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Getting started

Setting up

You have now reached the stage where you can plan how you are going to set up your stud. Your initial investment should be to purchase some ewes; however, this is where the first big mistake, and the most expensive one, can happen. Let's go back one step before we look at any ewes.

You need to make sure the sheep you are intending to breed are suited to your area, not only from an environmental and regional suitability perspective but also from the point of view of developing a successful, well-supported business. It would be pointless to begin breeding sheep that are genetically not suited to your area as subsequently the likelihood of significant ram sales would be limited. It would also be a frustrating exercise to breed sheep that, although suited to the climatic conditions and management constraints of your area, are not the preferred breed for your area or would create marketing problems for producers in your area. Conversely, your region or the market may be looking for something new and different and the right sheep could be a breed that has previously not been considered for your area. Do your research on the studs that are currently within your region, look at how well their rams sell and what their clients are looking for. Once again if the situation is already over supplied, then unless you are planning a very good alternative, the risk of failure is greatly increased. You need to make sure that the type of stud enterprise you are about to undertake has a very good chance of success given that you are embarking on something new, as you will be in the market with other stud breeders in your area who may have been involved in the