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Premium

Quality

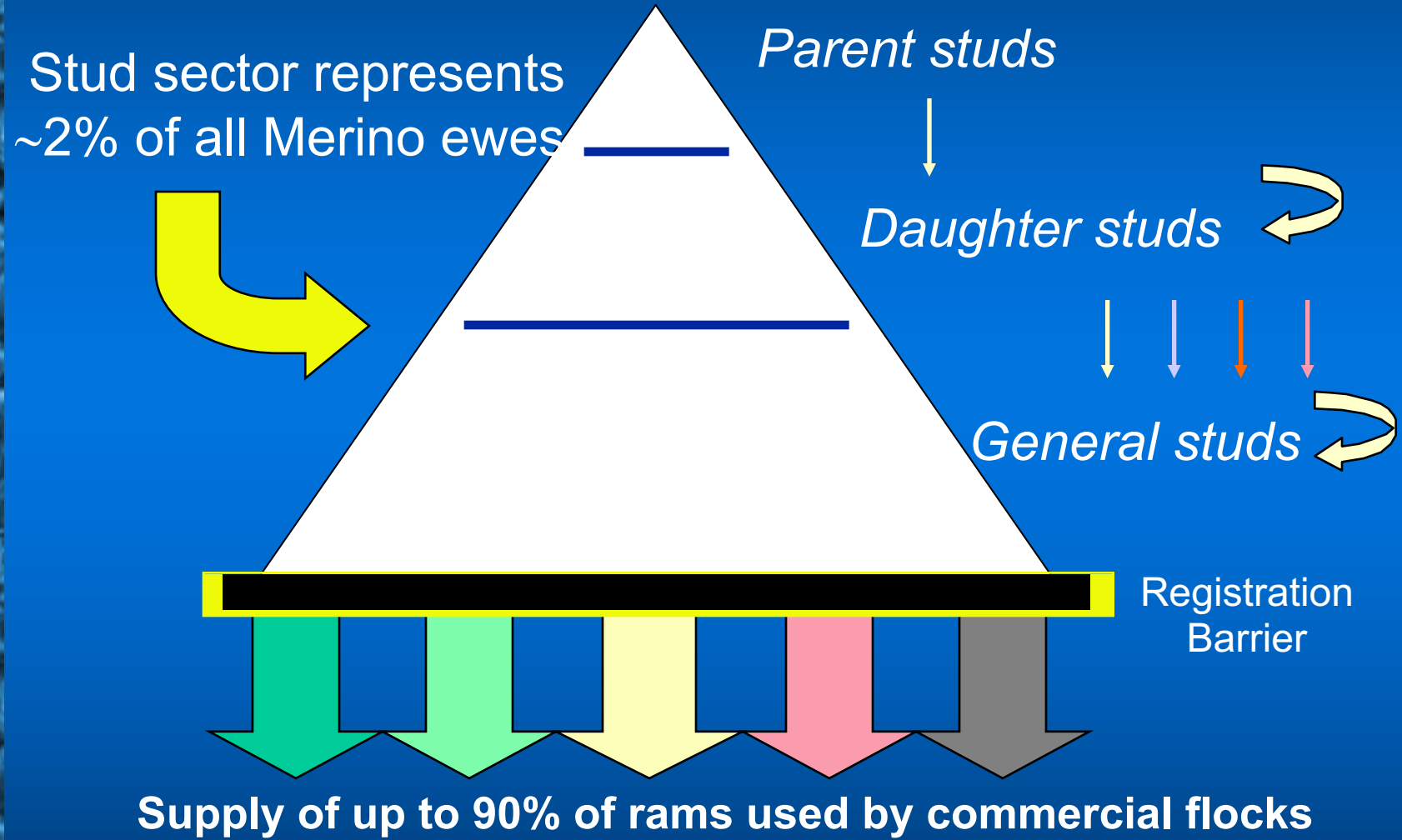
Wool

Breeding Structures in the Stud Merino Industry

Produced for the CRC for Premium Quality Wool undergraduate program by;
Dr. Brad Crook, The University of New England.



Breeding Structure of the Merino Industry

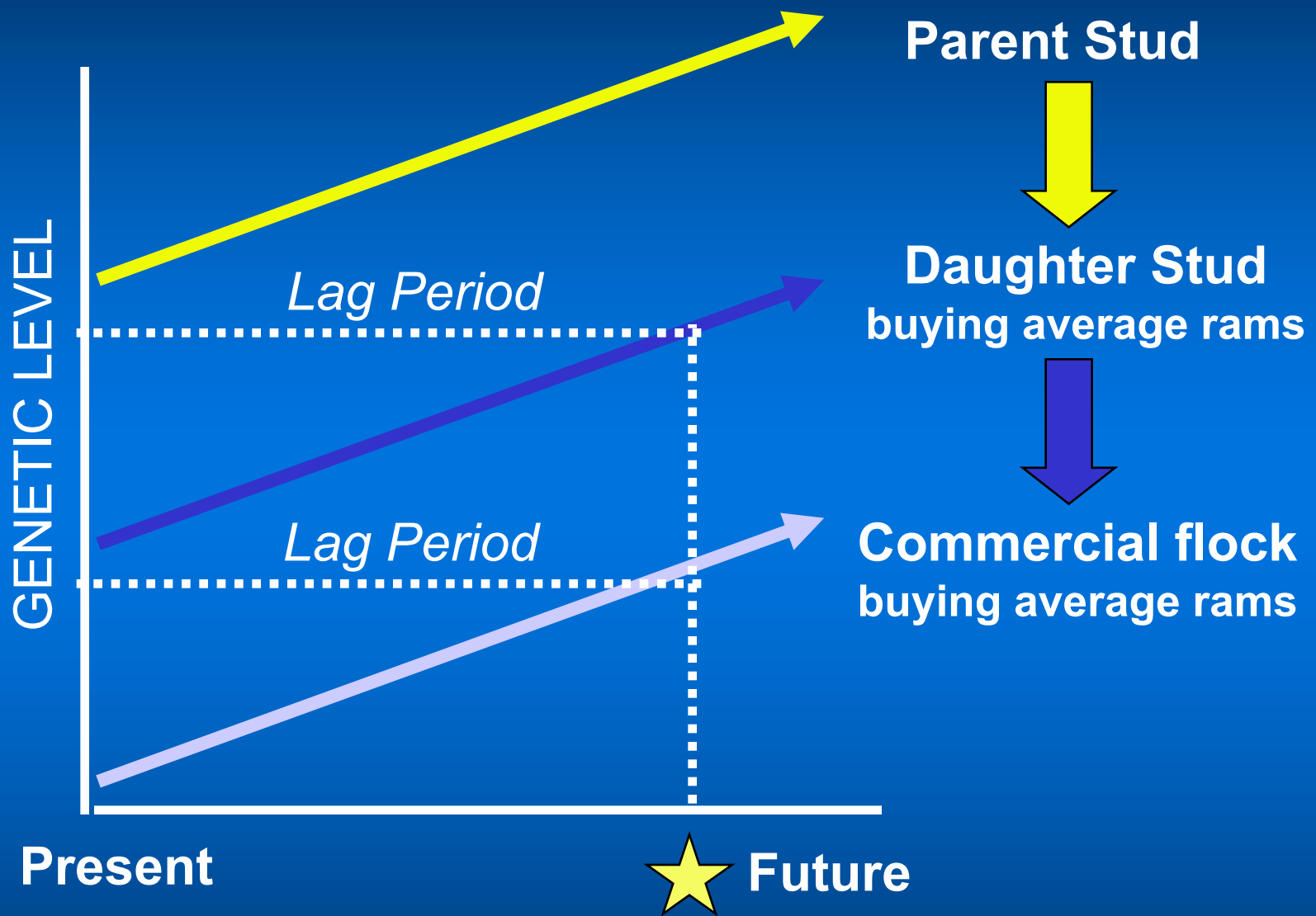


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Brad Crook
Source: Banks (1987)



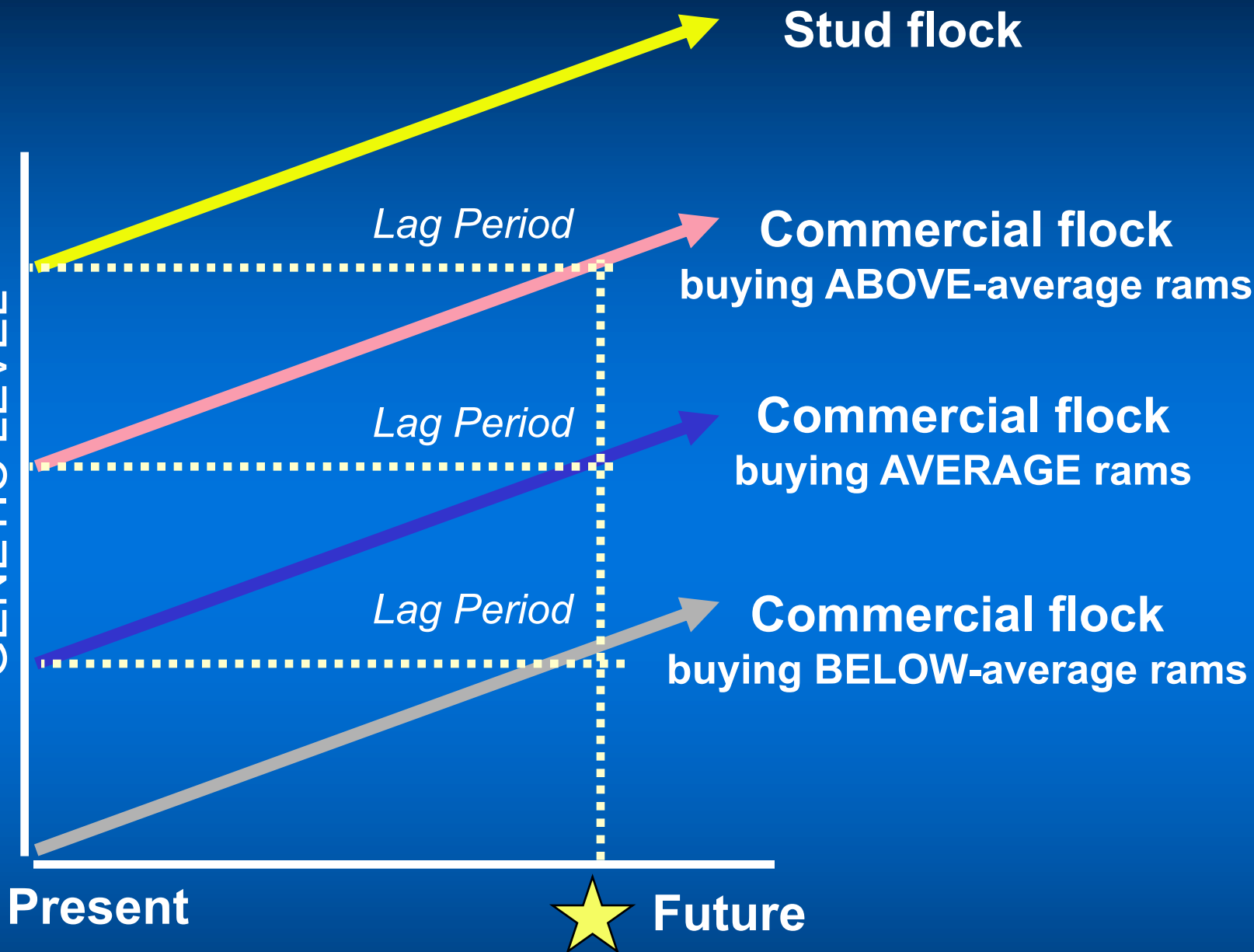
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GENETIC LEVEL





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1970's

- **Survey of stud breeding practices**
 - rates of adoption of objective measurement
 - ~15% of studs using measurements, and only on a small proportion of rams
- **Measurements of skin follicle traits**
 - early-age criteria for wool production potential?
 - not strong enough to be of practical use
- **Nucleus (group) breeding schemes**



The Australian Merino Society (AMS)

Ewes first contributed in	1967
No. of ewes mated at:	
Central nucleus	14,000
Rams breeding cooperatives (46)	100,000
No. of ewes mated in contributor flocks (700) in 1980	1.8 mill.
Ram breeding cooperatives in:	
WA	36
SA	5
NSW	1
Qld	2
Vic	2
Sale of rams to public	No

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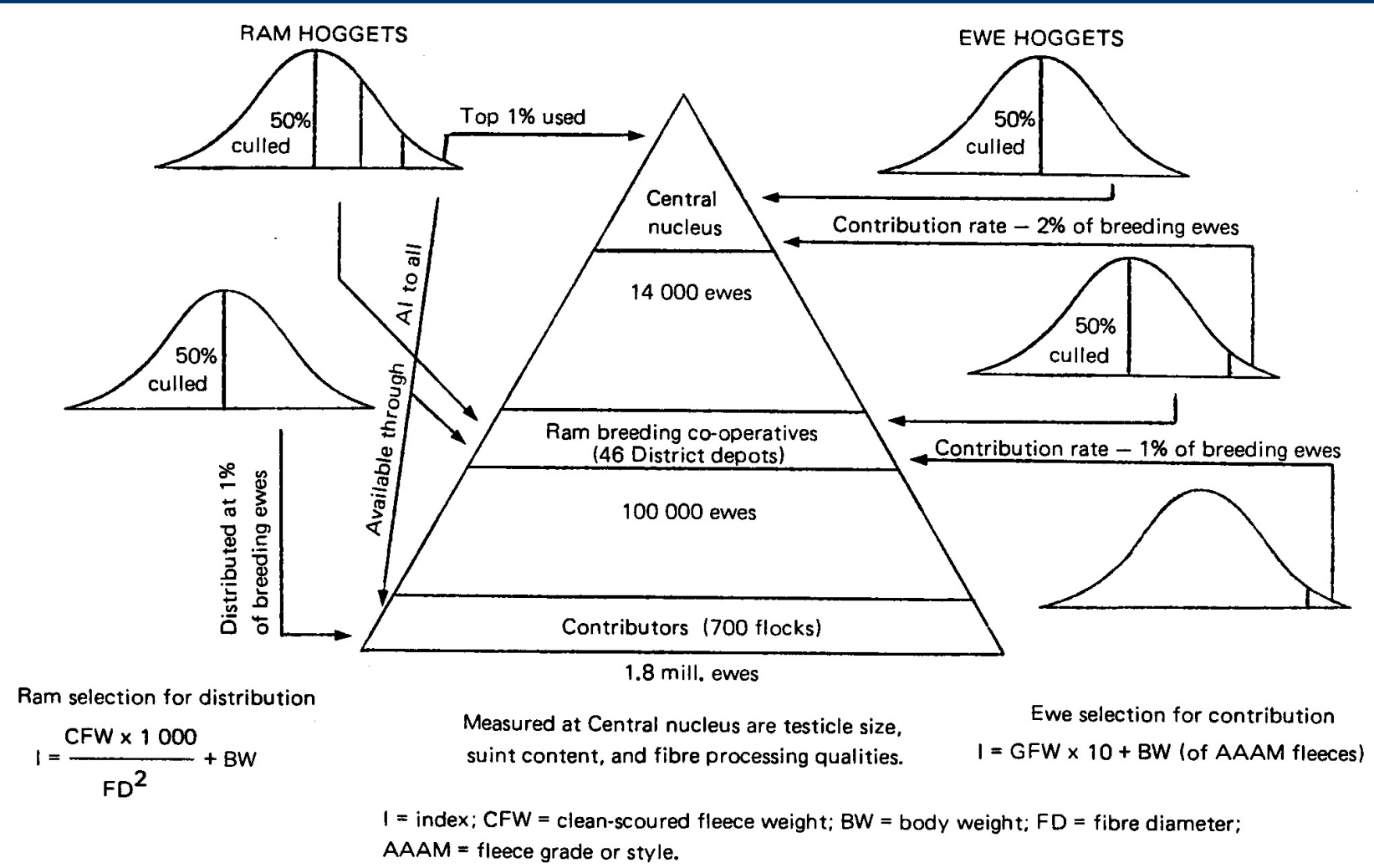


Fig. 1: The Australian Merino Society – 3-tiered ram breeding flock structure.