

**WYOMING WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION  
2017 WYOMING STATE RAM SALE RULES**

**1. GENERAL RULES**

- 1.1 ALL CONSIGNORS MUST BE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE WYOMING WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION WITH DUES FULLY PAID. The Active Membership fee is \$100.00.
- 1.2 All sheep must be bred and raised by Consignor.
- 1.3 THE WYOMING WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION reserves the right to reject any or all entries and the entry fee will be returned. The Association also reserves the right to limit the number of entries from the Consignor.
- 1.4 The WWGA disclaims liability for any injury to any person or property resulting from any cause, whatsoever, occurring on or about the sale grounds or premises, or as a result of the sale.
- 1.5 All sheep on the grounds are held at Consignor's risk until sold. Ownership changes when the sheep are sold in the ring.
- 1.6 Except in the instance of Certified Rams (see rule 3.2) and "Ram Sire Test" rams (see rule 3.4) all consignors must consign a minimum of 5 rams per breed. Other than in the instance of Certified Rams and/or "Ram Sire Test" rams, all consignors are limited to no more than two pens consisting of a single ram.
  - (a) New consignors must consign 5 head and no more than 5 head per breed. Non consignors from the previous year are considered new consignors.
  - (b) Each consignor will be allowed to designate TWO pens of TWO or THREE rams as a "Buyers Choice - A, B or A, B, C.
- 1.7 No Consignor can consign more than 30 head of range rams.
- 1.8 Rams must be shorn in the same year as the sale. The shearing date shall be declared upon entry.

**2. ENTRY FEES & SALE PREPARATION**

- 2.1 Entry fee will be \$10.00 per head for all rams. The entry fee is non-refundable and must be included at the time entries are received. The Association makes a charge of 10% (ten percent) of the sale price on all rams sold.
- 2.2 Upon signing of the entry blank, the Consignor of the sheep to the Wyoming State Ram Sale is agreeing to comply with the Rules and Terms of the sale. Willful violation of any of the Rules and Terms of the Sale, will automatically exclude the consignor from future Wyoming State Ram Sales. All warranties and guarantees are between buyer and seller.
- 2.3 In order to be cataloged, entries must be made with the Executive Director,

Wyoming Wool Growers Association by July 1, 2017. Please include your advertising copy at the time of your entry submission in order to advertise in the Wyoming Livestock Roundup Special Wyoming State Ram Sale Edition.

- 2.4 All sheep consigned to the sale must be on the grounds no earlier than 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 10th, and no later than 10:00 a.m. on Monday, September 11th. Sifting of rams will begin promptly on Monday at 12:00 p.m. Consignors MUST have sheep there and in pens by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Every Consignor (or their designee or representative) MUST be present and in the pen with their animals during sifting and MUST help move and hold animals in order to assist the sifting committee. Failure to be present and assist may result in disqualification from the sale. Consignors that come in before Sunday must notify the WWGA office at 265-5250 and will be charged \$40.00 for each day they arrive before Sunday.

### 3. CERTIFIED RAMS & RAM TEST RAMS

#### 3.1 Definitions:

- a. **Certified Ram:** A certified ram is a ram that has completed a certified Ram test and has met the criteria of the American Rambouillet Association for certification.
- b. **Certified Ram Criteria:** Registered Rams enrolled in a certified Ram test are eligible for the Certified Ram Classification if they meet the following:
  - Acceptable standards from the standpoint of body type, amount of body skin folds, freedom from anatomical weaknesses and wool defects, including extremely hairy britch or excessive amount of belly type wool.
  - Minimum of 4.0 inch staple length,
  - 9 pounds clean wool,
  - A core wool grade of 23.77 or less,
  - A maximum of 2.7 face cover score,
  - Must have gained at least 0.55 pounds per day on test, and
  - Must have at least one "R" in their Genotype
  - Must be in the top 30% on test
- c. **Ram Sire Test Rams:** Rams that participate in the Mountain States Lamb Cooperative / Wyoming Wool Growers Association / University of Wyoming Ram Sire Test held each year beginning in June. Rams must be born in the same year as the test is held.

3.2 Certified Rams will be sold before the range rams.

3.3 White face rams falling in the top 30% on test that meet the certified ram criteria can sell at the beginning of their respective breed. A copy of the test results with the index number must be included with the entry form.

3.4 Certified Rams can be consigned as single pens. Breeders with Certified Rams do not have to meet the five head minimum (see Rule 1.6). A consignor is limited to TWO Certified Rams. Selling order for Certified Rams will be

according to the American Rambouillet Association Index, with the highest indexing rams selling first. A copy of the test results with the index number must be included with the entry form.

- 3.5 Consignors with rams being allowed entry by virtue of their performance in the WWGA "Ram Sire Test" to do not have to meet the five head minimum rule (see Rule 1.6). The total number of "Ram Sire Test" rams allowed to sell in the Wyoming State Ram Sale will be determined annually by the Ram Sale Committee. For 2017, the Ram Sale committee has determined the top 25% of indexing rams on test will be allowed to sell at the Wyoming State Ram Sale.

#### 4. TERMS OF SALE

- 4.1 TERMS OF THE SALE: CASH Out-of-state buyers who have not purchased rams previously through the Wyoming State Ram Sale (WSRS) and have not established an acceptable record of sufficient funds being available for clearance of checks for purchases made at the WSRS **MUST** have a letter of credit from their bank PRIOR to being issued a buyers number. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE WWGA OFFICE AT 307-265-5250 PRIOR TO SALE DAY.
- 4.2 Private sales before or during the auction are strictly forbidden. On private sales made after the auction closes and while sheep are on the grounds, the regular commission will be collected. Consignors bringing extra rams to be sold outside the Sale will be denied the privilege of selling rams through future Association sales.
- 4.3 All purchases are to be settled on the day purchased, with the sale clerks on the grounds. Make all checks payable to the Wyoming Wool Growers Association. Any checks returned as "non-sufficient funds" are subject to a \$100.00 collection fee.
- 4.4 One bid shall not be considered an auction unless the Owner consents.
- 4.5 There is a \$30.00 per head "No Sale" fee. If Consignor "no sales" all of their sheep for two consecutive years they will be dropped from the sale the following year.
- 4.6 SETTLEMENT FOR ALL SHEEP SOLD THROUGH THE RING, OR PRIVATELY AFTER THE AUCTION HAS CLOSED, SHALL BE MADE WITH THE CLERK OF THE SALE.

#### 5. POST AUCTION RULES

- 5.1 No sheep can be released for shipment prior to the close of the sale without written orders from the sale management. No loading during the Ram Sale without having made prior arrangements with the sale management. No unsupervised loading.
- 5.2 Buyers must remove all sheep by 6:00 p.m. the evening of the sale or arrange

for facilities, care of the animals and a night watchman.

- 5.3 Any breed or breeder whose average price at last years' sale was considerably lower than the sales average will be asked to cut consignment at the discretion of the Ram Sale Committee.

## 6. HEALTH REQUIREMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 ALL sheep MUST be identified with USDA/APHIS Scrapie identification tags.
- 6.2. All sheep consigned to the Wyoming State Ram Sale must comply with all regulations of the Wyoming Livestock Board. In particular, ALL sheep must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary health inspection issued within thirty (30) days prior to the sale.
- 6.3 The minimum scrotal circumference for yearling rams must be 34 cm. and for lambs 30 cm.
- 6.4 **ALL** rams consigned to this sale shall have tested negative for *Brucella Ovis Epididymitis* by means of a ELISA BLOOD TEST WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE SALE **or** originate from a currently enrolled *Brucella Ovis* CERTIFIED-FREE FLOCK. All consignments must be accompanied by a copy of the *Brucella Ovis* lab test results from or, in the case of animals from a *b. ovis* certified free herd, proof of current compliance and active participation in the *b. ovis* certified free program. Lab test results forms must show the date of the test and identification numbers of rams corresponding to entries and must be signed by the attending veterinarian. We do not accept statements of *B. Ovis* status as simply noted on veterinary health certificates. The Elisa Blood Test is an accepted method of checking for epididymitis; however, it should not be considered to be a 100% guarantee of freedom from the disease.
- 6.5 All out-of-state sheep consigned to the sale must obtain an entry permit number (obtained from the Wyoming Livestock Board by calling 307-777-7515). The following statement must be included on the certificate of veterinary health inspection for out-of-state sheep: "the animals have been examined and are free of **Foot Rot**, and **Scrapie** is not known to have existed in the flock of origin within the past five (5) years." If **Scrapie** has been present in the flock of origin within the past five (5) years, the flock MUST be enrolled in a flock plan presented to and approved by the Wyoming State Veterinarian PRIOR to entry into Wyoming. Enrollment within such a flock plan MUST be noted on the veterinary health inspection form and a copy of the letter from the Wyoming State Veterinarian recognizing the flock plan must accompany the health inspection form. **OUT-OF-STATE CONSIGNORS MUST COMPLY WITH STATE OF WYOMING REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE IMPORTATION OF BLACK-FACE SHEEP INTO WYOMING. WLSB Rules can be viewed at <http://soswy.state.wy.us/Rules/RULES/8634.pdf>**
- 6.6 IT IS REQUIRED THAT ALL SHEEP BE TREATED FOR KEDS WITHIN 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SALE. If a Ked infestation is found, the ram(s) will be disqualified from the sale and must be removed from the premises.

- 6.7. It is RECOMMENDED that all rams receive a breeding soundness evaluation (BSE) examination of the semen for abnormalities.
- 6.8 The WWGA **strongly** believes that extreme docking (complete tail removal) is not an acceptable animal husbandry practice and should be eliminated. The WWGA has also stated its support for prohibitions against the allowance of animals which have been “short docked” at ALL exhibitions and sales throughout the country. It is strongly recommended that sheep be docked in such a manner that the tail is no shorter than one-half (1/2) inch in length, recognizing that most respected experts recommend a dock which results in at least a 1” tail.
- 6.9 **THE STATE RAM SALE COMMITTEE REDCOMMENDS AND ENCOURAGES THAT ALL RAMS CONSIGNED TO THE SALE BE ACCOMPANIED WITH A GENETIC TEST WHICH DESCRIBES THEIR RAMS GENETIC CHARACTERISTICS AT CODON171. GENETIC TESTING OF CODON171 HAS BEEN POSITIVELY SHOWN TO BE AN EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE INDICATOR OF ANIMAL RESISTANCE OR SUSCEPTIBILITY TO THE DISEASE SCRAPIE.**
- 6.10 THE SIFTING COMMITTEE WILL CHECK ALL SHEEP FOR SOUNDNESS AND FREEDOM FROM DISEASE AND WILL HAVE AUTHORITY TO REJECT ANY SHEEP THAT, IN THEIR ESTIMATION, ARE UNSOUND OR DISEASED OR DOES NOT MEET THE SHEARING QUALIFICATIONS. Selling or giving away sifted sheep during the sale or on the grounds will be prohibited and sifted sheep cannot be replaced for the sale. Standards of health and soundness are for the benefit of the seller and the buyer as well as the integrity of the sale.

### **“Central Performance Testing” of Rams and the GrowSafe® System**

Identification of superior genetics that are of economic importance to the U.S. sheep industry has long been cited as a goal of high importance by the industry. Most industry analysts and experts have agreed that there are two primary areas in this regard that should be further developed. In general terms, these are: (1) feedlot efficiency and performance; and, (2) increased muscling of market animals while selecting away from increased fat.

The advent of value-based marketing and increased emphasis on carcass quality and tenderness have brought about a paradigm shift in genetic selection of most species of livestock.

In most other livestock species, the use of “central performance tests” has become the norm for evaluating economic factors such as rate of gain in the feedlot, feed efficiency and genetic growth characteristics of importance to the overall industry.

In 2001, the WWGA recognized the need for, and benefits derived from, a Centralized Ram Performance Test (CRPT) focused on the specific needs of the value added and retail segments of the lamb industry. After carefully evaluating the current existing CRPT programs and facilities available to the U.S. sheep industry, the WWGA joined with the Mountain States Lamb Cooperative and the University of Wyoming Department of Animal Science and set about developing a new, industry driven, CRPT to be housed at the University of Wyoming Animal Science Research facility in Laramie,

WY.

The WWGA/MSLC/UW “Ram Sire Test” (RST) will complete its 16th RST in 2017, and most involved in the Test agree that it has exceeded the expectations of the organizers and sponsors, the consignors and purchasers of rams tested on the Test. Current information collected on the Test includes feedlot performance, as measured by Average Daily Gain (ADG) across the Test, as well as predictive carcass characteristics, as measured by ultrasound measurements of backfat and loin eye area.

One area of interest and importance that was not able to be measured in any practical or economical manner, and which may be one of the most important characteristics in terms of economic importance to the U.S. sheep industry, is feed efficiency as measured by pounds of feed converted to pounds of weight gain. One approach to increase profitability of sheep production is to improve the conversion of feed into weight gain.

Understanding the role of genetics in feed intake and growth rate is necessary to select sheep that are genetically superior for feed conversion. Approximately 25% of the variation in feed intake and in growth rate is genetically determined. Genes that increase growth rate also increase feed intake to a large extent. Therefore, the challenge is to develop selection procedures that have favorable outcomes, such as increasing growth rate without increasing feed intake.

The inability to measure this economically important trait changed with the advent of the GrowSafe<sup>®</sup> system. GrowSafe technology allows researchers, through an integration of advanced hardware and software, to collect feed intake and feeding behavior data on individual animals in typical commercial production environments.

The GrowSafe Feed Intake and Behavior Monitoring System monitors’ ***individual*** consumption and behavior by equipping each animal with a transponder (affixed to the ear) that is activated when in close proximity to an electromagnetic field provided by a GrowSafe Mat attached to the feeder. *The animal is identified and data is collected up to eight times per second at a 5 g resolution until the animal withdraws from the feeder.*

In 2008 the University of Wyoming purchased the first GrowSafe system to be specifically designed for application in sheep research. The WWGA/MSLC/UW Ram Sire Test was able to utilize this technology for the first time in 2009, and the Ram Sire Test rams offered in this year’s sale will be accompanied by individual feed intake data collected and compiled by the GrowSafe system.