A PRELIMINARY COMPARISON OF FLEECES FROM B AND C TYPE RAMBOUILLETS

J. M. JONES, B. L. WARWICK, AND S. P. DAVIS

Texas Agricultural Experiment Station

The records of over 1100 fleeces from pure bred Rambouillet ewes of ages one to nine years at Substation No. 14 have been studied to compare the production of B and C type sheep. The discrimination shown by buyers of feeder lambs against the wrinkly B type lamb adds to the importance of the problem.

In this study an animal is recognized as B type when it carries three or more prominent neck folds, one or more of which extends over the top of the neck; one or more on the side or thigh, and a prominent fold at the base of tail.

Smooth bodied animals as well as those carrying fewer folds than defined above, are classified as C type.

Discussion of Data

Unscoured fleece weights were greater for the B type sheep at every age except 8 years. The differences at the other ages in favor of the B type averaged from .6 to 1.3 pounds. By converting all the averages to the equivalent of the maximum average of all ewes of that age and computing a weighted average, we find the difference is .9 pound in favor of the B type. On the scoured or clean wool basis most of this difference disappears. Three of the nine ages show the difference in favor of the C type. By converting and weighting the averages the difference is .1 pound in favor of the B type.

The staple length averages greater for the C type at every age. The converted weighted averages show a difference of .3 inch in favor of the C type. This difference is enough to prevent most of the B type fleeces from being used as strictly combing wool.

Average fiber measurements show slightly coarser fibers in the B type at every age except one, eight years, where the numbers are small. The converted weighted averages show that the B type fleeces average .00004 inch coarser than the C type. At only three of the nine ages do the B type animals average heavier in body weight. The converted

weighted averages show a difference of 3 pounds in favor of the C type.

The total number of records at each age used in determining the conversion factors are not as large as would be most desirable, but are the only figures available which are directly applicable to our data.

COMPARISON OF FLEECE RECORDS OF C AND B TYPE RAMBOUILLET EWE FLEECES.

Age Years	Grease wool pounds		Clean wool pounds		Staple length inches		Ave. fiber diameter*		Animal weight pounds	
Type	C	B	C	B	C	B	C	B	C	B
1	7.4	8.3	3.1	3.3	2.5	2.0	5.14	5.75	86	88
No.	175	29	174	29	190	37	205	43	201	37
2	8.7	9.7	3.8	3.8	2.4	2.0	5.62	5.90	101	95
No.	148	31	148	31	153	34	160	40	150	36
3	8.7	9.3	3.7	3.7	2.4	2.1	5.35	6.05	111	108
No.	146	36	146	36	146	38	155	41	151	40
4	8.7	10.0	3.6	3.8	2.3	2.1	5.74	6.14	116	112
No.	132	35	132	35	133	37	135	38	133	37
5	8.5	9.5	3.5	3.5	2.3	2.0	5.67	6.18	117	112
No.	100	36	100	36	101	37	102	38	102	38
6	7.7	8.9	3.3	3.5	2.2	2.0	5.56	5.70	109	113
No.	69	32	69	32	70	33	70	33	70	32
7	8.0	8.6	3.3	3.3	2.2	1.9	5.40	5.92	118	112
No.	53	25	52	25	53	27	53	27	53	27
8	7.7	7.7	3.2	2.8	2.1	1.9	5.56	5.30	113	108
No.	34	15	34	15	35	15	35	15	33	15
9	6.8	7.8	2.7	2.9	1.9	1.7	5.14	5.65	106	112
No.	14	8	14	8	14	8	14	8	14	7
Converted Average..	8.8	9.7	3.7	3.8	2.5	2.2	5.15	5.55	117	114
Difference		.9		.1		.3		.40		3

* In ten thousandths of an inch.

Summary

The B type ewes produce nearly a pound more unscoured wool than C type, but much of the difference is due to grease, suint, etc., which scours out. The staple length averages much better in the C type and a larger proportion of these fleeces can be sold as strictly combing wool. Contrary to popular opinion, wool from B type sheep actually averages slightly coarser than that from the C type. This study tends to point to the conclusion that range flocks made up of comparatively smooth bodied ewes carrying dense fleeces of staple wool will produce as much wool (clean basis) as is produced by B type animals, and furthermore they produce more desirable feeder lambs.