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Research in progress

Finnsheep Increase Lamb Crop

Finnish Landrace sheep, which produce considerably more lambs per ewe than standard commercial breeds, have a place in California flocks, according to University of California animal scientists G. Eric Bradford and D. T. Torell.

Their research suggests that purebred Finns capable of averaging from 2.5 to 3 lambs per ewe are not well adapted to rugged Western rangeland conditions, but that 1/4 Finnsheep ewes survive as well as standard whiteface ewes and will still wean 20 percent more lambs than their whiteface counterparts.

The researchers conclude that an infusion of the right proportion of Finnish Landrace inheritance into the commercial ewe flock will increase productivity and profitability more than any other practice readily available to the sheep producer.

— Gary Beall

