster

PedigreeMaster

Pedigree Master Software Manual

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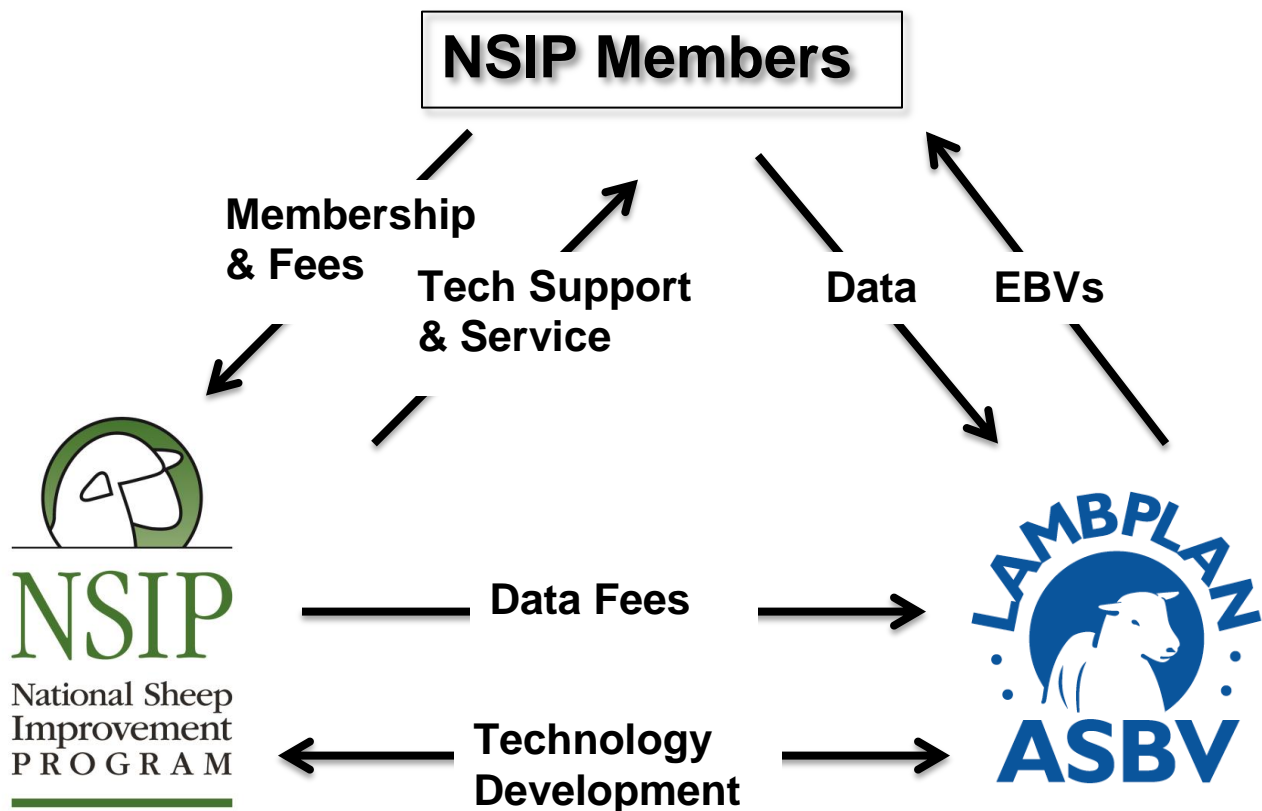
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Chapter 1 -- Introduction

Congratulations on enrolling in the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP). By enrolling in the program you have made a major step forward toward the genetic improvement of your flock. The technology utilized in this program is identical to that which is highly successful in also improving the genetics of cattle and swine. It is a powerful tool that can produce great results. Computers are, of course, needed to successfully submit data, receive the results and utilize the selection aids that this technology produces. The purpose of this manual is to help you more smoothly interact with the software and be able to fully utilize all of the technology that is available to you.

First, though, it is important to realize how NSIP, its members and LambPlan, which processes the data, all interact with each other and how the process works. The chart below shows the overall view of this interaction.



NSIP administers the program in the United States and works with breeders and LambPlan to encourage growth and successful use of the program. NSIP is also responsible for improvements in the program. The NSIP office is located at PO Box 1258, Ames, IA 50014. Rusty Burgett is in charge of the office. His telephone number is 515-708-8850 and his email is info@nsip.org. This information is also available online at <http://nsip.org/nsip-about/contact/>. As shown in the diagram, NSIP sends the fees for data processing to LambPlan, located in Australia.

LambPlan is an Australian organization that has a long and proven history of successfully processing data for thousands of sheep flocks in Australia and worldwide. NSIP members submit their data to LambPlan and in turn receive Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) from LambPlan. Data is accepted twice monthly by LambPlan and a calendar of submittal dates is online at the NSIP website: <http://nsip.org>. As your NSIP fees are on an annual basis, you may submit data on any of the submittal dates. Also, if you don't have data to submit but would like updated EBVs on animals in your flock, you can request this by emailing LambPlan at database@sheepgenetics.org.au. In the subject line, write "EBV update requested" and write "EBV update only is requested" in the text area of the email along with your six-digit NSIP flock code.

Information can be submitted on a wide variety of traits. Currently, traits which are analyzed are number of lambs born, number of lambs weaned, birth weight, weaning weight, maternal weaning weight, postweaning weight, grease fleece weight, clean fleece weight, fiber diameter, staple length, staple strength, coefficient of variation of fiber diameter, fiber curvature, yearling weight, hogget weight, adult weight, postweaning scrotal circumference, yearling scrotal circumference, ultrasound fat and loin muscle depth and fecal egg count. Additional traits may be available in the future. A listing of the abbreviations of these traits, and explanations of them, are included in Appendix A.

There are two software programs that producers can choose to work with – Pedigree Wizard and Pedigree Master. Pedigree Wizard was the first software to be developed and works only on 32-bit machines. It has not been updated since August 2014. It is generally considered advisable to work with PedigreeMaster as it has more current software and is much more frequently updated. Pedigree Master was introduced late in 2012 and works on both 32- and 64-bit machines. This manual is a guide to help producers better utilize the Pedigree Master software. There are other commercially available software programs that interface with LambPlan for a fee and can be found at <http://sheepgenetics.org.au/Getting-started/Software-for-managing-data>.