

Recording Orphan and Foster Lambs In the Pedigree Master Software

On occasion, the need arises to artificially rear or cross-foster a lamb. We know that the environment of a bottle lamb is very different from the environment of a lamb raised by its dam but that orphan lamb still inherited the same genetics as it's conventionally raised litter mate(s). Therefore, it is still beneficial to record those bottle lambs into the genetic evaluation, however, we need to account for those environmental differences using contemporary groups.

How to Record Bottle Lambs

To record a bottle lamb, under "Add & Change Records", you will record the lamb as normal by recording the sire and dam of each lamb, the birth date and birth weight. The birth type will be recorded as normal and then we start to differentiate the bottle lambs. The lamb that is removed from the dam will receive a rear type of "1" and that lamb will be recorded in a separate contemporary group from the remainder of the dam-reared lambs.

Quick example: Ewe ID 621234-2018-123456 has a set of triplets on March 3, 2020. We made the decision to have the ewe raise 2 of the lambs (621234-2020-000001 and 621234-2020-000002) and we will artificially rear 1 of the lambs (621234-2020-000003).

For the 2 lambs being raised on the ewe, they will have birth date of March 3, 2020, normal birth weight entered, each lamb will have a Birth Type of 3 and a Rear Type of 2. These lambs will also have Contemporary Group listed as "1".

Example of lambs raised by the dam

The screenshot shows the Pedigree Master software interface. The top bar includes fields for 'Edit AutoBuild text', 'Edit date 1', 'Edit date 2', 'Limit data inputs by age or stage', 'Carcass Scanner No', 'Show Wool and Fleece data entry fields', and 'function key assignments'. The main form area contains the following fields and data:

- Animal Ident: 6212342020000001
- Sire: 6201562019123456
- Dam: 6212342018123456
- Group: 1
- Comment: 1 (highlighted in green)
- Birth: 03/03/2020
- Weaning: //
- P Weaning: //
- Yearling: //
- Hogget: //
- Adult: //
- Adult 3: //
- Adult 4: //
- Adult 5: //

A dropdown menu is open for the Comment field, showing the following options:

- 0 UNKNOWN GROUP
- 1 **STUD Drop**
- 2 STUD Late
- 3 STUD Orphans
- 4 STUD Early
- 5 STUD AI Group
- 6 STUD ET Group

Other fields include Sex (1), Bt (3), Rt (2), Conception Method, Date, Pedigree method (Lambease), Nickname (20000001), and Status (Current). The bottom of the screen shows 'NSIP mode... Body and Fleece Weights, units are lbs all other information should be Standard International units (Metric)' and buttons for 'Save Record', 'E_ID', 'Set', 'Discard changes', and 'Exit... no save'.

Example of 3rd lamb that is artificially reared

Repeat last animals pedigree

Animal Ident: 621234202000003
Sire: 6201562019123456
Dam: 6212342018123456

Group: 3 - 3 - STUD Orphans

Comment: 3 - STUD Orphans

Sex: 2
BT: 3
RI: 1

Conception: Method 1, Date //

Birth: 03/03/2020, We: 8

Weaning: //
P Weaning: //
Yearling: //
Hogget: //
Adult: //
Adult 3: //
Adult 4: //
Adult 5: //

NSIP mode... Body and Fleece Weights, units are lbs all other information should be Standard International units (Metric)

Notice this lamb has a rear-type of “1” and it is in a different contemporary group from its littermates. This bottle lamb will have a completely different environment/management from its littermates so it is imperative that it is placed in a different contemporary group.

Fostering a Lamb

Sometimes, it is more beneficial to foster a lamb onto another ewe rather than bottle raise it. In this situation, we need to make sure that the pedigree is accurate on the lamb so that we know where that lamb’s genetics came from, but we also need to give the foster ewe credit for raising that lamb. Using the above example, instead of orphaning lamb 000003, we will graft it onto another ewe. In the “Add & Change Record” screen, You will record everything as we previously did with the correct sire and dam, the appropriate birth type (3) and the regular date of birth and birth weight. The rearing type will be whatever that lamb will be raised on with it’s new foster ewe. For example, our foster ewe may have lost her lambs so our 000003 lamb will be raised as a single. After you’ve saved the record, from the home screen, you will go to “Pedigree Display” and select our lamb in question from the list on the right. Under the “Breeding” tab for that lamb, you’ll see a box for “Foster Ewe”. In this box, you will list the 16-digit ID number of the ewe that you are grafting the lamb onto. Using this method, the original biological dam will “get credit” for having this lamb but she will not “get credit” for raising this lamb, rather the foster ewe will be listed as having raised this lamb. See the example below for details:

Foster-Ewe Example

PedigreeMaster..

620156-2019-123456

621234-2020-000003

Sex 2 Date of Birth 03/03/2020

621234-2018-123456

Group 4 STUD Foster

Comment

Filter is off

Previous Next

Browse

Pedigree

Flagged

Animal ID

621234-2019-199273
621234-2019-199274
621234-2019-199275
621234-2019-199276
621234-2019-199277
621234-2019-199278
621234-2019-199279
621234-2019-199280
621234-2019-199281
621234-2019-199282
621234-2019-199283
621234-2019-199284
621234-2019-WVF123
621234-2020-000003

Change Group 4 Change / Edit Sire

Add new animal + Change / Edit Dam

Delete animal X Nickname 20000003

FateCode

End of recorded life

Date / /

Pedigree method

Sire Accuracy 0.0

Dam Accuracy 0.0

Status

- Current
- Sold
- Culled
- Reference
- Dead
- Missing
- Active
- Commercial
- Unknown
- *

Birth Type 3

Rear Type 1

Lambease

Conception

Date / /

Method 1

Testicles Jaw

Foster Ewe 6212342014001234

Recip ID

Close

Notice that another contemporary group was formed for fostered lambs.

To create customized contemporary group names, from the home screen, simply click on "Groups" then you can specify the name of a contemporary group to correspond with a given number for that group. If you have any questions, please email Rusty Burgett at info@nsip.org or contact your breed director!

PedigreeMaster..

621234

NSIP DEMO

RUSTY BURGETT

Today is Friday 03 April 20

C:\SHEEPGENETICS\PEDIGREEMASTER

mm/dd/yyyy

Summary, Validation & Database Backup

Groups Sires Reindex database

NSIP mode - Body and Fleece Weights, units are lbs all other units are in Standard International Units.

Analysis Results Demo Data - 10 May 1997

Close

Help

SheepGenetics

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