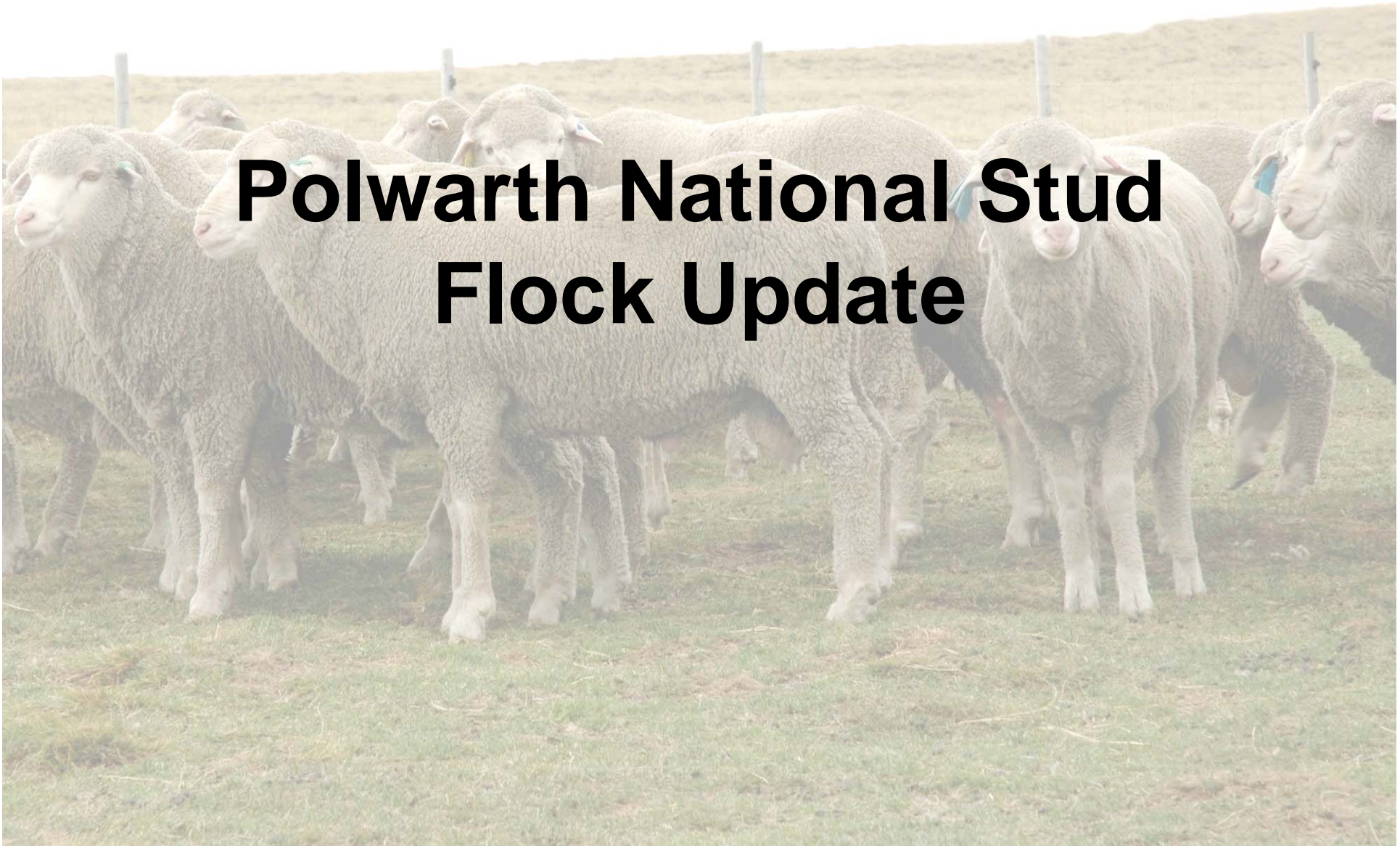




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## Polwarth National Stud Flock Update



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## National Stud Flock Goals

- Average fibre diameter of 22  $\mu$
- Greasy fleece weight of 4 kg
- Mature weight of 45 kg, Hogget wgt 30kg
- White fleece
- Easy care
  - Clear faces, plain bodied, polled
  - Parasite resistance



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## Last season at Saladero

- Hoggets cut £10/ head
  - 19.4  $\mu$
  - 2.3 Kg/head CFW
  - 537 p/kg Nett Stanley
- Lambing ewes cut nearly £15/ head
  - 21.4  $\mu$
  - 3+ kg/head CFW
  - 500p/kg Nett Stanley



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## We are pretty happy with the NSF as it is now

- A productive type for the Falkland Island conditions
- Production has exceeded the current NSF genetic goals
- 100% clearance of sale rams
  - averaging £65



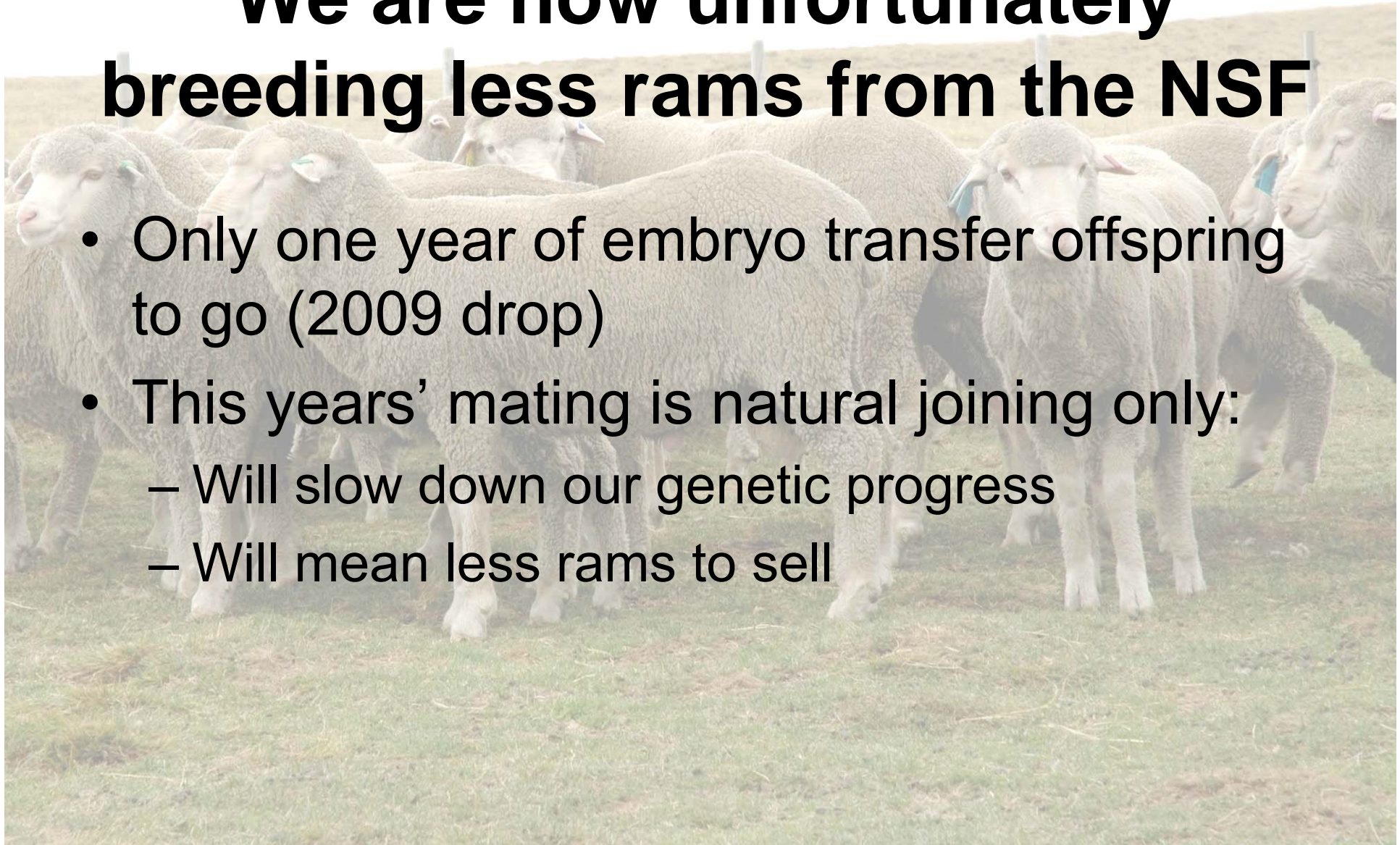
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## We are now unfortunately breeding less rams from the NSF

- Only one year of embryo transfer offspring to go (2009 drop)
- This years' mating is natural joining only:
  - Will slow down our genetic progress
  - Will mean less rams to sell





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## The future

### - we can't be complacent

- 569 breeding ewes and 24 rams is too small to be a closed flock
- Probably the best recorded Polwarth flock in the world:
  - nowhere to bring fresh Polwarth blood in from
- We will need to look for a similar type in a Merino sheep



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## The plan

### - see it as an opportunity

- Find an appropriate type of Merino:
  - Lots of long, white, 21-23  $\mu$  wool
  - Open faced, polled, plain bodied etc
- Aim to cover about 20% of the NSF only
- Watch closely, monitor, measure, compare
- If it works keep going
- If it doesn't we can still go back and try something else



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## Face cover

- Can be an issue in Polwarths
- We cull the worst cases
- We cull cases with an ambivalent index
- We don't pluck any sale rams
- We are watching and monitoring and collecting information on:
  - Repeatability
  - Interactions (eg with age, weight, condition etc)
  - Pedigrees and family traits and heritability



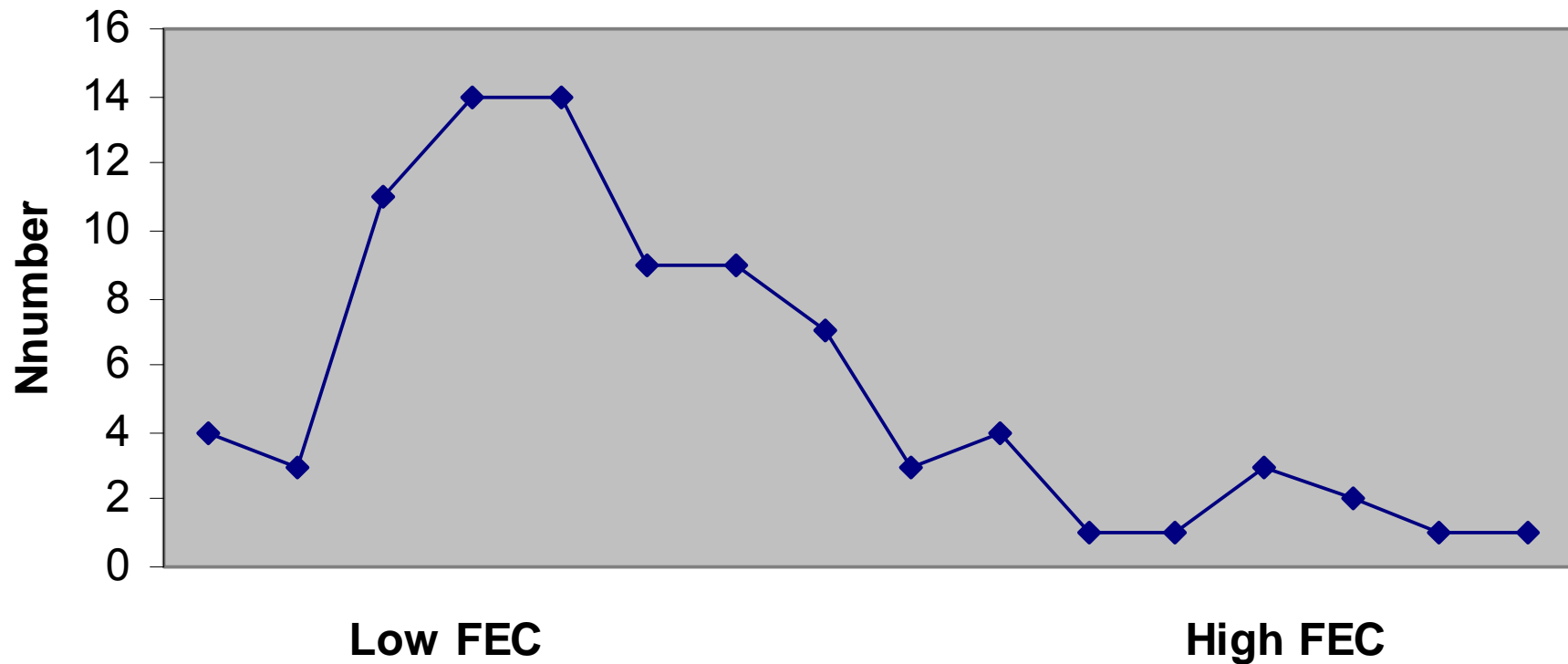
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## Faecal egg count

### Range in FEC in Sale Rams





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## We also have...

- Dohnes now at Saladero
- SAMMs JV with Goose Green
- Afrinos JV with Shallow Harbour

We will keep these flocks ticking along with imported semen at this stage - not bring them into NSF.