Special Issue

Hogget Production and Longevity

Message from the Guest Editor

Ewe productivity is the principal driver of profit for dual-purpose ewe flocks. Ewe longevity further influences farm profitability by influencing the ewe replacement rate and the genetic gain and selection pressure that can be achieved. Hogget (ewe lamb) productive potential is influenced by their management in early life, with rapid growth rates from weaning at 3 months of age maximising productivity through the early attainment of puberty, increased reproductive performance, accelerated lamb growth rates and reaching target mature body size. Hogget breeding faces a number of challenges, including low and variable reproductive performance, low lamb birth weights and the need to ensure that the ewe herself continues to grow during pregnancy and lactation. For dual-purpose ewes, the assessment of productivity is based on lamb weaning, which is the culmination of events that occur prior to and during breeding, throughout pregnancy and finally during lactation. The aim of this Special Issue is to bring together contributions that provide the latest findings relating to the drivers of hogget productivity and longevity and literature reviews that summarise our current knowledge.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Animals is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2011. *Animals* adheres to rigorous peerreview and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues in the many varied disciplines that involve animals, with a focus on animal science, animal welfare and animal ethics. *Animals* is covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in Web of Science, with the latest Impact Factor: 2.7 (2024, ranks 15/86 (Q1) in 'Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science'; 21/170 (Q1) in 'Veterinary Sciences'), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.2.

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