



Etiwanda White Dorpers

Our Philosophies...

We would like to detail some of our thoughts behind the Etiwanda White Dorper Rangeland Ready breeding philosophies to help ensure that our clients operations are highly profitable.

Optimum production is always much more profitable than maximum production. Bigger is **not** always better! Optimum production is the point at which net profits are maximized. Profit is what we really want to maximize.

Animals Fit Their Environment. To achieve optimum production farmers must produce animals that fit their environment, instead of artificially changing the environment to fit their animals. Since many farmers have animals that are too big and inefficient, they are forced to change their environment by feeding harvested and purchased feed to keep their stock in production. This quickly takes most of the profit out of farming. We want an animal that can survive strictly on what the property produces with little, or no, inputs. ***The animals ought to be supporting the business, instead of the business supporting the animals!***

In order to produce animals that fit our environment, we require our stock to run on native grass year-round with very little feed supplement. We let the environment sort out the "good ones", while we show absolutely no sympathy for empty, late, or dry ewes. They must produce and wean at least one lamb every year or they are culled. There are no second chances!

Desirable End Product. We not only want a ewe that fits her environment, we also expect her to produce a desirable and profitable end product. Her lambs must be able to feed efficiently, as well as meet the requirements established by the current lamb industry. The industry wants a 20-24 kg carcass fat score 3.

Philosophies Behind Our Animals

1. Honesty and integrity will not be compromised.
2. We will manage the natural resources placed under our control in a regenerative manner.
3. Sheep are run in a real-world environment, as tough as or tougher than the environment most commercial ewes are run in.
4. We let the environment sort out the good ones, while we show absolutely no sympathy for empty, late, or dry ewes.
5. We will never make an excuse for a ewe. A ewe must produce and wean at least one lamb every year to remain in the herd.
6. By running the animals extensively we apply sufficient pressure on the ewe flock to force out the unadapted and infertile animals.
7. In addition to growth and performance, we select for other vital economic traits like fertility, lambing ease, moderate ewe size, muscling ability, structural correctness, disposition, and longevity.
8. Replacement ewes are developed on a low-cost, rangeland based diet with minimum supplements. We only want the most efficient and most adapted ewes to make it into the breeding flock. Replacement ewes are exposed to the rams at 8 months of age.
9. A ram lamb must be born unassisted to make it into one of our ram sales.

Direction vs. Destination

Does your breeding program have a destination, or does it simply have a direction? Most farmers have no specific target to shoot for. They have a direction, but they have no destination. They are moving, but they don't know where they are going. If you don't know where you are going, how are you going to know when you get there?

Etiwanda White Dorpers has a destination. For years we have been breeding sheep for optimum production. We want animal's that can make the most efficient use of our available resources with minimal inputs. Our stock are required to run on native grass year-round with very little supplemental feed.

The type of ewe that performs best in our program looks something like this:

1. **Moderate Size.** Performance recorded, medium frame with good body length. Mature body weight of 70 - 80 kgs.
2. **Easy-Fleshing.** Ability to maintain good body condition, even on limited feed resources.
3. **Volume & Capacity.** Able to efficiently convert low quality forages into milk and meat.
4. **Structurally Sound.** Good feet, legs, teeth, muzzle, eyes, udder, good shedding ability, etc.

Staying on Target. Since we know the type of animal we want to produce, we are able to make the appropriate breeding decisions. We have discovered there are certain boundaries we must stay within to stay on target. For example, we can only select for so much growth without negatively affecting birth weight and ewe size. It takes an extreme amount of discipline to stay within these boundaries. We have to pass over those real flashy rams that other seed stock producers are using, but the results are worth it.