

Dan and Kay Persons USA

**Select
Sheepware™**
Management Program

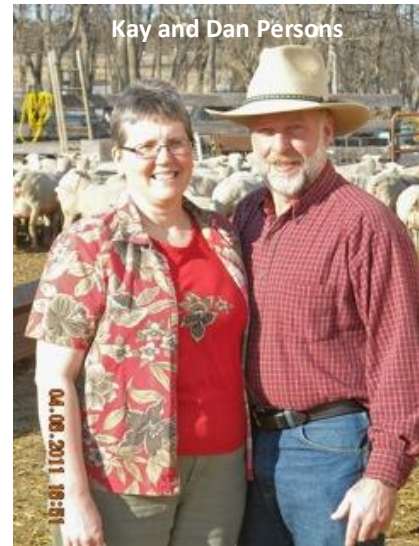
Rafter P Ranch, owned and operated by Dan and Kay Persons of Kensington, MN USA, was started in 1997. The sheep operation began in 2001 with the purchase of 50 commercial whitefaced ewes and has since grown to over 1,000 commercial ewes.

In the past five years all of the growth has been achieved by retaining replacements from within the flock. The maternal rams used in the flock are a Finn/Dorset cross and Polypay. They have used Select Sheepware to identify the highest producing ewes in the flock and to select replacement ewes. The ability to index ewes based on their production has been key in building a productive and profitable flock.

The ranch lambs its ewes in groups of 200 throughout the winter months and finishes all of the lambs to market weights of 120 to 140 pounds. For the past five years they have been doing accelerated breeding - trying to get 2-300 ewes to lamb for a second time in October and then again in May the following year. With the number of ewes being lambed and limited labour, the ability to record lambing difficulty and mothering ability are very important to the ranch.

The adult ewes are raised on rotational pastures in the summer months and fed a forage based diet in the feedlots during the winter months, when temperatures can reach minus 20 degrees with 30 inches of snow annually. The lambs on the ranch are weaned at 45 to 60 days and placed on a self-fed concentrate diet made up of whole corn and a pelleted protein supplement. The lambs reach market weights at 4 to 6 months old.

The Persons have found Select Sheepware to be a great tool for keeping complete ewe histories all the way back to 2002. For the past two years the ranch has used an Hp handheld to record lambing details in the October lambing time. They are looking forward to converting to electronic Id in the future and upgrading equipment to take advantage of this technology. Keeping track of so many ewes can be a real challenge as can be the making of activity lists such as culling and



Kay and Dan Persons



breeding. The ranch sees the need to be able to gather real-time data to make better decisions on maternal and terminal sires being used. They have found the staff at TGM to be very helpful in making sure data collected can be retrieved in a usable format.

Tel: + 44 (0) 28 9268 9681

TGM Software Solutions Ltd

31 St John's Road, Hillsborough, Co Down, Northern Ireland, BT26 6ED

www.tgmsoftware.com