

FARMLINK MIXED FARMING FORUM

UNDERSTANDING AND UTILISING VARIATION IN MERINO SHEEP

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**WOULD YOU LIKE TO EARN AN EXTRA
\$25,000/YEAR?**





PRECISION SHEEP MANAGEMENT



HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR SHEEP ENTERPRISE!

- Use a GPS!
- Use all available tools – objective and visual
- Measure and feed (nutrition)
- Use the information – if you don't use it don't collect it!
- Keep it Simple



PRECISION SHEEP MANAGEMENT

- Find the charities
- Capitalise on the opportunities
- GPS
 - know where you are on the map - benchmark



WHAT TO MEASURE?

○ Measure

- Micron
- Fleece weight
- Body weight (growth)
- Reproduction (Singles/Twins; Wet/Dry; Lambed Lost)
- Stocking rate
- Pasture growth (kgdm/ha)

○ Use the information

- Selections for breeding
- Production targets – kg/ha and \$/ha



TOOLS AVAILABLE

- Animal identification
 - Visual tag
 - Electronic tag
- Readers
- Indicators
- Computers



GENETIC BENCHMARKING

- Take away the effects of nutrition, climate and management.



TRIAL DEMOGRAPHICS

States	2010-12	2012-14	Total
NSW	45	50	95
VIC	4	7	11
WA	1		1
SA		2	2
TAS		1	1
Total	50	60	110

COMBINED PWMMC 2010 AND 2012

110 teams

33% repeat teams

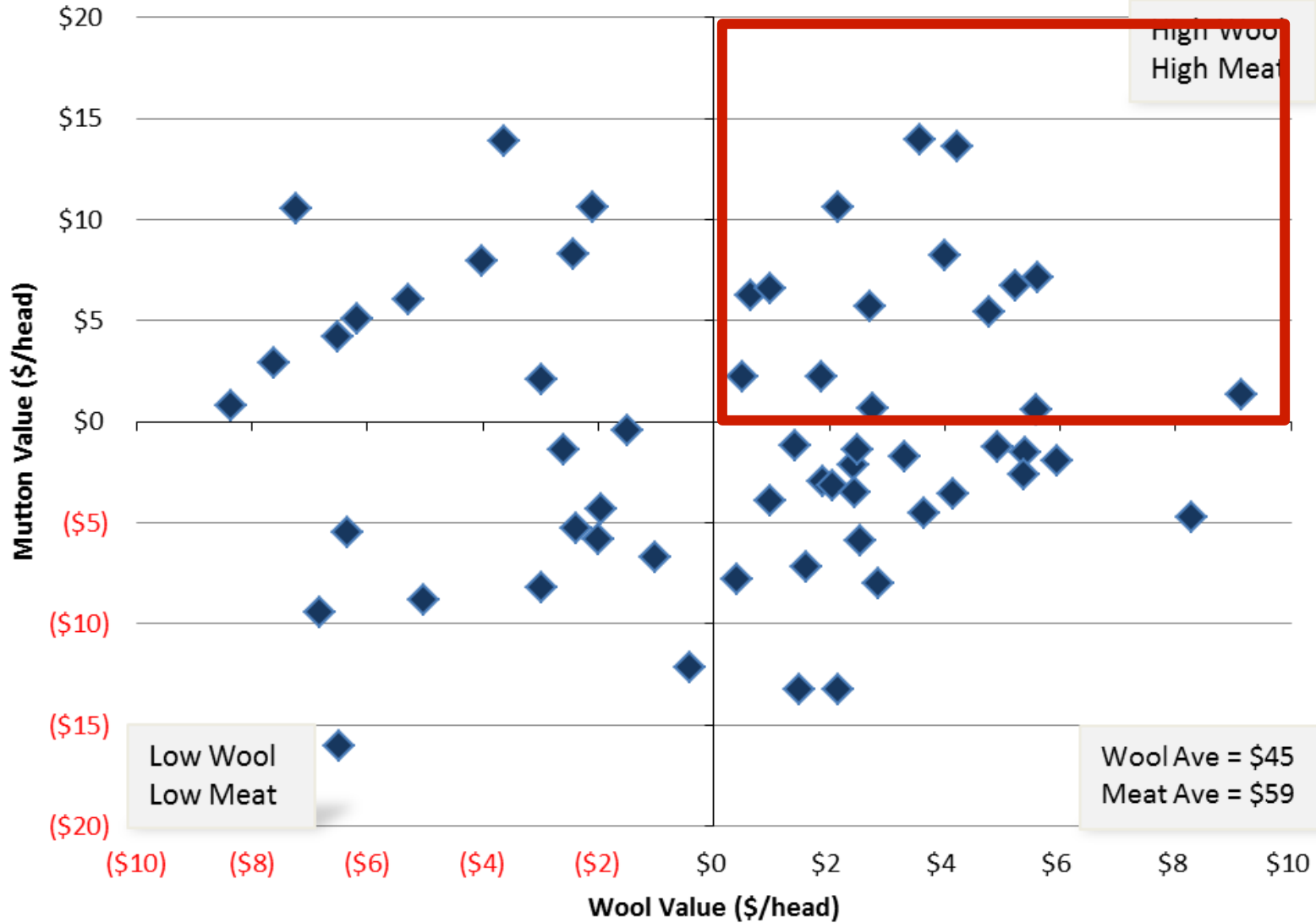
67% new entrants in 2012-14

39 bloodlines represented (2010 & 2012)

15 bloodlines represented by two + teams



2013 PWMMC - Wool Challenge





2011 SIRE EVALUATION

	Wool	Meat	Total Val	FD	EMD	BWT



2011 SIRE EVALUATION

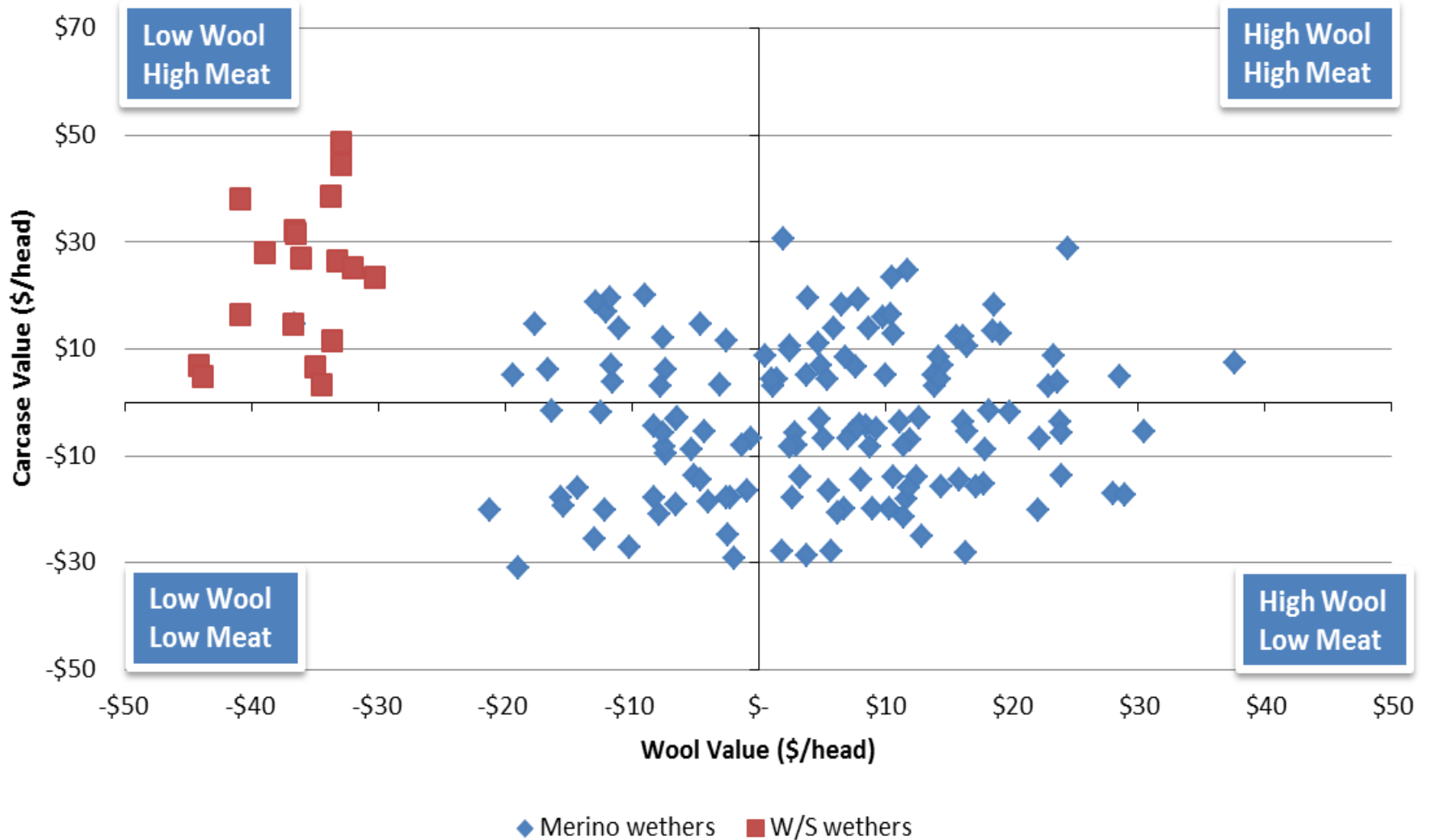
	Wool	Meat	Total Val	FD	EMD	BWT
Merino	\$ 59	\$ 84	\$ 143	17.1	28.4	50.7



2011 SIRE EVALUATION

	Wool	Meat	Total Val	FD	EMD	BWT
Merino	\$ 59	\$ 84	\$ 143	17.1	28.4	50.7
W/S	\$ 18	\$ 111	\$ 129	24.0	31.4	60.0
Avg	\$ 54	\$ 87	\$ 135			

Merino relative to W/S



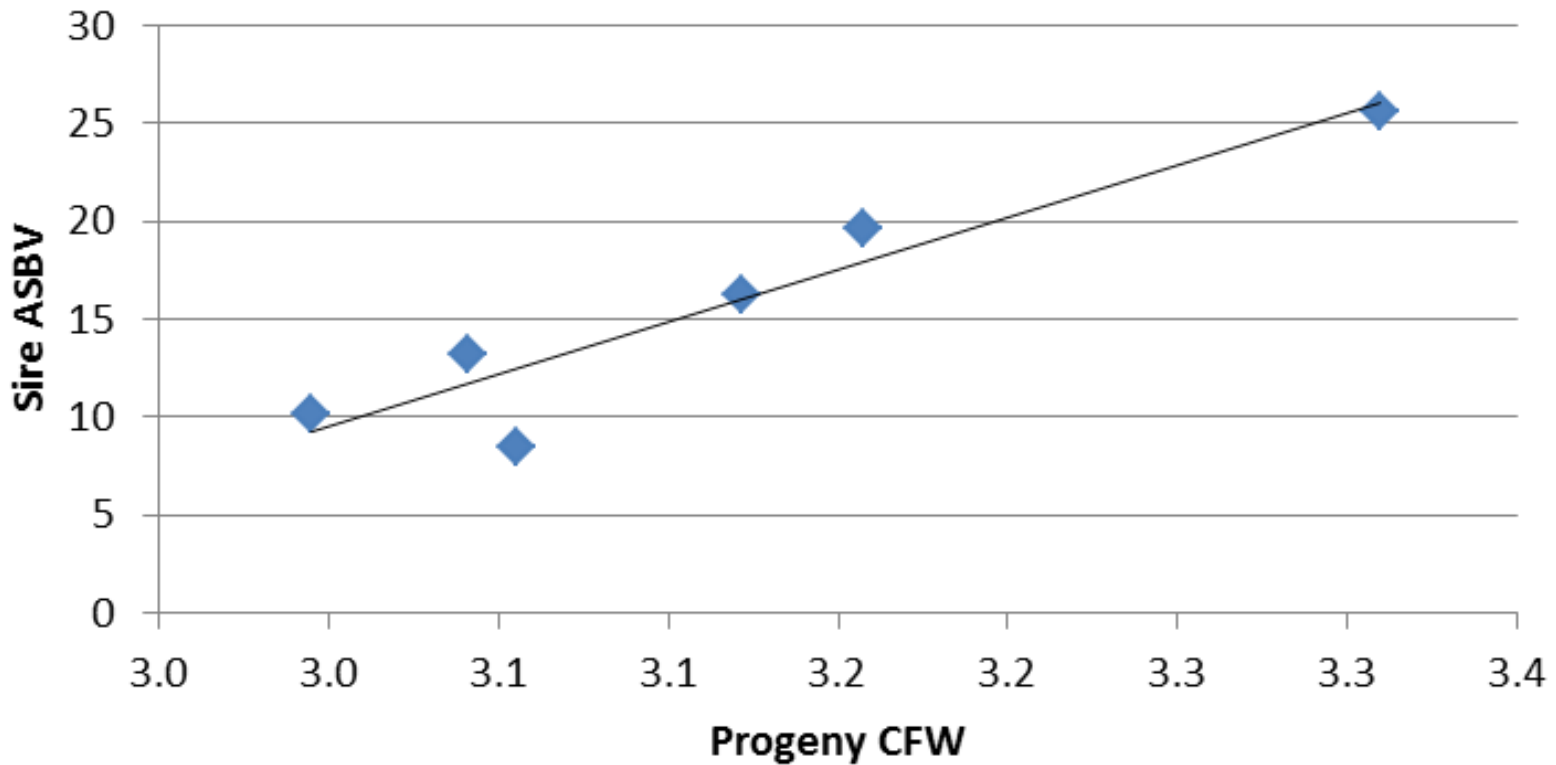
IMPACT OF BODY WEIGHT ON PASTURE EATEN

- 50 kg sheep eats 100%
- 60 kg sheep eats 118%
- 70 kg sheep eats 131%

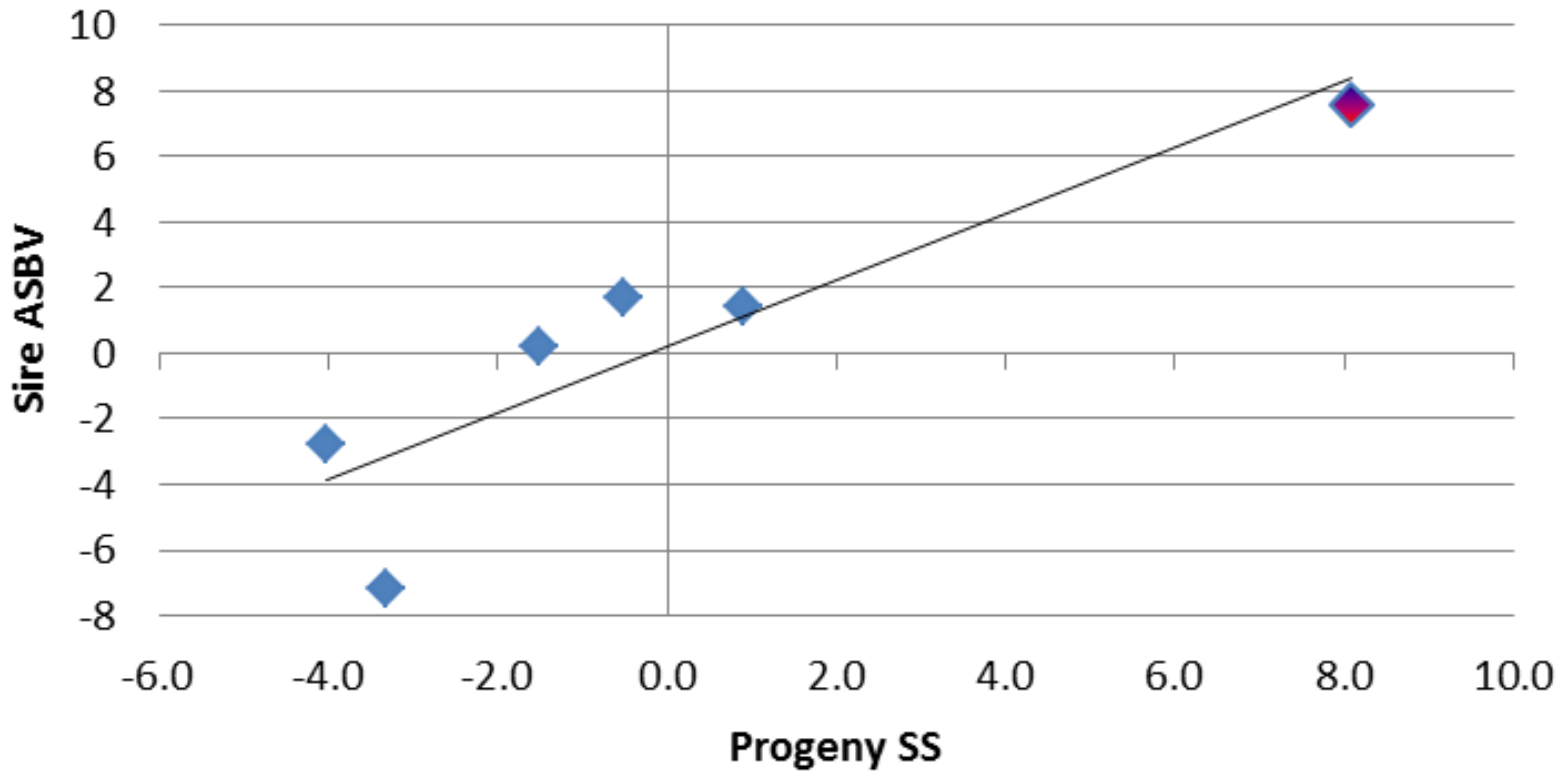
130 sheep @ 50kg = 100 sheep @ 70kg



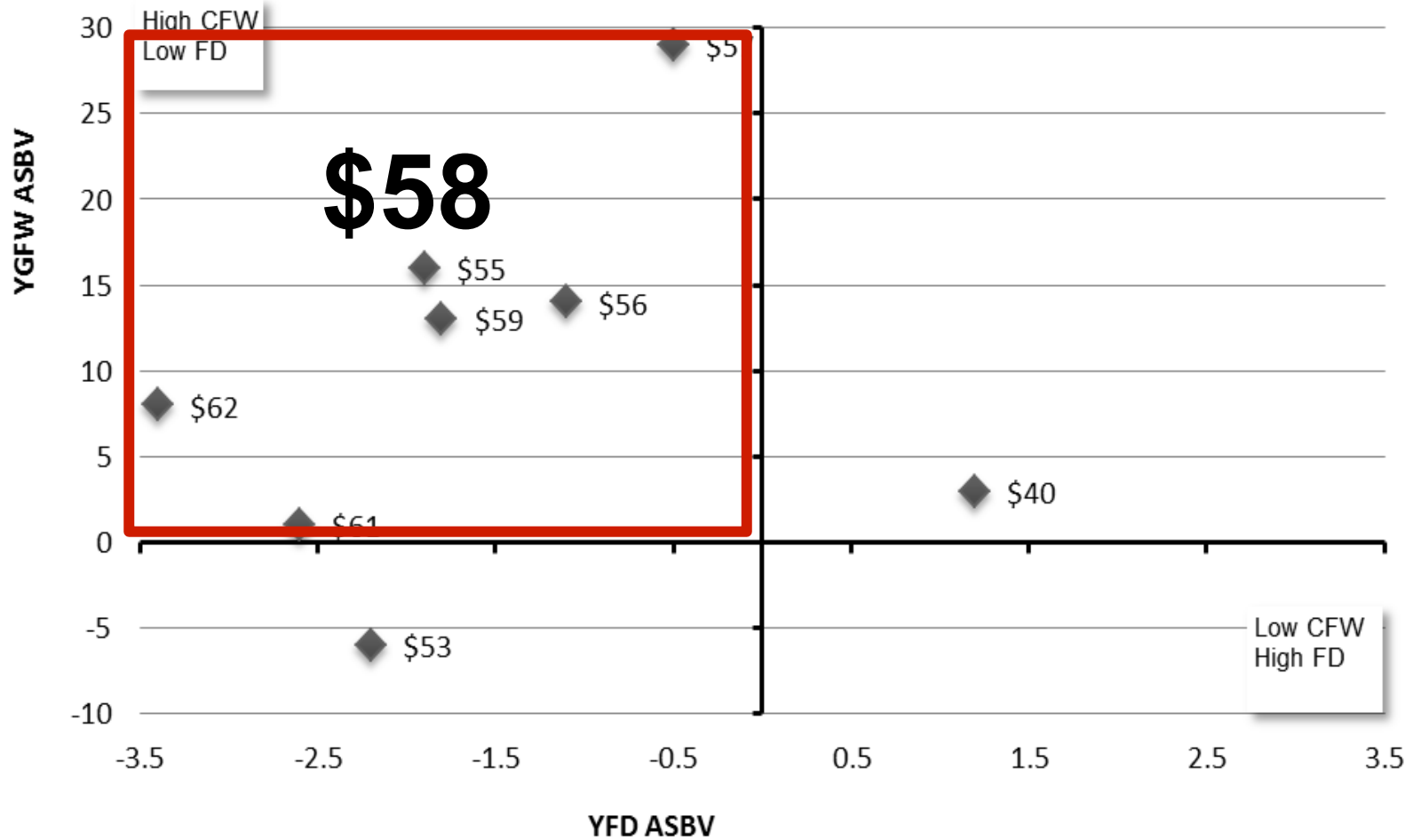
Clean Fleece Weight



Staple Strength



Bluechip Livestock - 2011 Sire Evaluation

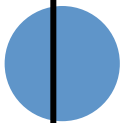


**SO HOW DO WE GET OUR EXTRA \$25,000/
YEAR?????**



COMMERCIAL EXAMPLE

	FD um	GFW kg	\$/head	BWT kg	\$/ha
Bottom 20%					
Top20%					
Average					



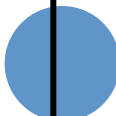
WHERE ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

	FD um	GFW kg	\$/head	BWT kg	\$/ha
Bottom 20%	21.5				
Top20%	19.3				
Average	-2.2				



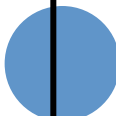
WHERE ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

	FD um	GFW kg	\$/head	BWT kg	\$/ha
Bottom 20%	21.5	4.3			
Top20%	19.3	5.3			
Average	-2.2	+1.0			



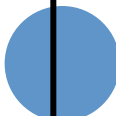
WHERE ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

	FD um	GFW kg	\$/head	BWT kg	\$/ha
Bottom 20%	21.5	4.3	\$27		
Top20%	19.3	5.3	\$47		
Average	-2.2	+1.0	+\$20		



WHERE ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

	FD um	GFW kg	\$/head	BWT kg	\$/ha
Bottom 20%	21.5	4.3	\$27	49.1	
Top20%	19.3	5.3	\$47	49.5	
Average	-2.2	+1.0	+\$20	+0.4	



WHERE ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

	FD um	GFW kg	\$/head	BWT kg	\$/ha
Bottom 20%	21.5	4.3	\$27	49.1	\$146
Top20%	19.3	5.3	\$47	49.5	\$375
Difference	-2.2	+1.0	+\$20	+0.4	+\$229

WHERE ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

	FD um	GFW kg	\$/head	BWT kg	\$/ha
Bottom 20%	21.5	4.3	\$27	49.1	\$146
Average	20.4	4.9	\$36	49.6	\$250
Top80% Ave	20.2	5.0	\$38	49.8	\$275
Difference	-0.2	0.1	+\$2	+0.2	+\$25

YOUR FLOCK CAN HAVE HIGH WOOL AND MEAT VALUES





\$20

\$80

\$40

\$30

\$50

WHERE DO I START ?

- Seek out quality independent information.
- Get involved in trials that will clearly identify the strengths and weakness of your flocks genetics.



**There's no silver bullet for the sheep industry.
If you are not making money now, ask yourself why
and look seriously at your sheep's genetics.**

