

# Improving New Mexico Sheep Industry

## Can SAMM's help?

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### SAMMs

Originally the German Mutton Merino

Imported into South Africa in 1932

Began selection for Wool traits



### Performance of SAMM and Merino Sheep

Weight, lbs	SAMM	Merino
Birth	9.2	8.5
Weaning	59.5	50.4
18 Month	117	93

Weights were different (P < 0.01)

Cloete and Durand, 2000. Aust. J. Exp. Agri. 40, 11-16.

### Weights, lbs.

Weights	Controls	SAMM
Mark Wt.	47	50.75
Wean Wt.	80.5	83.3
Shear Wt.	116.5	126.8
Yearling Wt.	163.3	189.2

Due to small numbers, data are not statistically analyzed.

### Wool Data

Item	Control	SAMM
Fleece Wt, lbs	4.45	5.34
Length, in	2.32	2.36
Diameter, μ	15.13	21.12
Yield, %	65.33	61.8
Clean wool wt	2.91	3.3

Data are not statistically analyzed.  
Flock ewe average: Diameter 22.3 microns; length 3.5 in.; 51.1% yield  
Lambs averaged 18.1 microns

### Protocol

Ewes were estrually synchronized with CIDR's

54 hours after removal of CIDR's, ewes assigned to SAMM were bred AI

Control ewes were naturally mated to Western White Face ram

About 1 wk before onset of lambing, ewes were brought into corrals

As ewes lambbed, the lambs were ear tagged and weighed and paired with their dam.

After the trial ewes had and labs tagged they were returned to the pastures.

Weights were taken at marking and weaning.

Following weaning, SAMM lambs and a representative number of controls were taken to campus.

Both sire groups were managed together

Lambs were shorn in January and body weights taken prior to shearing

Fleece weights and length were measured

Samples Center, were sent to the Texas AgriLife Research Center, San Angelo for analysis

Yearling weights were taken in May

