

The University of Arkansas Teaching Market Lamb Flock

The University of Arkansas houses a flock of market lamb ewes for teaching opportunities with our students and extension demonstrations. Managed by Dr. Bryan Kutz and Darren Bignar, our flock is made up of ewes obtained from local breeders, acquired at fairs, and raised by on the teaching farm. We used AI technology to improve on our ewe base in 2019 and, but used natural service rams in 21 and 22.

Our flock serves as a teaching tool for our students in the Department of Animal Science. Students, in the Sheep Production class, learn to assist ewes with lambing and process newborn lambs, including docking, castration, and vaccinations. The students on 'Lamb watch' are well known throughout the department. The ewes are cared for by student groups and classes throughout the year, including nutrition, deworming and vaccinations, shearing, hoof care, and breeding soundness evaluations.

Occasionally, our ewes will participate in research trials as well. Young ewes and lambs also serve as judging classes for Animal Science courses, practice for the collegiate livestock team, and in FFA and 4H judging contests. A select group of students also assists in marketing the lambs for sale in the Spring.

We offer quality show lambs for sale in April and May. Previous successes in the show ring from our flock have included

- Grand Champion Lamb at the Madison County Fair in 2019
- Champion Commercial Ewe at the Northwest Arkansas District Spring Show in 2021
- Several county sale qualifiers around Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas.

If you are interested in learning more about our flock or seeing the lambs, call Darren (479-422-6895) or Bryan (479-601-7417) to schedule an appointment. If you are interested in our programs in Animal Science at the University of Arkansas, contact Lexi Workman (lworkman@uark.edu).



The ewes are housed near the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Arena.



Some of our students have a previous show experience. Other do not.



Hands on learning is important to our program.



The lambs are a big hit in classes.



Of course, bottle lambs are very popular.



The lamb watch students spend nights and weekends lambing out ewes and caring for baby lambs.



Rylie Bignar presented the Champion Commercial Ewe at the Northwest Arkansas District Spring Show in 2021.



Vallie Yancey Presented the Grand Champion Market Lamb at the Madison County Fair in 2019. This ewe was an AI lamb out of Brisby.