



A comprehensive risk management program for emerging SD sheep producers

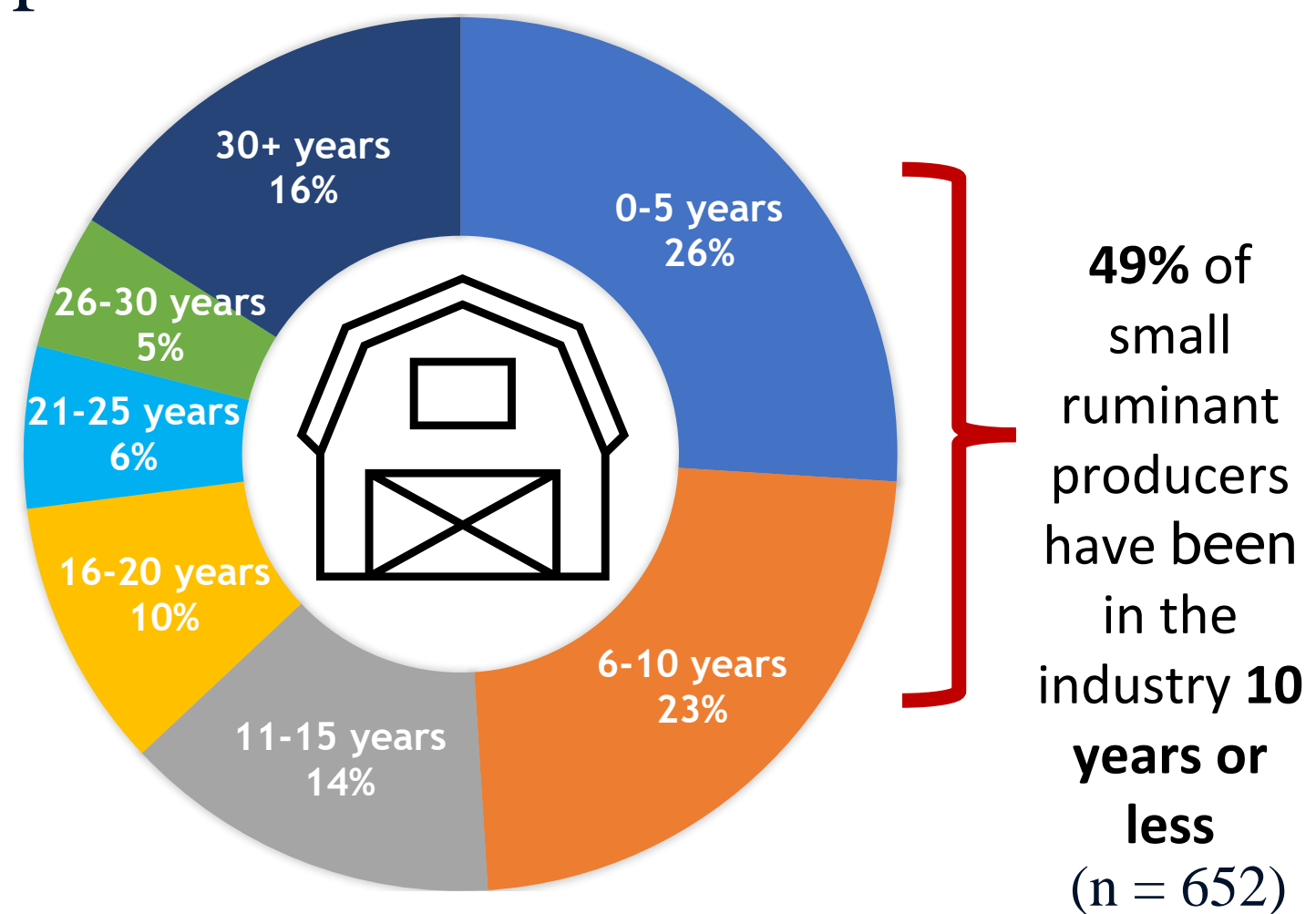
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Program Justification

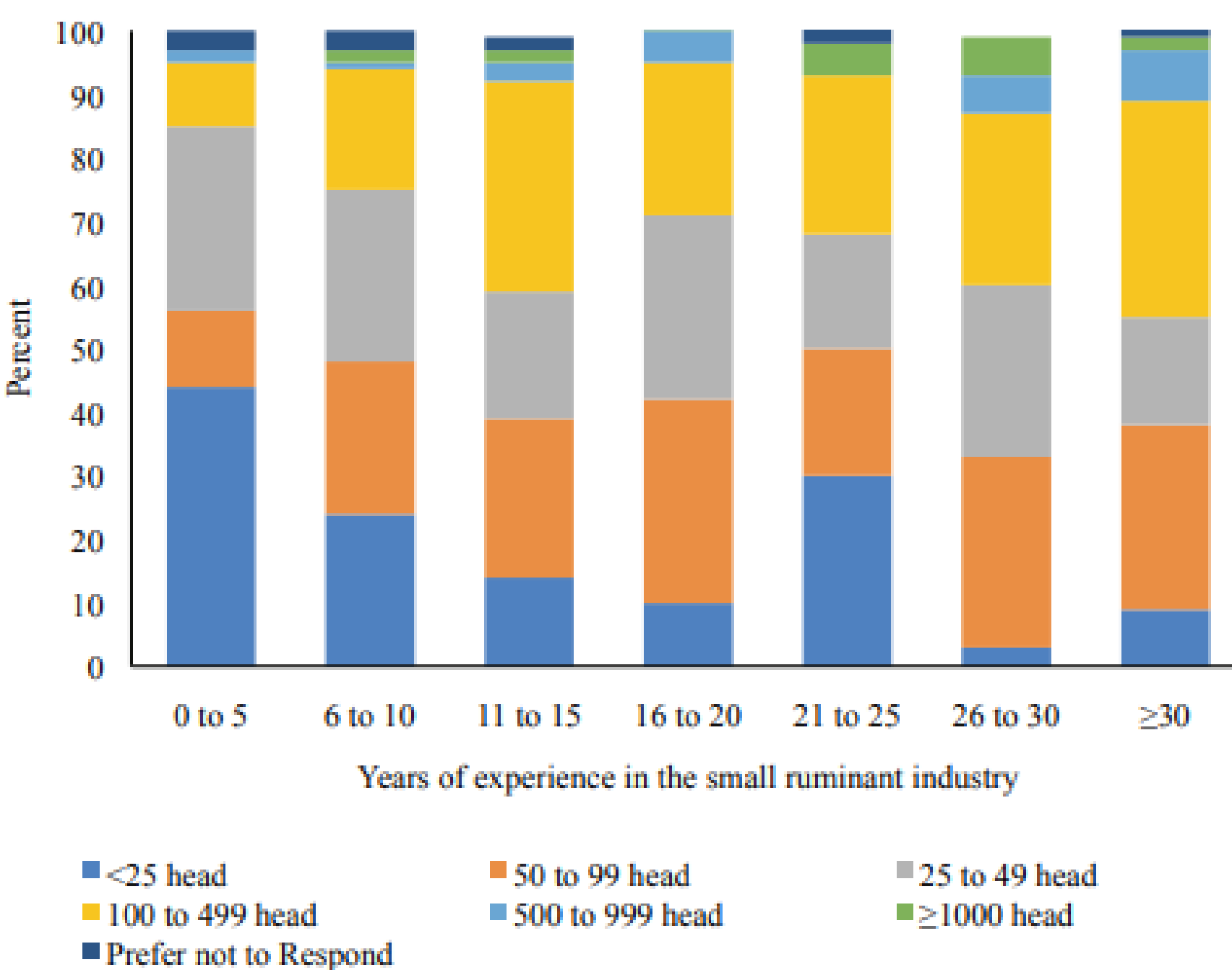
1. U.S. has emerging sheep & goat producers.



Whaley, Froehlich, & Carroll, 2022.

2. Despite declining U.S. sheep numbers, the amount of small ruminant operations has increased (USDA NASS 2017, 2012).

3. Although beginning producers have flock/herds of all sizes. Emerging producers often have smaller flocks/herds.



Whaley, Froehlich, & Carroll, 2022.

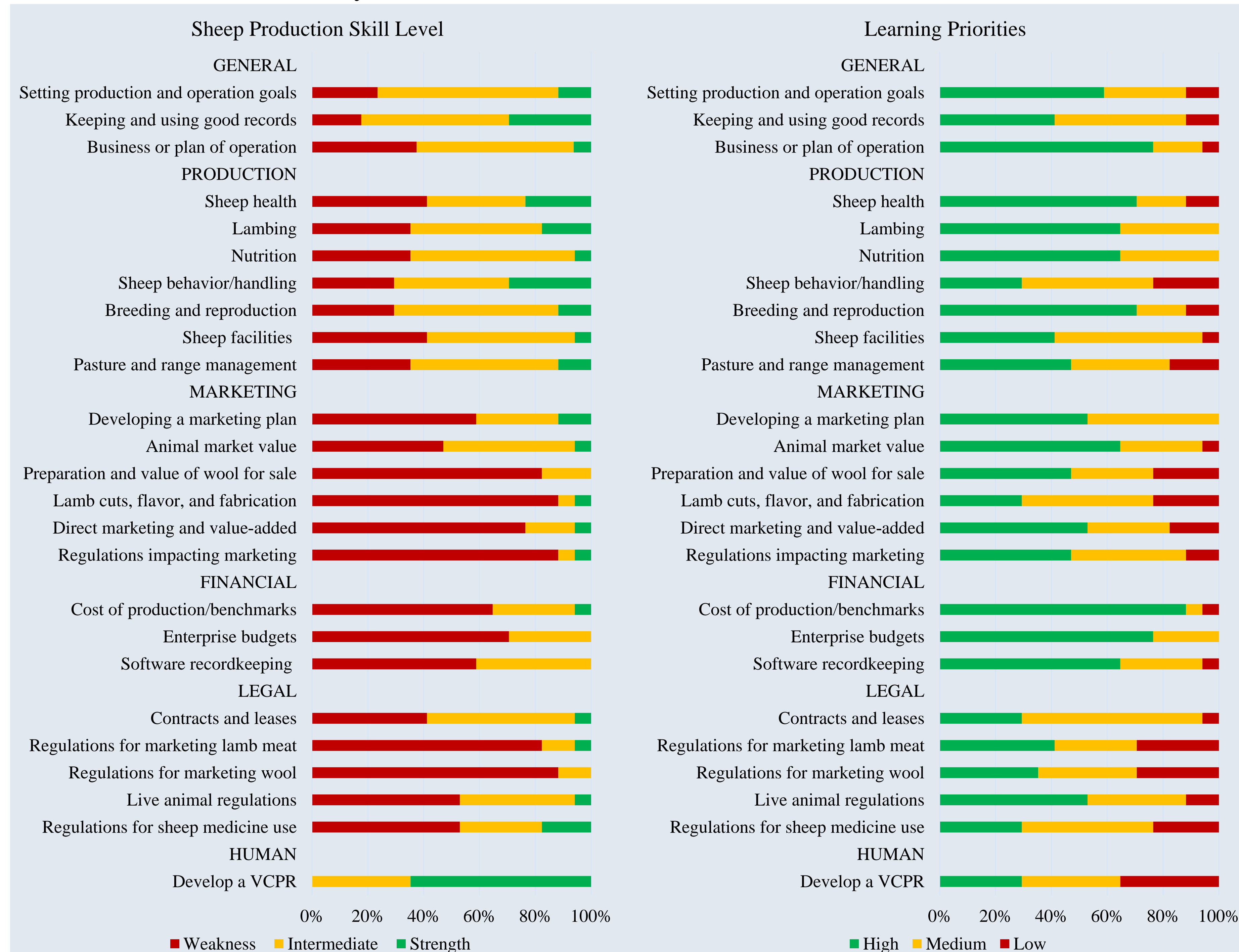
4. U.S. has seen a 27% growth in small producers (USDA NASS 2017, 2012). These producers are often challenged with lack of available resources and information.

Purpose & Proposed Outcome

The SD Emerging Sheep Program is designed for producers (≤ 10 years of management experience) wanting to develop or improve a full or part-time sheep operation. The long-term outcome is to develop learning communities comprised of emerging and experienced producers, industry, extension professionals, and regional agencies to foster support and sustainability of the industry. This is being accomplished by providing production and risk management information and mentorship to establish early success of these emerging producers.

Pre-evaluation of participants

Participants level of knowledge pertaining to sheep related skills and learning priorities were evaluated prior to program acceptance. Most marketing, finance, and legal topics had greater than 60% indicated as a skill weakness. Similarly, marketing has been a topic of concern in both the USDA Sheep NAHMS study (USDA, NAHMS, 2021) and the U.S. Sheep and Goats Needs Assessment (Whaley, Froehlich, & Carroll, 2022).



Curriculum & Activities

This is a 9-session program (September 2022-August 2023) that involves:

- 4 Face-to-Face Workshops
- 3 Webinars
- South Dakota Industry Tours
- 2 Sheep Producer Tours
- Networking and Mentoring

Participants are:

- Working on a comprehensive business plan to develop or improve their current sheep operation.
- Developing hands on skills (e.g., tubing lambs, calculating cash flows, fabricating lambs, etc).

Alongside the curriculum, participants are receiving essential tools to accompany hands on skills and tangible learning resources to develop their business plans.

Acknowledgments

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References

- J.R. Whaley, K.A. Froehlich, & H.K. Carroll. 2022. Surveying Production and Management Needs of U.S. Sheep and Goat Producers. USDA NASS. 2012. Census of Agriculture. USDA NASS. 2017. Census of Agriculture. USDA NAHMS. 2021. Sheep Needs Assessment