

Comparison of Dairy Lamb Rearing Systems: Growth Rates

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Growth rates

High growth rate allows earlier weaning

► More efficient lamb

Artificially reared vs. lambs raised with dams

- ▶ East Friesian
- ▶ Poll-Dorset
- ▶ Awassi
- ▶ Few studies of current dairy breeds in New Zealand

Comparison of lamb rearing systems on sheep-dairy farms: Behavioural changes and welfare implications

By Brad Nieper

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Research: Comparing different rearing systems

- ◆ DY1-2, MIXED and DY30
- ◆ Behavioural differences in the lambs
- ◆ Welfare implications of these different systems
- ◆ Looking into minimising stressors of artificial rearing

Natural vs artificial rearing systems:

- ◊ Mother-young bond, provides nutrition, passive immunity and behavioural learning
- ◊ Emotional and nutritional stresses

Studies:

- ◊ Behavioural stereotypies: Bleating, suckling,
- ◊ Elevated cortisol levels in artificially reared lambs
- ◊ Immune responsiveness
- ◊ Social interaction changes
- ◊ Nutritional stress

Thank you

