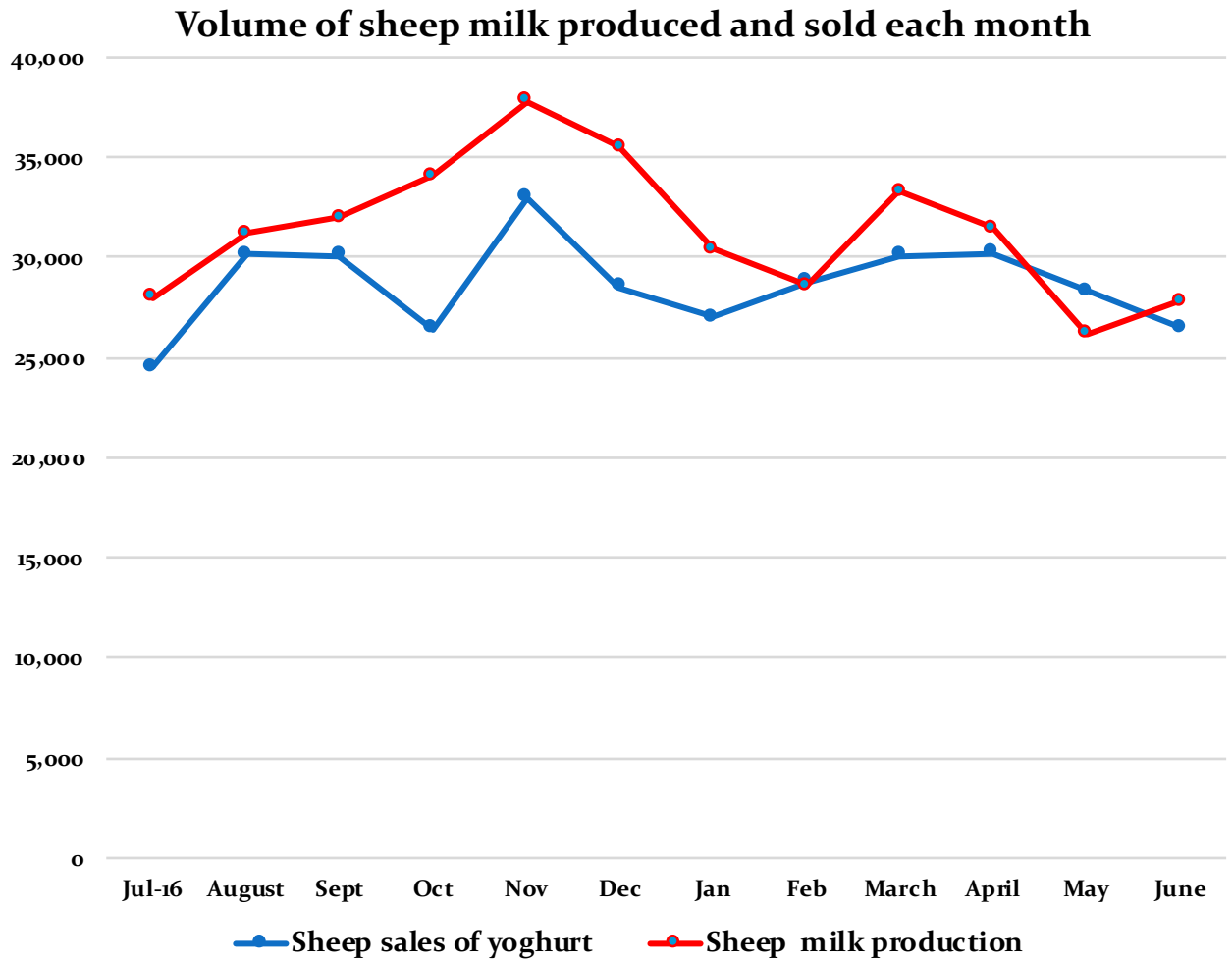
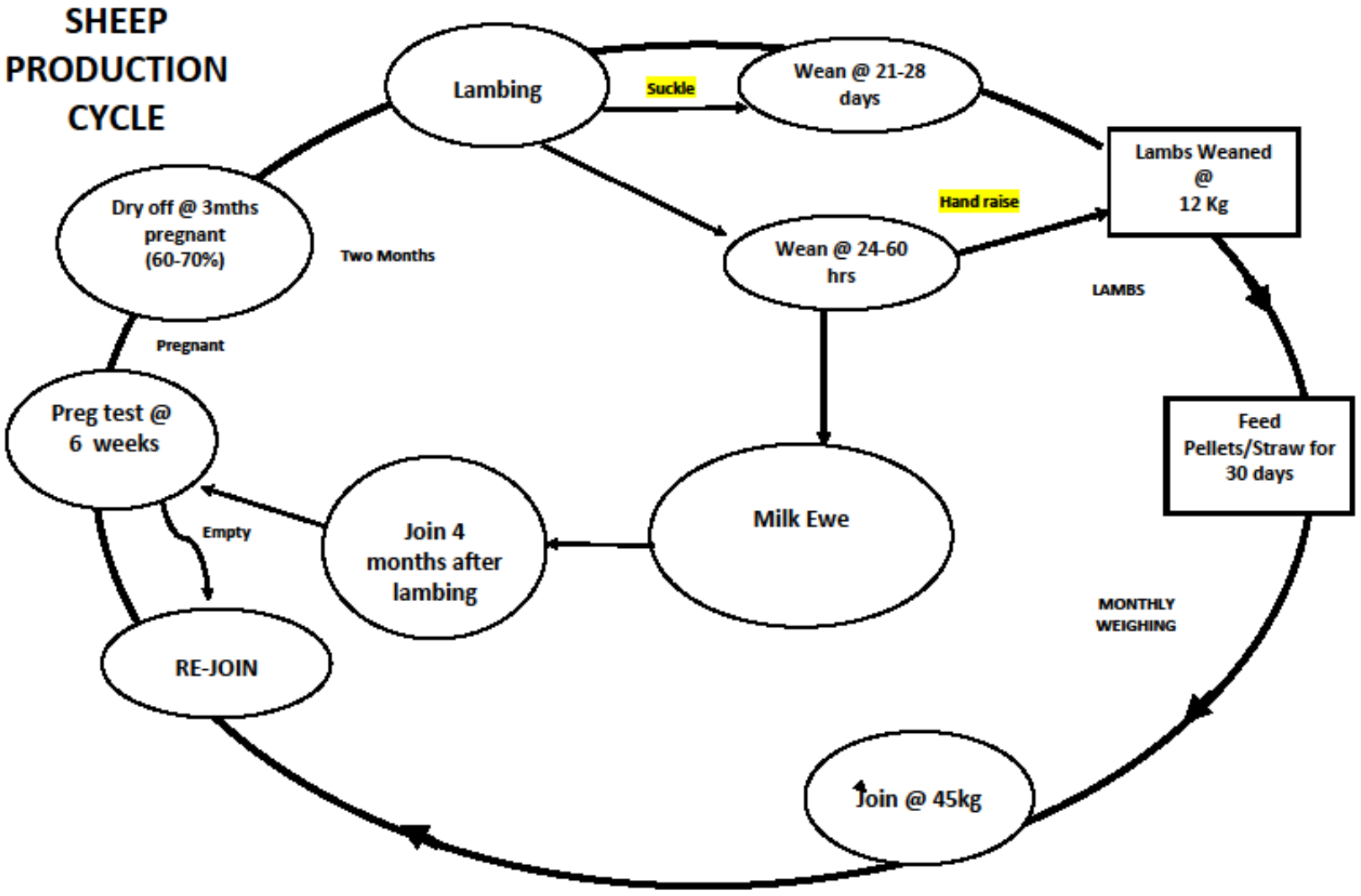
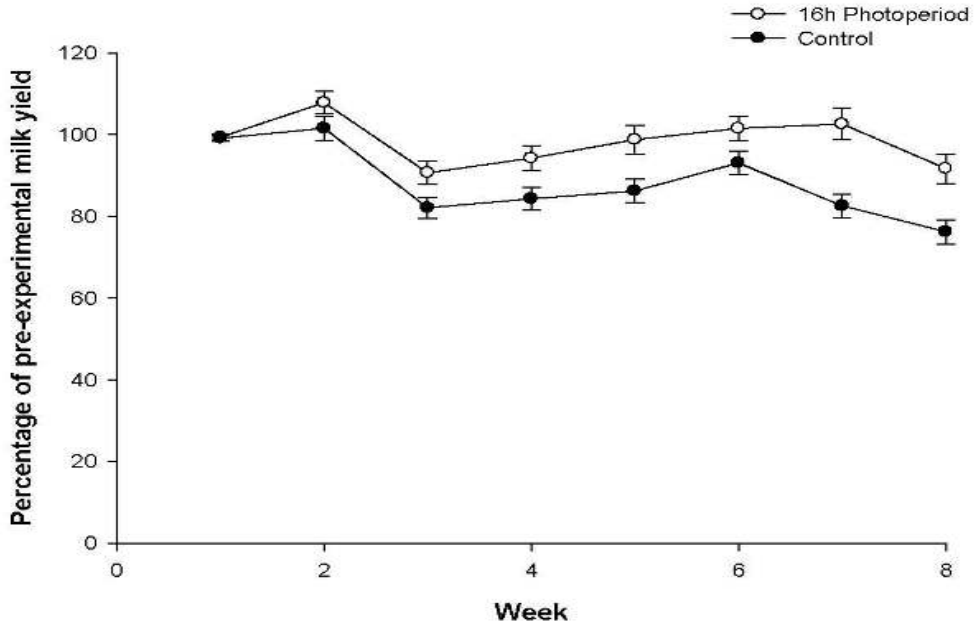
Short shelf life = higher margins

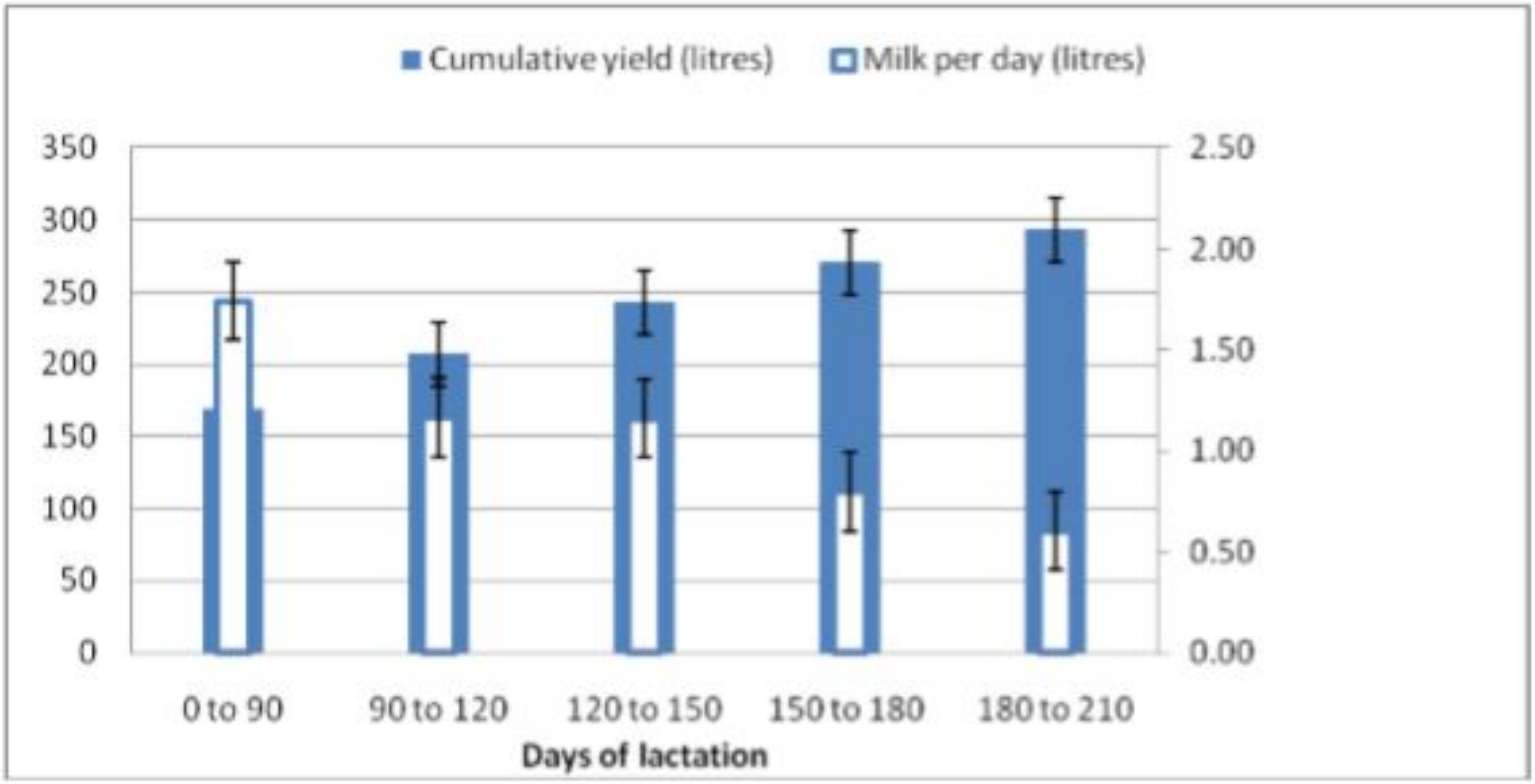

Volume of sheep milk produced and sold each month
40,000
35,000
30,000
25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0
Jul-16
August
Sept
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Feb
March
April
May
June
Sheep sales of yoghurt
Sheep milk production


SHEEP PRODUCTION CYCLE
Lambing
Suckle
Wean @ 21-28 days
Lambs Weaned @ 12 Kg
Hand raise
Wean @ 24-60 hrs
Dry off @ 3mths pregnant (60-70%)
Two Months
LAMBS
Pregnant
Preg test @ 6 weeks
Feed Pellets/Straw for 30 days
Empty
Join 4 months after lambing
Milk Ewe
MONTHLY WEIGHING
RE-JOIN
Join @ 45kg

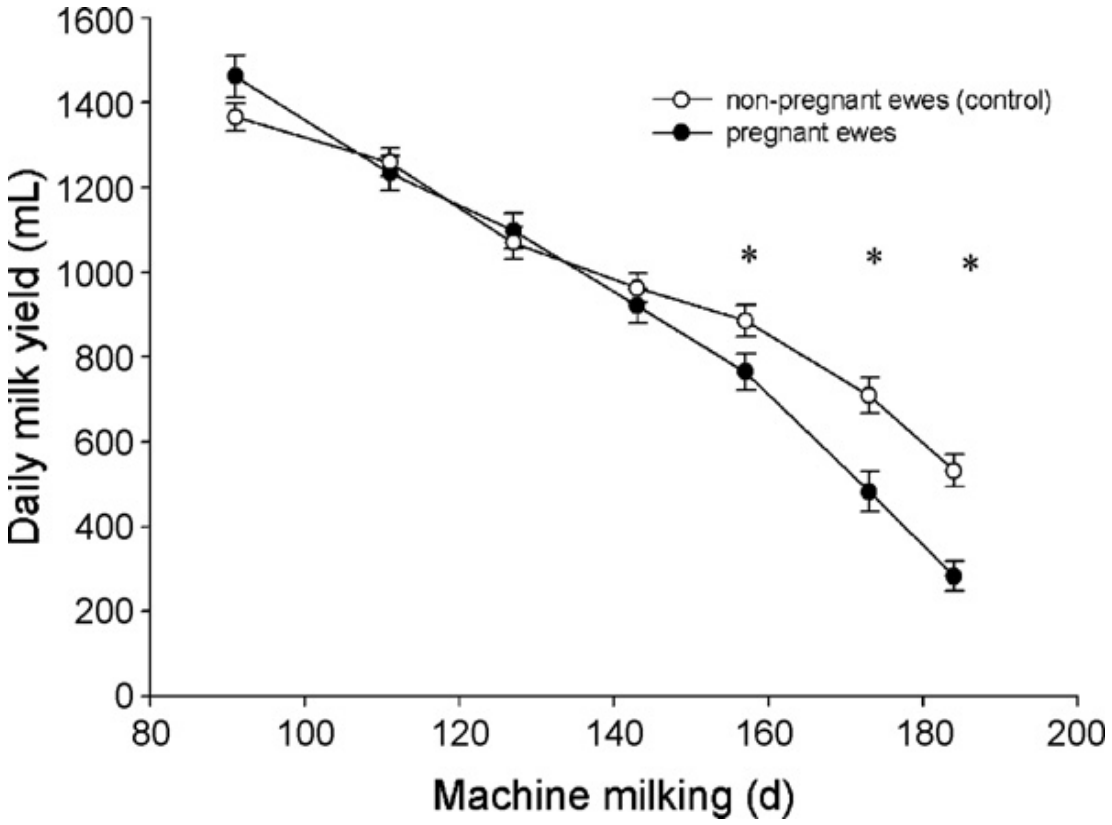
Mean daily milk production was 15% greater in ewes housed under 16h photoperiod.



Milk production vs days in milk



Effect of joining at 4 months after lambing (ewes had a suckling period).



Herring Bone 2 by 24

- 400 ewes per hour
- Never two people
- Should be low-line?

Pasture

- Ryegrass (winter, spring)
- Dryland Lucerne & summer crops
- Total Mixed Ration – average 3 months per year (autumn)

$120 per hour plus $300 /ton

Housing

- Dirty &/or expensive

Our Sheep

- 1991 to 1996 White Suffolk, Poll Dorset, BL*Merino
- 1996 East Friesland
- Awassi 2010
- 2012 BLUP
- 2019 genomics?

Australian Edition
Silverstream New
July 1997 Volume 1 No

EAST FRIESIAN SET TO BOOST SHEEP PRODUCTION

East Friesian lambs at 12 weeks old with surrogate mothers. The lambs averaged 35kg. Mt Elephant Station January 1997

EAST FRIESIANS ARE HERE

he East Friesian breed is ready to oost Australian sheep production nd profitability as part of a more roductive ewe breed and as a erminal sire

The East Friesian breed has now "arrived" in Australia with the establishment of a flock at Mt Elephant Station at Derrinallum in Southern Victoria.

PUREBRED EAST FRIESIAN AND ¾ EAST FRIESIAN ¼ ROMNEY RAMS ARE AVAILABLE IN AUSTRALIA NOW

Photo: Graham Meadows

Blue 40. Silverstream's leading sire.

IN THIS ISSUE:

AST FRIESIANS ➡ MORE LAMBS ➡ MORE MILK ➡ MORE MEAT ➡ MORE MONEY

GET YOU FULL INFO PACK NOW !

MILK PRODUCTION DOUBLED IN EF CROSS

Take a look at the results from the crossbred trial.

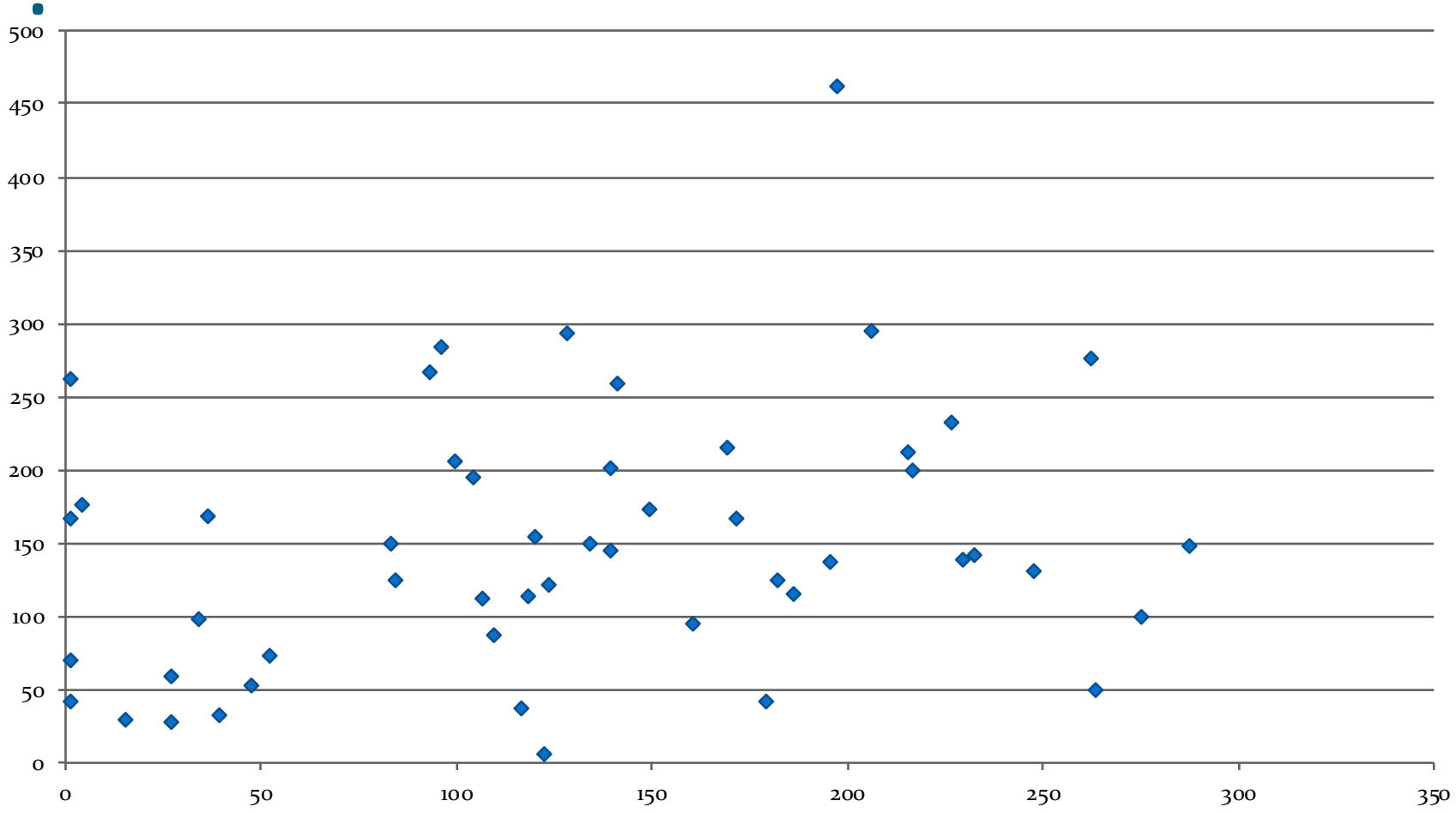
Milk Production of East Friesian × Romney (EF × R) and Border Leicester × Romney (BL × R) ewes.

	EF × R	BL × R
Hogget lactation	107 Lt (120)	20 Lt (40)
Two-tooth lactation	213 Lt (168)	103 Lt (150)
Two-tooth lactation —top half of flock	250 Lt (175)	–
Two-tooth lactation (all ewes)*	201 Lt (144)	80 (105)

Influence of Awassi (2010)

Wean	Lactation	Breed	180 d yield
24 hours	1	Awassi	157
	2	Awassi	202
3 weeks	1	Awassi	140
	2	Awassi	156
24 hours	1	EF	152
	2	EF	205
3 weeks	1	EF	112
	2	EF	176

Repeatability of milk yield for suckled ewes



Conclusion

- No correlation between successive lactations.
- Single mishap in ewes managed under extensive conditions may effect potential milk yield or may cause lactation to fail.

Experiment

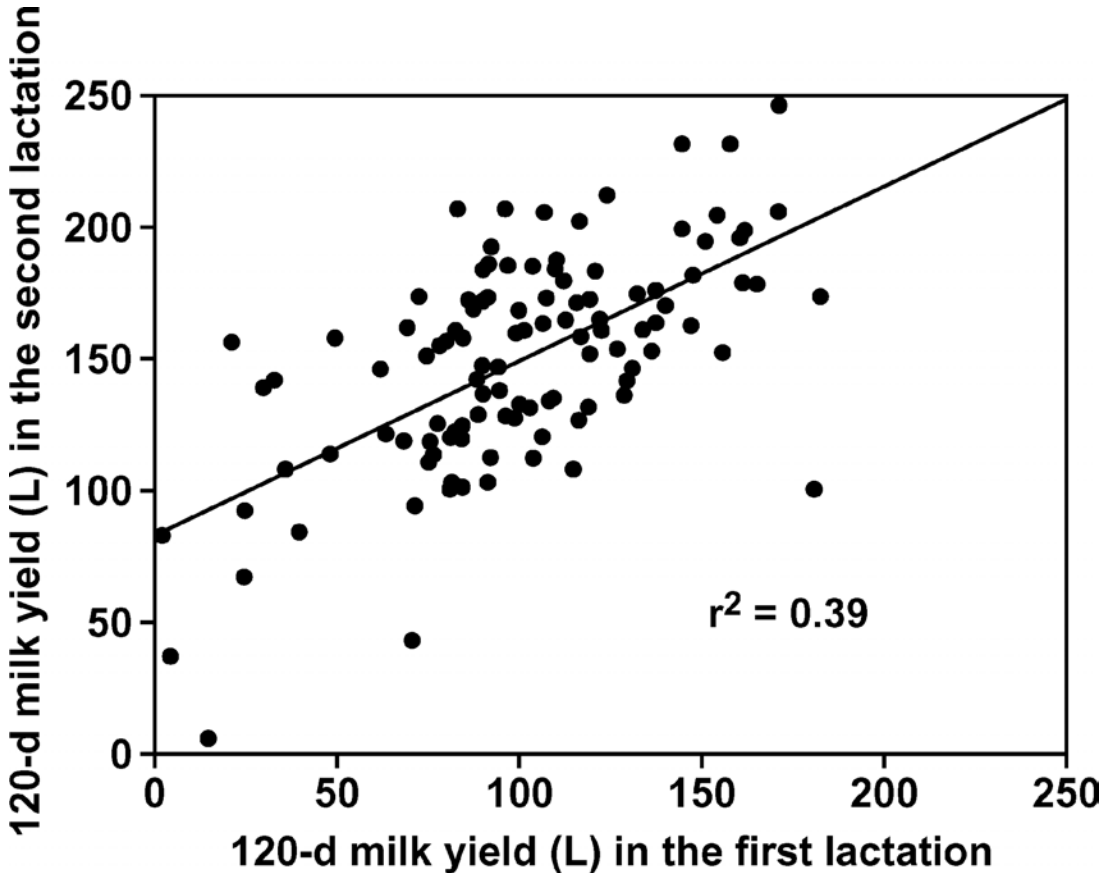
- Measured milk yield in successive lactations
- 3 to 4 weeks suckling before entering the dairy
- Measured lamb growth and milk production in suckling period.
- Began with 330 ewes.

Results

- Lamb growth did not predict milk yield.
- Milk production (measured over 4 hours, with oxytocin administration) did not predict milk yield.

Result 3

- For ewes with no mishap milk yield was significantly correlated between lactations.



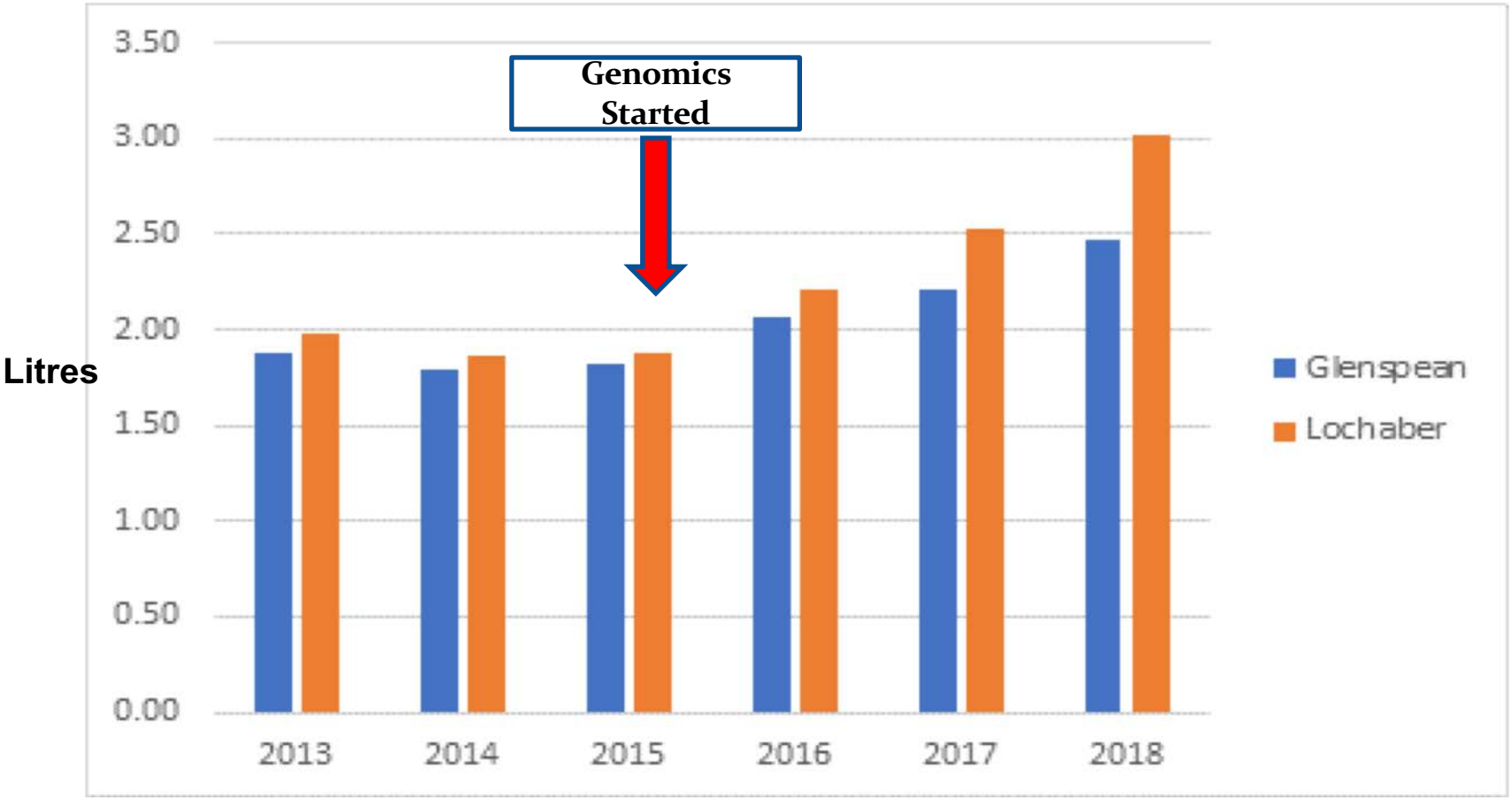
Conclusion

- Milk yield must be measured directly (in the dairy)
- Good dairy ewes don't just produce milk – they store it and let it down
- A suckling period is incompatible with genetic selection for extensively managed ewes.

Pedigree & Blup

- 0.66 litres improvement per year
- Mean daily yield trait has higher heritability (0.44 ± 0.07) than the corresponding 180-day yield heritability (0.25 ± 0.08) estimated on the same ewes
- 180d yield and mean daily yield are highly genetically correlated (0.86 ± 0.06)

Genomics –effective in our goats



Repeatability of milk yield for suckled ewes