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Selecting a sire

You now have to make a decision about the direction you are going to take with your initial breeding program and this depends largely on how you purchased your ewes, that is, whether they are already in lamb or not and the number you obtained. If some of the ewes you purchased are in lamb then this decision has already been made, however you still may need to put a ram with these ewes as a backup to ensure they are in lamb. There are a few decisions that now have to be made. First, you need to decide which ram/s to use and second, how are you going to use him once you have chosen the best ram/s for your ewes. Many first-time stud breeders make the mistake of selecting the best ewes they can find and then, having spent most of their initial allowance, look for a cheaper affordable ram to produce their first drop of lambs. If you have made the decision to source the best ewes as a base to begin your stud, why take a backward step when selecting the ram to use over them? Each ewe is only one individual within your stud, the ram could be half the genetics of your whole stud so it is important that a great deal of thought be given to the quality and influence that a ram is going to have on your breeding program.

You have a number of options when selecting a ram to generate your initial drop of lambs. If you have selected ewes from a reputable stud and you are confident that the type of ewes are consistent with the direction that you would want your stud to follow, it would be worth asking the stud master from that stud for an opinion on ram selection. The stud master may either have an older sire that is no longer in use or there may be a young sire that is surplus to the stud's needs. Either way, you will be confident that by using rams from the same stud that you have purchased your ewes from, you are not going to find any surprises when