

What about young rams? How old do they have to be to sire lambs?

As a follow-on to our note about first-time mother ewes and in response to a question, Steve ran the data in the OFP for first-time dads. The data follows. Two preliminary observations: most of these fellows sired several lambs in their "maiden" breeding season, but we've listed only the first lamb for each of the rams for simplicity. Also, the calculations follow the same pattern we used for the young ewes. How old does a Soay have to be on the day she conceives (he sires) in order to produce a lamb?

The age range for the rams is similar to the range for the ewes, not much success until they're about six months old, and then quite a number of successful breedings. There's a similar lack of distinction among British, American, and American/British in terms of early success. In other words, the data is consistent with what we've all seen in our fields, nothing new, nothing striking.

Probably the most significant statistic about young rams is confirmation of how early we all need to separate our ewe lambs from our ram lambs if we don't want to have random breeding. One hundred forty two days is only 20 weeks, less than five months!

We look forward to your comments and suggestions, as always.

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October 23, 2006

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Sire Her	Sire	Sire DoB	Lamb	Lamb Born	Age (days) at	
					Birth	Concept.
American/British	Wind_Ridge Donder	16-Mar-01	Blitzen	31-Dec-01	290	142
British	USA0001 York	14-May-01	Adobe	21-Mar-02	311	163
American	Blue_Mountain Ronan	28-Mar-98	Lucky	4-Feb-99	313	165
American/British	Skylonda Viking	1-Apr-05	Bravo	12-Feb-06	317	169
British	USA0001 Uig	30-Apr-01	Atigun	20-Mar-02	324	176
British	USA0001 Wick	6-May-01	Bit	1-Apr-02	330	182
British	Errichel S705	6-Apr-78	S982	3-Mar-79	331	183
British	USA0001 Tucker	30-Apr-00	Argile	1-Apr-01	336	188
British	USA0001 Ulmas	3-May-04	Carson	4-Apr-05	336	188
American/British	Berci's Zak	18-Apr-98	Darlene	21-Mar-99	337	189
American	Blue_Mountain Elliott	1-Apr-98	Tulip	5-Mar-99	338	190
American	Blue_Mountain Troon	10-Aug-02	Jenna	14-Jul-03	338	190
American/British	Oak_Knoll Charleston	15-Mar-01	Browning	16-Feb-02	338	190
British	Blue_Mountain Astro	17-Apr-04	Rocket	22-Mar-05	339	191
American/British	Greener_Pastures Faramir	13-May-01	Thistle AH	18-Apr-02	340	192
American/British	Acorn_Hill Prinz Ludwig	12-May-01	Dunham	19-Apr-02	342	194
American/British	Ewe_Pals Rusty II	28-Mar-99	Daphne	4-Mar-00	342	194
American	Happy_Valley Duncan	4-May-01	Abby Rose	11-Apr-02	342	194
American/British	Skylonda MacGyver	7-Apr-05	MacDuff	16-Mar-06	343	195
British	USA0001 Kilobyte	17-Apr-02	Kathie	26-Mar-03	343	195
American/British	Southern_Oregon Berci	4-Apr-99	Corvette	13-Mar-00	344	196
British	USA0001 Thurso	29-Apr-01	Fields	9-Apr-02	345	197
British	Greener_Pastures Elvis	20-Apr-04	Sonata	1-Apr-05	346	198
American/British	Blue_Mountain Atlas	20-Apr-03	Bluechip	2-Apr-04	348	200
American/British	Blue_Mountain Juniper	10-Apr-04	Princess	26-Mar-05	350	202
British	Greener_Pastures Aragorn	12-Apr-01	Wyeth	28-Mar-02	350	202
American	Greener_Pastures Gwaihir	31-Mar-01	Matisse	16-Mar-02	350	202
British	USA0001 Mulder	27-Apr-00	Galadriel	13-Apr-01	351	203
American/British	Blue_Mountain Rune	10-Apr-05	Piccolo	28-Mar-06	352	204
American	Peony_Creek Jewel	20-Apr-01	Sagittarius	7-Apr-02	352	204
American/British	Southern_Oregon Corvette	13-Mar-00	Chinook	1-Mar-01	353	205
British	USA0001 Frenchglen	16-Apr-03	Deodora	5-Apr-04	355	207
American	Oak_Knoll Brian	12-Apr-03	Gus	4-Apr-04	358	210
British	USA0001 Dene	11-Apr-99	TR	3-Apr-00	358	210
American/British	Ewe_Pals Edsel	14-Mar-00	Eomer	8-Mar-01	359	211
American/British	Blue_Mountain Juniper	10-Apr-04	Morgen	5-Apr-05	360	212
American/British	Rimridge Altair	13-Apr-02	Madrona	8-Apr-03	360	212
British	USA0001 Niles	17-Apr-00	Cuma	12-Apr-01	360	212
American	Soay_Haven Geraldo	18-Apr-97	Hagger	14-Apr-98	361	213
American/British	Skylonda Gerry	11-Apr-03	Durante	7-Apr-04	362	214
American	Blue_Mountain Domino	31-Mar-00	Velvet	29-Mar-01	363	215
American/British	Blue_Mountain Nigel	16-Apr-02	Bobby	14-Apr-03	363	215
British	USA0001 Triumph	3-Apr-00	Legolas GP2	1-Apr-01	363	215
British	USA0001 Frasier	25-Apr-00	Jurby	24-Apr-01	364	216
British	USA0001 Intel	3-Apr-02	Baker	2-Apr-03	364	216
British	USA0001 Ray	16-Apr-00	Clarendon	16-Apr-01	365	217