

## New Zealand Society of Animal Production online archive

This paper is from the New Zealand Society for Animal Production online archive. NZSAP holds a regular annual conference in June or July each year for the presentation of technical and applied topics in animal production. NZSAP plays an important role as a forum fostering research in all areas of animal production including production systems, nutrition, meat science, animal welfare, wool science, animal breeding and genetics.

An invitation is extended to all those involved in the field of animal production to apply for membership of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production at our website [www.nzsap.org.nz](http://www.nzsap.org.nz)

[View All Proceedings](#)

[Next Conference](#)

[Join NZSAP](#)

The New Zealand Society of Animal Production in publishing the conference proceedings is engaged in disseminating information, not rendering professional advice or services. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production and the New Zealand Society of Animal Production expressly disclaims any form of liability with respect to anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon the contents of these proceedings.

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).



You are free to:

**Share**— copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format

Under the following terms:

**Attribution** — You must give [appropriate credit](#), provide a link to the license, and [indicate if changes were made](#). You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

**NonCommercial** — You may not use the material for [commercial purposes](#).

**NoDerivatives** — If you [remix, transform, or build upon](#) the material, you may not distribute the modified material.

<http://creativecommons.org.nz/licences/licences-explained/>

*Summary only*

DIAGNOSING PREGNANCY IN EWES BY RECTAL  
PALPATION

J. G. ACKERLEY and R. A. S. WELCH  
*Ruakura Agricultural Research Centre, Hamilton*

Trials were carried out to test the accuracy of a rectal abdominal palpation technique for pregnancy diagnosis and for prediction of single versus multiple pregnancies.

*Trial 1:* 683 mixed-aged ewes, 90 to 110 days pregnant, were examined. Of 33 non-pregnant sheep 23 were accurately predicted; conversely, of 650 pregnant ewes, 648 were accurately predicted pregnant; 408 of 463 ewes lambing singles were accurately predicted; 53 of the 55 errors were predicted singles but lambed twins; 87 of 187 ewes lambing twins were accurately predicted; all of the errors were predicted twins that lambed singles.

*Trial 2:* 273 two-tooth ewes, 68 to 110 days pregnant, were examined. Of 11 non-pregnant ewes, all were correctly diagnosed though 13 were predicted; 172 of 179 ewes lambing singles were accurately predicted, with 6 of the wrong predictions lambing twins; 30 of 83 ewes lambing twins were predicted with 52 of the errors lambing singles.

*Trial 3:* 91 mixed-aged ewes with synchronized mating were examined every 10 days from day 30 to 100 post mating. Of the 9 ewes that were not pregnant the accurate predictions for each 10-day test were 7, 8, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9. The accurate predictions for the pregnant ewes were 9/82, 44/82, 70/82, 80/82, 82/82, 80/80, 80/80, 80/80.

*Trial 4:* 64 mixed-aged pregnant ewes with synchronized mating were examined every 10 days from 60 to 110 days post-mating by two people. Operator 1 (experienced) made the following correct predictions for the 33 single-bearing ewes at each 10-day test: 29, 27, 28, 29, 28, 31. For the 31 twin-bearing ewes, the following correct predictions were made: 26, 27, 27, 23, 29, 28.

Operator 2 (inexperienced) made the following correct predictions for singles, 20/30; 27/33; 29/33; 32/33; 25/33; 31/33; and for twins, 12/25; 17/31; 18/31; 20/31; 24/31; 25/31.