



Technology & Business on the farm

One Sheep Producer's
Journey

Background in England pre 1985

- 2,000 ewe flock – Suffolk progeny tests
- Royal Show winner – 2 years
- Early White Suffolk Scrapie Program
- Meat and Livestock Commission
 - Ultrasound back fat scanning





Travels in New Zealand 1987/88

- Kellogg's Program
- Young Farmer's exchange studying group breeding schemes
- Sire reference programs
- Importance of numbers of sheep and numbers from sheep



OLIBS program 1995 - 2000

- Ontario Lamb Improvement Breeding Strategy
- Requirement to use the Ewebyte computer program for performance recording
- Uncertain – looked at Shearwell and other programs in U.K., N.Z. and Aust.

Started with Ewebyte in 1997

- Purchased digital weigh scales in 1998 with RS232 export capability for future use with RFID
- Performance recording in livestock is very labour intensive
- Lots of opportunity for human errors



ROXAN *i*D...

... Sheep Tag and Applicator Systems ...



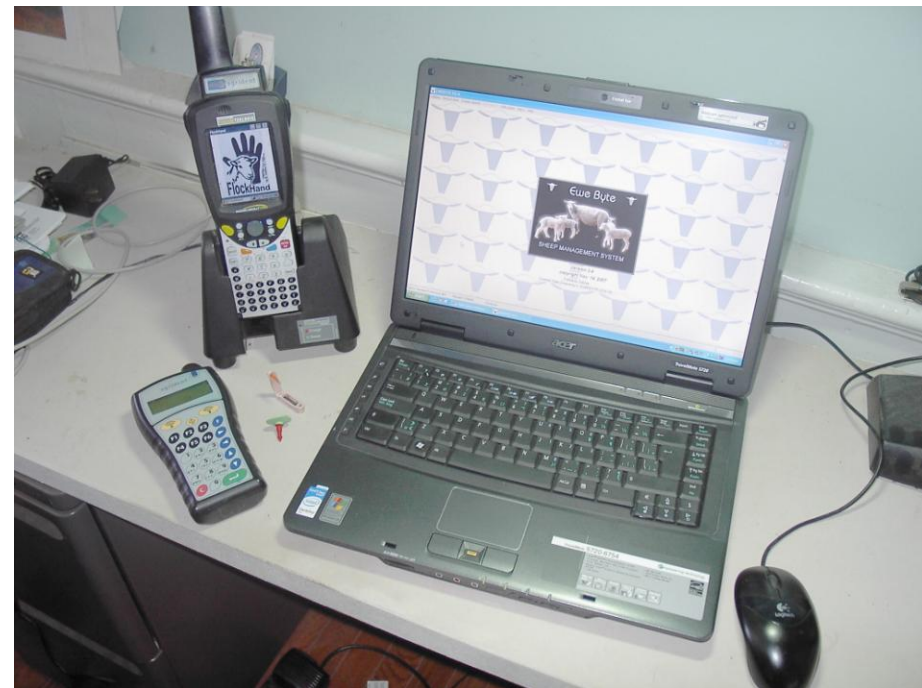
<http://www.roxan.co.uk/>

First electronic tags in 2004 –
allows us to breed from the best
and cull the worst.



Purchased Psion Workabout Pro

- 2005 – new model rather than programming on the old MX machine
- Had to wait until 2007 for read head available from Agrident (Also problem getting software code)
- Didn't get programming for Flockhand until middle of Sept 2007 lambing



Walk thro' panel reader

- Purchased panel reader in 2007 and discovered that weigh head was no longer compatible
- Purchased new Tru test weigh head and made a new weigh crate in spring 2008





Ontario Traceability Project

- 6 of our systems installed on other sheep farms in Ontario
- Total of 5,000 ewes in Ontario now on RFID



Challenges with RFID

- Waiting for hardware/software to become available
- Sometimes cost is prohibitive
- Computer programs are not infallible
- Are employees willing/capable to work with the technology?

Flock hand program now has cell phone capabilities.

- Cell phones to keep in touch with employees spread over the township
- Premier's Award 2009



Reproductive technologies






Shepherd's Choice



Breeding Stock



Meat Products



1571 Centre Line, R. R. # 2 Norwood, Ontario K0L 2V0

Marketing of traceability and animal performance results on the internet.