Year-round greenhouse and high tunnel specialty cut flower production

Investigators: Karen Panter

Issue: Diversification of Wyoming’s economic base should include agricultural crops, including horticultural crops.

Goal: Encourage owners of greenhouses and high tunnels in Wyoming to grow specialty cut flowers for local markets.

Objectives: Demonstrate that growing fresh cut flowers is feasible in greenhouses and high tunnels, using at least five different species through 2018 and 2019 (Fig. 1).

Expected Impact: Growers and producers could adopt recommended practices and reduce production costs, diversify their operations, boost profits, and, in turn, make their operations more sustainable.

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Keywords: horticulture, cut flowers, high tunnel

PARP: I:1

Effects of zinc supplementation on mastitis prevalence in ewes and on lamb performance

Investigators: Whit Stewart, Dan Rule, Steve Paisley, Thomas Murphy, Bret Taylor, and Chad Page

Issue: Ewes that experience subclinical mastitis, on average, raise 19.6 to 24.6 pounds less lamb per litter than those that do not. In preliminary data, ewes that had greater serum zinc (Zn) concentrations had decreased somatic cell count in their milk, an indicator of mastitis.

Goal: Decrease prevalence and severity of mastitis, and increase lamb performance by determining optimal dietary Zn concentrations during gestation.

Objectives: Evaluate the effects of increasing Zn supplementation to pregnant ewes on mastitis and lamb performance.

Expected Impact: Supplementing Zn to ewes in pregnancy could effectively decrease prevalence of mastitis after lambing. By reducing mastitis in ewes, producers could positively affect overall lamb growth and performance in the flock.

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Keywords: lamb performance, mastitis, zinc

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Figure 1. Flowers are grown in a high tunnel at the Laramie Research and Extension Center.

Figure 1. ‘Smart’ feeders (those that feed automatically) at the Laramie Research and Extension Center administer zinc-fortified supplements during ewe pregnancy.