Effect of Age and Environment on Pigmentation

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Age and Environmental Effects

- Pigmented fibres are more common in lambs
- UV light induces sunspots causing more pigmented fibres in older sheep
Increase in Pigmented Spots With Age in Sheep

Kelly and Shaw 1942
Fleet and Forrest 1984

Increase in Pigmented Spots With Age in Sheep

Age of sheep in years

Percentage of sheep with spots

10 20 30 40 50

0.5 1.5 2.5 3.5 4.5 5.5 6.5 7.5 8.5