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February 24, 1954

Dr. Lorin S. Harris  
Department of Animal Husbandry  
Utah Agricultural College  
Logan, Utah

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Lorin:

Our Research Committee has given the proposal entitled "The Effect of the Level of Nutrition on the Pathology and Productivity of Range Sheep" preliminary review. I have just talked with Dr. Walker and passed on to him suggestions for revisions of the project.

It occurs to us that a very considerable amount of information on such factors as percentage lamb crop, weight gains, wool production, etc. under different management and feeding practices could be gained by making studies of several herds of sheep. I have the impression that there are in Cedar City several very successful sheep operators, some of whom wintered their sheep in Nevada. Certainly some of these men did not experience abnormal losses last year. On the other hand, there are probably a number of operators who normally do only limited supplemental feeding. In other words, it seems to me that you have a natural setup under field conditions for studying the effect of different management and feeding practices on sheep production.

With the very extensive work that you have done, I am sure you know quite well what is an adequate ration for range sheep and that you have considerable information on the nutritive value of various types of range forage. With this in mind, one of the values of supplemental feeding such as outlined in your proposal is the demonstration to the sheepmen of the response to supplemental feeding. I anticipate that you know pretty well whether or not the range forage is likely to be deficient in phosphorus or protein, or both. Considering these factors, it occurs to me that you could eliminate the group to receive a phosphate supplement and the group to receive alfalfa plus phosphorus and include only the one group to receive a complete pellet including phosphorus, protein, and energy sources. After you obtain information on the effect of the complete supplement, and with your knowledge of composition of range forage, I believe that you could then fairly accurately predict whether the response is due to phosphorus or protein or energy, or a combination of these nutrients.

DOE ARCHIVES

Dr. Lorin E. Harris

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I understand that quite a number of operators who are wintering their sheep in Nevada are doing considerable supplemental feeding this year. It occurs to me that a lot of information might be obtained by making a study of the feeding practices of several operators during the current season and relating them to lamb production and other factors.

Sincerely yours,

Paul B. Pearson  
Chief, Biology Branch  
Division of Biology and Medicine

cc: Dr. R. H. Walker

OFFICE ▶	BMBB				
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DATE ▶	2-24-54				

MEDICINE, HEALTH & SAFETY