Effects of terminal sire breed on carcass characteristics

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**Issue**: There are inconsistent carcass quality and yield characteristics in U.S. slaughter lambs. Utilization of terminal sire (purebred) and novel composite (hybrid) meat-producing breeds can improve efficiency of production and lamb quality, yet this needs to be evaluated prior to industry adaptation.

**Goal**: Evaluate breeds that produce offspring excelling in animal growth and carcass traits, thereby increasing Wyoming and U.S. lamb quality and consistency.

**Objectives**: Evaluate performance and lamb quality characteristics in traditional terminal sire and novel composite breeds.

**Expected Impact**: Determine superior breed options that will improve production efficiencies, lamb quality and consistency, and producer profitability.

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**Figure 1.** Composite sheep breeds being developed for improvement of lamb quality characteristics at the Laramie Research and Extension Center.