



## THE "VELDRAM" BREEDING PROJECT

The "Veld Ram" Breeding Project was started circa 1998, and is currently been run by Mr. Martiens le Roux, who has been in charge of data collection for the past 18 years. The aim of the project to ensure that genetically superior and environmentally well adapted animals are continuously available to the market

The project is run over a period of 6 to 7 months. Lambs between the ages of 5 to 7 months and weighing between 28 and 40 kg are divided into 2 groups: light and heavy. This provides for lambs from low rainfall areas and twins to be monitored. The weight of the animals in each group may not differ by more than 10kg.

The lambs are sheared before being released and again towards the end of the of the project period. The fleece of each is thoroughly analysed of which micro, length and nett return are the most important.



The lambs are sheared and released into an approved test area and must subsist on the vegetation of area without external feeding. The animals are weighed on a monthly basis.

Within 2 weeks after the completion of the project period, the average daily weight-gain is calculated from the data gathered during the project period and a selection index is drawn up.

The first selection takes place in the first 2 weeks of September. The rams are then sheared for the second time and the fleece of each is thoroughly analysed of which micron, length and nett return are the most important parameters.

All the rams are given a condition point evaluation in which fat distribution over the ribs and loins is measured and a number between 1 (very thin) and 7 (overweight) is assigned. From this the rams can be divided in weight classes: light, medium and heavy.

All rams with a selection index of less than 80 and/or a fleece nett index less than 70 are withdrawn from the project.

A second selection process takes place in last 2 weeks of January to ensure that the rams are ready for auction.