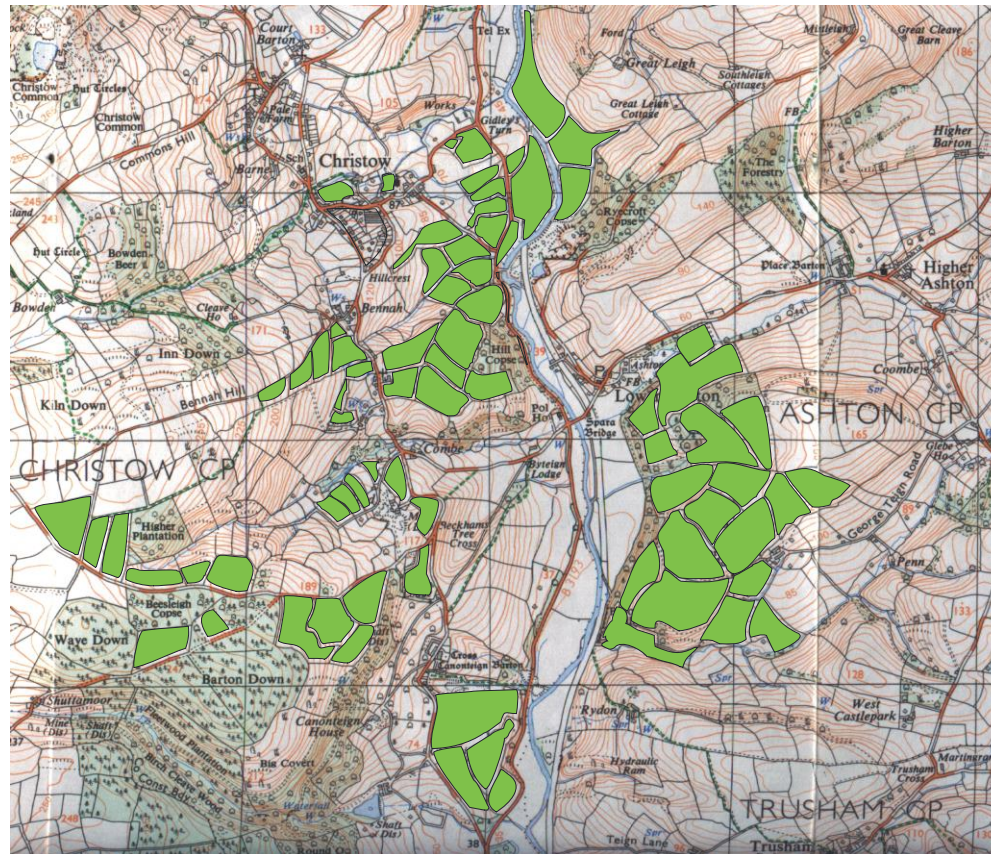


Outline of Talk

- Introduction to farm
- How I use EID and Data and Is EID for everyone?
- Practical demonstration
- Ram buying
 - Business cost or investment ?
- Thoughts for the future ??

Map of Weir Park Farm



Farm Constraints

- Rented farm, many landlords
- Various 'arrangements'
- Mostly in Conservation Grazing -difficult grassland management
- All permanent pasture
- Mostly sheep for 20 years
- My stock have to work hard



3 parts of my business

- Breeding Terminal Sires
 - 3 breeds Suffolks, Texels & SufTexs
- Breeding Exlanas
 - Easier management, high production and highly profitable maternal breed
- Sheep breeding & management consultancy
 - Farming clients
 - Government bodies

Breeding Goals

- Ability to produce of grass
 - Superior quality meat produced naturally
 - Economically & environmentally efficient
- More robust animals
 - Naturally resistant to disease and worms
- Highly efficient production
 - Cheaper to produce and more profitable
- High quality meat
 - Lean carcasses with excellent eating quality

-

Basic Breeding Principle

- **Breeding stock** should be produced and selected in **similar conditions** to those in which their **offspring** are **expected to perform**.

Basic Breeding Principle

- **Ram lambs** should be selected for '**foraging ability**' not for ability to thrive on massive levels of cereal supplementation.

Business Goals

- Sheep farming is a business
- Produce high quality breeding stock
 - Stock will earn my customers more profit
- Good relationship with customers
 - Selling direct from farm
 - Repeat customers
- Farm smarter not harder
 - Have some time off

‘Shows and Sales are not the right way to buy or sell rams’

- Huge incentive to ‘compete’ on looks
 - Increased requirement to feed hard feed
 - Increased costs of trimming, commission, time etc.
 - Rams tend to be judged more on **Cosmetics** than **Genetics**
- Rams often ‘melt’ when they arrive home
 - Fertility of rams may be compromised

Allowing rams to express genetic potential

- Little assistance at lambing / outdoor lambing
- No stomach tubing
- No routine antibiotics
- No creep feeding
- FEC
- Less drenching
- Dag Scoring
- Over winter – minimal supplementation
- Culling
- 2nd highest ram in RAM COMPARE
- Highest 20wk Scan Wt. EBV in UK Texels



Records Kept using EID

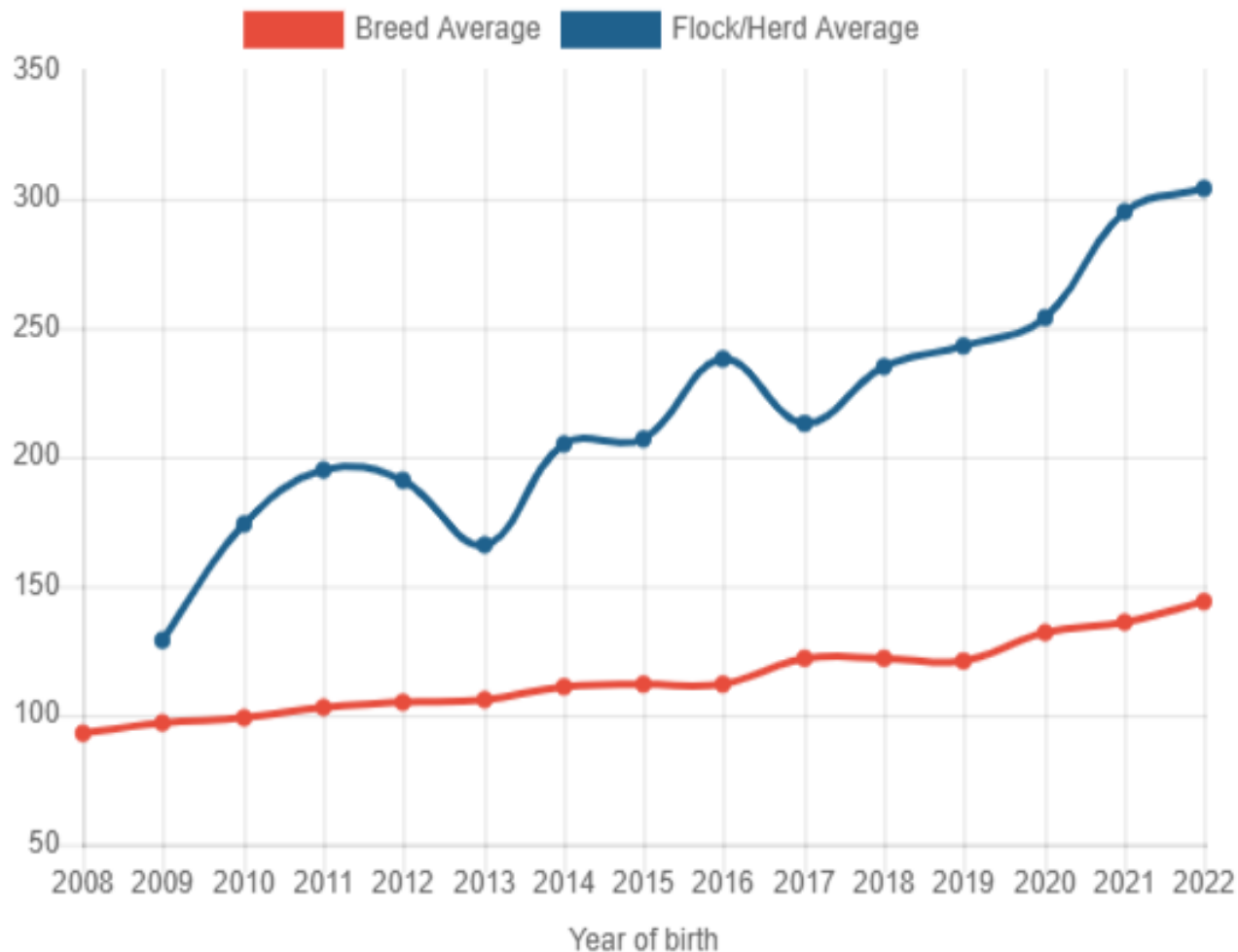
- Recording liveweights and CS
 - Topping, Scanning, 8wk weighing & weaning
- Topping records
- Scanning
- Lambing records & Lambing scores
- 8week wts & Weaning wts
- Ultrasound Scanning & Wts
- FEC individual animals
- Non routine treatments recorded
- Transfer electronically to Signet



- **Analyse data, select & CULL**

Suffolk Index

Index Averages for UK 0 369455



Outline of Talk

- Introduction to farm
- How I use EID and Data and Is EID for everyone?
- Ram buying
 - Business cost or investment ?
- Using EID in a breeding program
- Thoughts for the future

Increasingly make management decisions based on analysis of data, not guesswork.



How I use data

- Health data of replacements
 - Where to buy from
 - Quarantine
- Breeding data of replacements
- Growth rate data
- FEC & drenching
- Selecting finished lambs
- Data for Breeding Indices

Types of Sheep Enterprises

- Flying Flock
 - EID & Data can improve management
- Breeding own female replacements
 - Improve selection of ewes used to breed replacements
- Breeding and selling male and female replacements
 - All breeding and replacement decisions should be based on good data, not guesswork.

Types uses of data

- Buying replacement stock
- Monitoring performance
- Selecting animals to sell

Types uses of data

- **Buying replacement stock**
 - Health Status
 - Genetic worth
- Monitoring performance
- Selecting animals to sell

Health Data

- Check out the flock you want to buy from
 - Worm Resistance status
 - Abortion status of flock
 - Footrot status
 - Iceberg diseases
 - MV, CLA, BD, Johnes
 - Sheep Scab
- Quarantine period & testing
 - Check out most of the above

Anthelmintic Resistance

Every time you drench a sheep you increase the overall level of resistance on your farm

THUS

The decision to drench must be based on a balanced decision of the current needs of the group (or sheep) in question

v.

The long term development of resistance on the farm

Breeding for Resistance / Resilience

- Resistance
 - The ability of the sheep to resist the challenge of the worms - inhibiting their development and reduce the number of eggs laid
- Resilience
 - The ability of the sheep to continue to be productive whilst hosting a large worm burden which continues to lay eggs

The Function of a Ram

- Get ewes in lamb
- Low maintenance requirement
 - Reduced ram cost of producing lambs
- High performance lambs
 - Ease of birth & lamb vigour
 - Growth rates & carcass quality
 - Lower management requirements
 - More robust animals

No. of lambs produced in rams lifetime

| Ram Life Years | Ewes Served/Year | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| | 35 | 50 | 75 | 100 | 150 |
| 1 | 53 | 75 | 113 | 150 | 225 |
| 2 | 105 | 150 | 225 | 300 | 450 |
| 3 | 158 | 225 | 338 | 450 | 675 |
| 4 | 210 | 300 | 450 | 600 | 900 |
| 5 | 263 | 375 | 563 | 750 | 1125 |

| Ram cost of producing a lamb | | | | | | Lifetime Cost of Ram |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| Ram Life Years | Nos of ewes served per year | | | | | |
| | 35 | 50 | 75 | 100 | 150 | |
| 1 | £12.38 | £8.67 | £5.78 | £4.33 | £2.89 | £650 |
| 2 | £7.14 | £5.00 | £3.33 | £2.50 | £1.67 | £750 |
| 3 | £5.40 | £3.78 | £2.52 | £1.89 | £1.26 | £850 |
| 4 | £4.52 | £3.17 | £2.11 | £1.58 | £1.06 | £950 |
| 5 | £4.00 | £2.80 | £1.87 | £1.40 | £0.93 | £1,050 |

Potential Genetic Gains

- Reduced ram costs
 - £3/lamb
- Improved lambs
 - £3.5/lamb
- Higher margin per lamb
 - £6.50 /lamb
- Higher margins per ewe
 - £10 more profit per ewe per year !!

Net Lifetime cost of ram

| | Unrecorded Ram | | Performance recorded Ram | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|------|------|
| Ram Life Years | No ewes served per year | | No ewes served per year | | | |
| | 35 | 50 | 50 | 75 | 100 | 150 |
| 1 | -637 | -631 | -388 | -256 | -125 | 138 |
| 2 | -724 | -713 | -225 | 38 | 300 | 825 |
| 3 | -811 | -794 | -63 | 331 | 725 | 1513 |
| 4 | -898 | -875 | 100 | 625 | 1150 | 2200 |
| 5 | -984 | -956 | 263 | 919 | 1575 | 2888 |

Types uses of data

- Buying replacement stock
- Monitoring performance
- Selecting animals to sell

Types uses of data

- Buying replacement stock
- **Monitoring performance**
 - Lambing percentage
 - Lambing losses
 - Lamb growth rates
 - Weight and BCS fluctuation
 - Cull animals
- Selecting animals to sell

Types uses of data

- Buying replacement stock
- Monitoring performance
- **Selecting animals to sell**

Types uses of data

- Buying replacement stock
- Monitoring performance
- **Selecting animals to sell**
 - Sorting function
 - Comments function
 - Weighing with historical weights & BCS
 - Deciding when to sell animals

HR JASPER AND SON LTD - CARCASE CLASSIFICATION REPORT

BOTATHAN ABATTOIR, SOUTH PETHERWIN, LAUNCESTON, CORNWALL, PL15 7JL

Supplier Ref: BAB4476

SupplierName: P BABER

We Use MLCs Independent
Classification Services

Holding: 10/429/0094

Address: WIER PARK FARM

KillDate: 18/01/2023

CHRISTOW

LairageID: 39251

EXETER, DEVON

PostCode: EX6 7PB

Staff No: 11094

Week No:



**OUR ASSURANCE
YOUR CONFIDENCE**

| KilNo | EID | CAT | Hot Weight | Rebate | Cold Weight | Con | Fat Class | Remarks |
|-------|-----------------|-----|------------|--------|-------------|-----|-----------|---------|
| 1219 | 826036945511837 | OSL | 20.6 | 0.5 | 20.1 | R | 3L | N |
| 1220 | 826036945511920 | OSL | 21.1 | 0.5 | 20.6 | R | 3L | N |
| 1221 | 826036945512042 | OSL | 22 | 0.5 | 21.5 | U | 2 | N |
| 1222 | 826036945512004 | OSL | 21.8 | 0.5 | 21.3 | U | 2 | N |
| 1223 | 826036945511806 | OSL | 21 | 0.5 | 20.5 | O | 3L | N |
| 1224 | 826036945512580 | OSL | 21.6 | 0.5 | 21.1 | R | 3L | N |
| 1225 | 826036945511819 | OSL | 19 | 0.5 | 18.5 | R | 3L | N |
| 1226 | 826036945511817 | OSL | 20 | 0.5 | 19.5 | R | 3H | N |
| 1227 | 826036945511466 | OSL | 21.7 | 0.5 | 21.2 | R | 3L | N |
| 1228 | 826036945511981 | OSL | 19.6 | 0.5 | 19.1 | R | 3L | N |
| 1229 | 826036945511916 | OSL | 18.7 | 0.5 | 18.2 | R | 2 | N |
| 1230 | 826036945512594 | OSL | 19.7 | 0.5 | 19.2 | R | 3L | N |
| 1231 | 826036945511935 | OSL | 21.7 | 0.5 | 21.2 | R | 3L | N |
| 1232 | 826036945511976 | OSL | 21 | 0.5 | 20.5 | R | 3L | N |
| 1233 | 826036945511810 | OSL | 19.7 | 0.5 | 19.2 | R | 3L | N |
| 1234 | 826036945511939 | OSL | 23.9 | 0.5 | 23.4 | R | 3L | N |
| 1235 | 826036945512585 | OSL | 21.3 | 0.5 | 20.8 | R | 3L | N |
| 1236 | 826036945511925 | OSL | 21.4 | 0.5 | 20.9 | R | 3H | N |
| 1237 | 826036945511959 | OSL | 20.5 | 0.5 | 20 | R | 3H | N |
| 1238 | 826036945512652 | OSL | 22.3 | 0.5 | 21.8 | R | 3L | N |
| 1239 | 826036945512632 | OSL | 20.6 | 0.5 | 20.1 | R | 3H | N |
| 1240 | 826036945511990 | OSL | 20.6 | 0.5 | 20.1 | R | 3H | N |

Last week's Kill weights

| Count | Conf | | | Total |
|-----------|------|----|---|-------|
| | U | R | O | |
| Fat Class | U | R | O | Total |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | | 4 |
| 3L | 1 | 19 | 3 | 23 |
| 3H | | 14 | | 14 |
| Total | 3 | 35 | 3 | 41 |

| DCWT | Conf | | | Total |
|-----------|------|------|------|-------|
| | U | R | O | |
| Fat Class | U | R | O | Total |
| 2 | 21.4 | 18.7 | | 20.0 |
| 3L | 20.6 | 20.2 | 19.3 | 20.1 |
| 3H | | 20.2 | | 20.2 |
| Total | 21.1 | 20.1 | 19.3 | 20.1 |

INTELLIGENT LIVESTOCK

Performance recording, EID data and sheep management

**How to use EID, farm data &
modern breeding
information to create more
profit from Sheep**

Peter Baber

**Dartmoor
Hill Farming Project
Jan 25th 2023**



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Summary

Four main Evaluation systems

- The breeder's eye
 - Nonsense for most economic traits
- Quantitative genetic selection, EBVs
 - Will continue to be mainstay of genetic progress in foreseeable future
- Marker Genes
 - Potentially very useful, can be expensive to find
- Genomics gEBVs
 - Exciting potential, very expensive, getting cheaper
 - Hard to measure traits have expensive Phenotypes
- **PHENOTYPE IS STILL KING**

Customers needs

- Rams which do not 'melt' when they come home
- Fertile rams with high Libido
- Rams with low maintenance requirements
- Capable of serving 500+ ewes in their lifetime
- Good genetics
- Trusted source
- Value for money

Rearing Rams on Grass ?

Living on grass



Genetics

Not just standing on grass



Cosmetics

Problems with Overfed Rams

- At best – selected for ability to perform well on a high concentrate diet
- At worst – not selected for ability to forage
 - dependence on the trough means that they will lose weight dramatically unless fed heavily
 - leading to reduced fertility,
 - lower life expectancy
 - may not have come from a performance recorded flock.

Rams produced off grass - Complete change of mindset

- Customer visual expectations
- Size of shearling rams are similar to traditional ram lambs
- Rams are much fitter and 'healthier'
- Must be sold/purchased direct from farm
- Rams continue to grow from the day they arrive home
- Will serve 70-80 ewes in 1st year & 100 ewes next year
- Better customer feedback/relations
- Customers select rams with help and advice, in a relaxed atmosphere

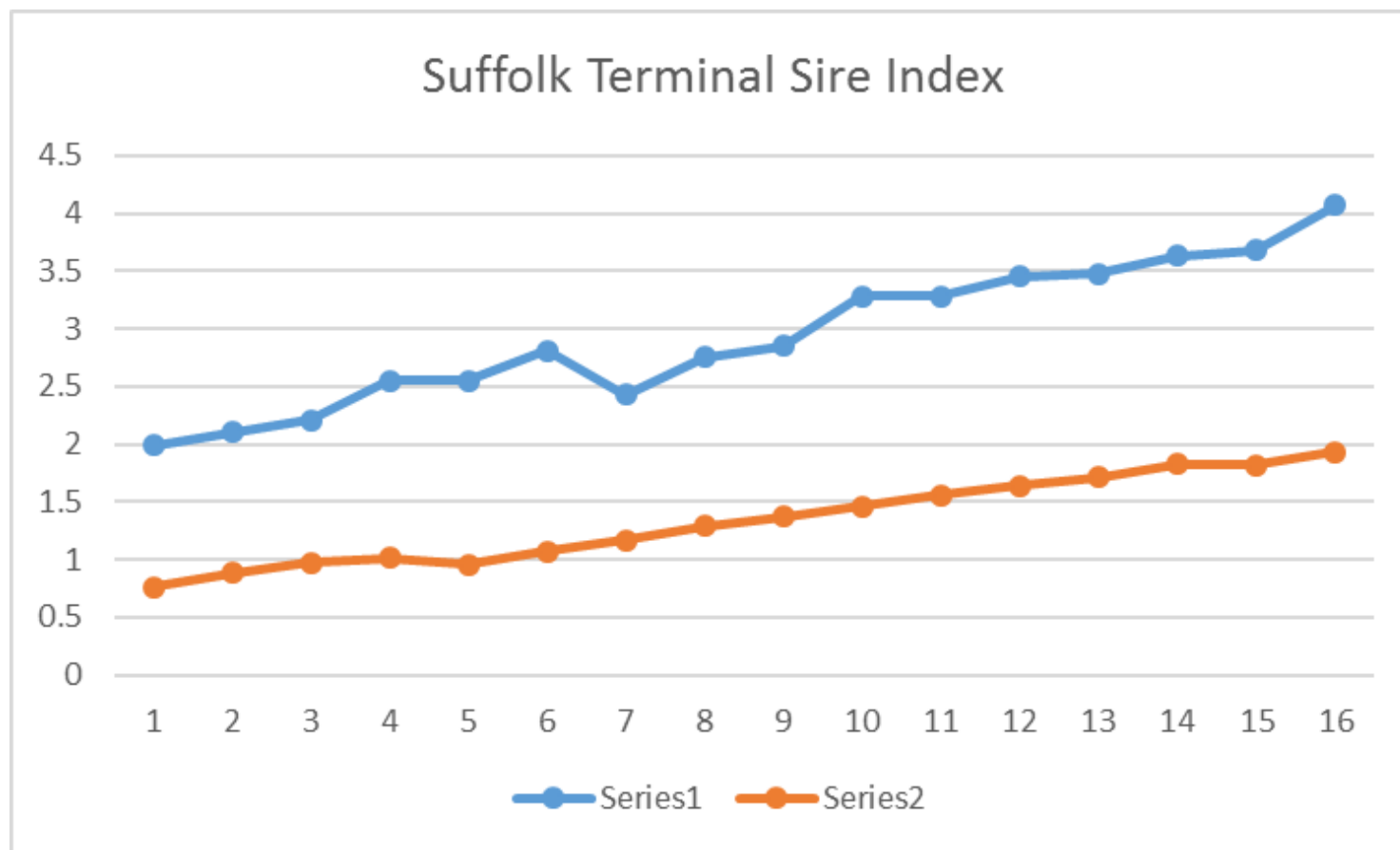
Cost assumptions

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------|
| | Fit for purpose recorded rams | |
| | | |
| | Unrecorded ' <i>show</i> ' rams | |
| | | |
| Assume lambing percentage of | | 150% |
| Assume Rams purchased for | | £600 |
| | Assume Rams sold for | £50 |
| Annual maintenance cost of ram | | £100 |

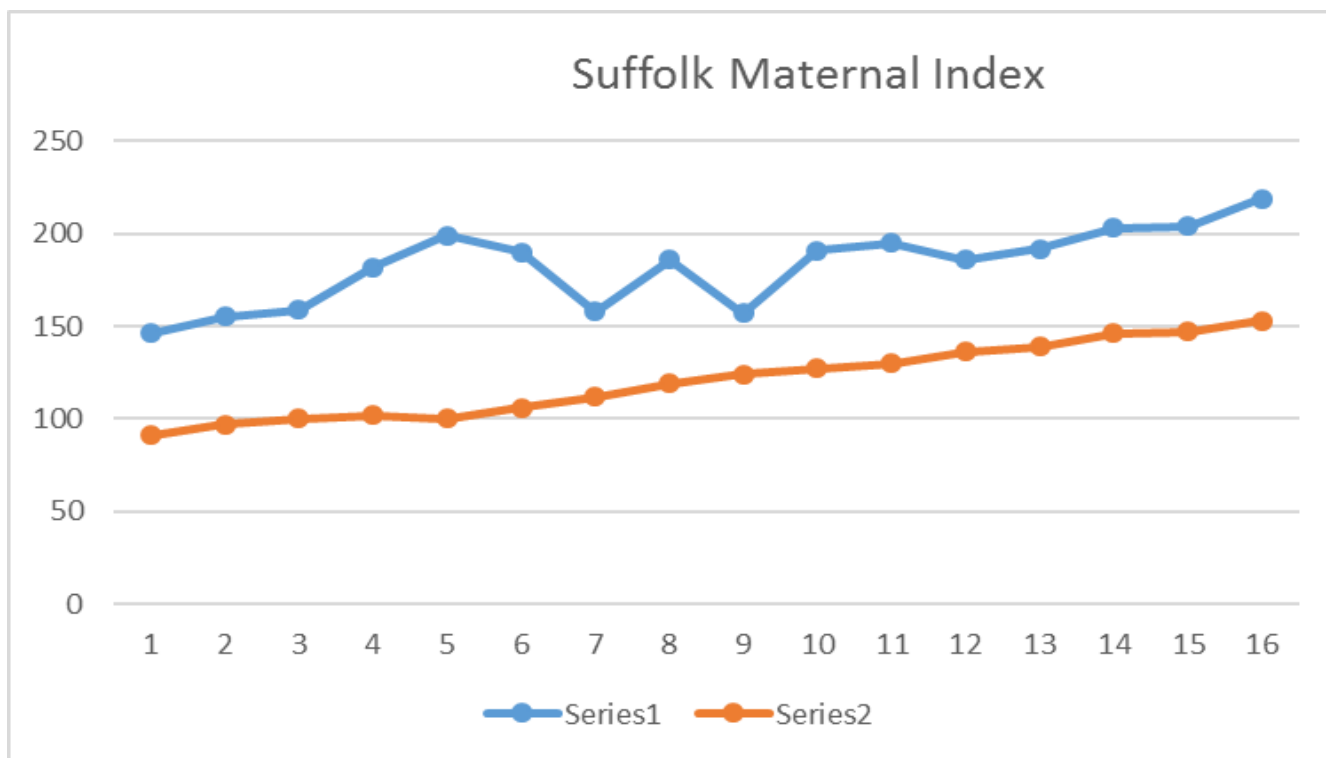
Net Returns per ewe per year

| | Unrecorded Ram | | Performance recorded Ram | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|------|
| Ram Life Years | No ewes served per year | | No ewes served per year | | | |
| | 35 | 50 | 50 | 75 | 100 | 150 |
| 1 | -18.20 | -12.63 | -7.75 | -3.42 | -1.25 | 0.92 |
| 2 | -10.34 | -7.13 | -2.25 | 0.25 | 1.50 | 2.75 |
| 3 | -7.72 | -5.29 | -0.42 | 1.47 | 2.42 | 3.36 |
| 4 | -6.41 | -4.38 | 0.50 | 2.08 | 2.88 | 3.67 |
| 5 | -5.63 | -3.83 | 1.05 | 2.45 | 3.15 | 3.85 |

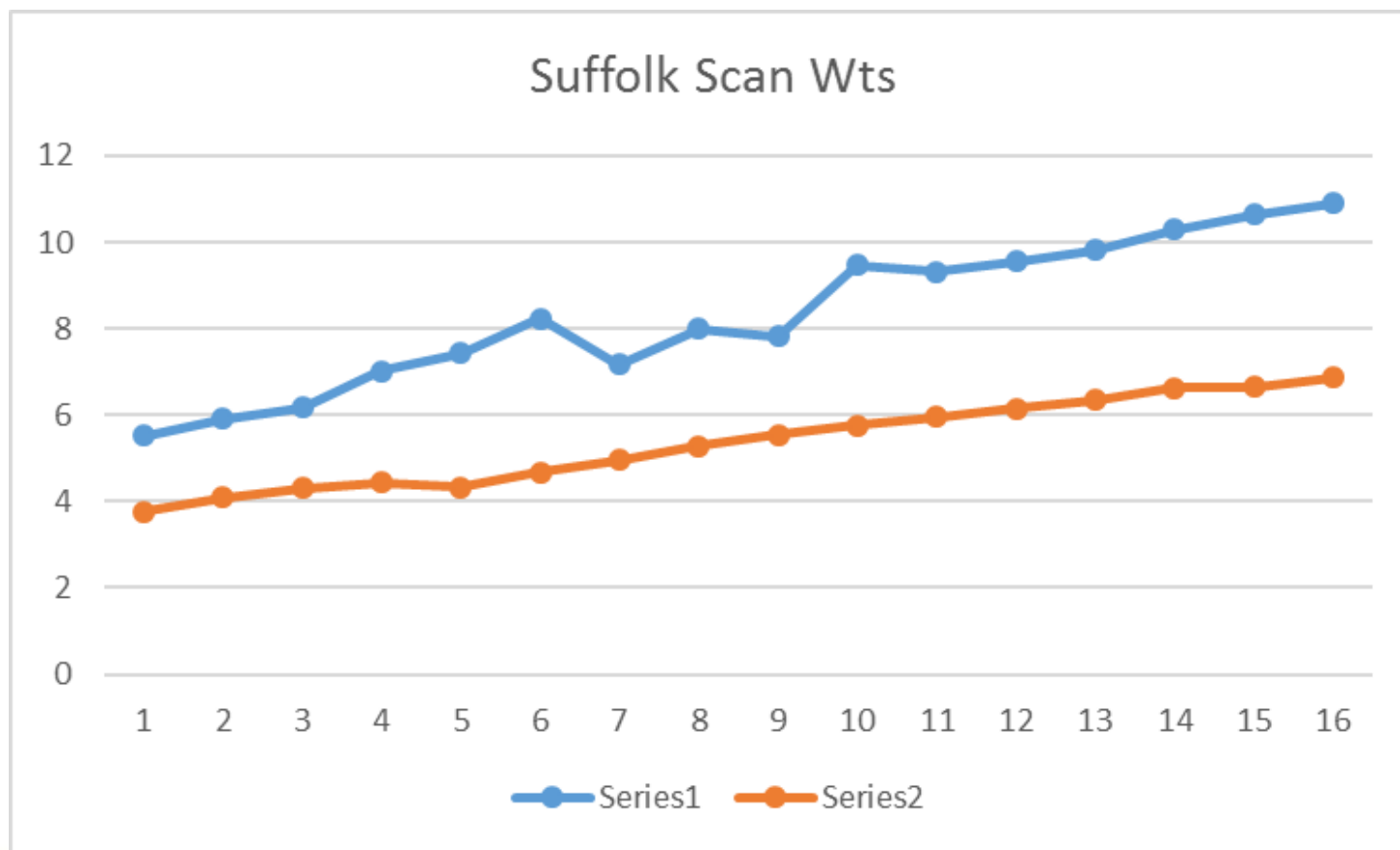
Suffolk Terminal Sire Index



Suffolk Maternal Index



Suffolk Scan Wts



Outline of Talk

- Introduction to farm
- What to consider when buying a ram
- Using EID in a breeding program
- Ram buying
 - Business cost or investment ?
- **Thoughts for the future**

How to find a 'Fit for Purpose' Ram

- Performance recorded flock
 - Superior genetics
- Reared on grass alone,
 - Rams are fitter, more fertile, higher libido, and with more longevity
- Purchase direct from the breeder's farm
 - Avoiding the show ring and sale ring
 - Improved biosecurity