

# Wyoming Wool Growers Association/ Mountain States Lamb Cooperative / UW Ram Sire Test

## RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. Rams must have been born in 2015. Suggested minimum weights on day of delivery are 70 pounds, although past tests suggest Rams weigh at least 100lbs for maximum results, due to pecking order and adjustment periods.
2. The following information is required for each ram consigned to the Test:
  - Flock Tag OR Individual Identification #
  - Scrapie Identification #**
  - Registration Number (if applicable)
  - Date of Birth
  - Type of Birth (single, twin, etc.)
  - Breed(s)
  - Registered or Commercial

3. Test Schedule:

The Test will run for 75 days, with a 14 day warm-up/adjustment period. The timeline is as follows:

### **SCHEDULE OF IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2015 WWGA/MSLC/UW "RAM SIRE TEST"**

June 1, 2015	Entry Forms w/\$25 per head non-refundable fee due UW
June 8-15, 2015	Rams to be delivered to Laramie for 14 day "warm up" period – balance payment of \$135 due.
June 22, 2015	Initial "Weigh on" Weight Taken – Rams on GrowSafe
July 13, 2015	Second Weigh Date
August 3, 2015	Third Weigh Date
August 24, 2015	Final Weigh Date – Rams Off Test
September 15, 2015	Wyoming State Ram Sale – Douglas, WY

As soon as data is put together to figure the top rams, rams should be picked up. If not picked up within 1 week, an additional fee will be charged.

4. It is recommended that all lambs be pre-weaned for a minimum of 7 to 10 days prior to delivery to the test facility. Lambs that have had access to creep feed or have been allowed to establish themselves on feed likely will transition to the feeding trial easier and with less stress than lambs who are weaned directly off their mothers or who are unaccustomed to feed other than milk and grass.

5. All rams will be thoroughly screened and sifted by a committee upon arrival for signs of any obvious health problems. Rams with obvious unsoundness such as bad mouths, bad feet or legs or poor testicular development and/or communicable diseases or obvious health problems will not be eligible for the Wyoming State Ram Sale and depending on health concerns may be removed from the Test. If health problem(s) arise during the test, the management will have the discretion of either treating animals (following consultation with owner/consignor) or segregating any animals with visible health problems and holding until pick up by owner/consignor. Any rams sifted due to unsoundness or health reasons must be picked up within 5 days notification by management. At the conclusion of the Test the sifting committee will sift all Rams qualified for the Wyoming State Ram Sale, to ensure soundness and health. Also all Rams must have a **Scrapie ID Tag upon arrival**.
6. Vaccination / Initial Preventative Treatment Program. The health and welfare of the animals on the Test is the #1 priority and concern of the Test management, above all other concerns and factors. Therefore, we have adopted a very rigorous and intensive health protocol. It has been our experience that failing to provide a full and complete health/vaccination treatment as part of the Test procedure is not acceptable. The management committee would request that producers vaccinate their lambs at home prior to arriving at the Test facility with at least two vaccinations of C&D, but in all cases the following preventative health regiment will be administered TO ALL RAMS upon arrival/within the first two weeks at the Test facility:

Vaccination with a killed respiratory viral vaccine such as Naselgen and C&D with tetanus is recommended. If lambs have been vaccinated for soremouth at the ranch, please advise the test managers upon arrival as they will not need to be re-vaccinated.

**Day of arrival:**

- > Vaccination with "Covexin 8" vaccine
  - > Vaccination w/a killed respiratory virus nasal vaccine
  - > Treatment for both internal and external parasites
  - > Vaccination w/soremouth vaccine
  - > Treatment w/a Vitamin A, D, B<sub>12</sub> injection
- Treatment w/weight appropriate does of "Probios" (rumen microbe inoculant)

**Day of initial "on Weigh" – Start of Test period (14 days following initial work-up above)**

- > Booster vaccination with C&D
- > Booster vaccination w/a killed respiratory virus nasal vaccine
- > 2<sup>nd</sup> treatment w/weight appropriate dose of Probios

In addition to the above, for the first five days following arrival at the Test facility, rams will be watered on tanks (rather than automatic waterers) that contain medicated water (albon- sulfadimethoxine). Following this initial five days, tanks will be pulled and rams will then be allowed access to automatic waterers.

In addition to the above, rams will have a low level of antibiotic (tetracycline) available to them at all times through the Test through the mineral program we have established. For the initial five day period (while rams are on medicated water), rams will be offered non-medicated mineral in order to assure that rams are not overdosed with antibiotics. The mineral program utilized by the Test has been specifically designed for our Test feed supplier.

A note about soremouth: The management of the Test recognizes that there may be a hesitation by some breeders/producers in the use of soremouth vaccine due to the issue of possible contamination of property or facilities once the vaccine is used. Irrespective of that, soremouth can be, and is, a real problem should an animal become infected, particularly to animals on performance or gain tests. It is also well recognized that good quality soremouth vaccines can be tremendously effective at preventing or lessening the effects of exposure to the soremouth organism. Therefore, the management of the Sire Test has made the decision that ALL rams will be vaccinated prior to the beginning of the Test, UNLESS THEY HAVE BEEN VACCINATED AT HOME. If rams have not been vaccinated, PLEASE make sure we know that, because the soremouth organism resides at the UW facility. Due to this, in all likelihood any unvaccinated animals will pick up the organism and show signs of the condition within a short time of arrival at the Test facility. The veterinary medical profession recommends vaccination when these conditions exist, which is why we have adopted this course of procedure.

7. Rams will be shorn at the Test facility in Laramie during the two week warm-up period. Cost for shearing is included in the test fee.
8. All out-of-state consignors must have a health certificate from licensed veterinarian and must also secure a brand inspection and an entry permit from the Wyoming Livestock Board. For more information, contact the Livestock Board directly at (307) 777-7515.
9. Lambs will be uniquely identified prior to the start of the Test. All rams will be weighed on the dates listed above and updates will be sent to owners/consignors immediately following weighing.
10. All rams will be observed a minimum of 2 times per day by University of Wyoming personnel.
11. No animal will be removed from the test due to poor performance and no ram shall be removed without the consent and approval of the management of the test. Untreatable health problems, unsoundness or falsification of information to the management by owners/consignors are the only valid reasons for withdrawal of an animal from the Test once it has begun.
12. Test factors to be evaluated will include: average daily gain, actual and adjusted loin eye area (as measured by ultrasound scan), backfat, scrotal circumference and weigh per day of age. We will report each animal's individualized data from the GrowSafe system. This will include pounds of feed consumed per day, conversion data as well as cost of gain. Final determination of factors to be evaluated and indices to be reported will be developed and decided by the University of Wyoming animal scientist and representatives of the WWGA and MSLC.

13. Scrotal circumference will be measured and reported. All rams will be checked for physical abnormalities.
14. It is recognized that rectal prolapse can be a problem with the rapidly growing animals and that a variety of factors can cause, or contribute to, rectal prolapse of animals (short docking of animals, environmental conditions, genetic predisposition, etc.) If a ram prolapses, the owner of the animal will be contacted and consulted as to treatment. In many cases, repair is not an option or is futile. The decision on what to do with a prolapsed animal will be made between the University personnel charged with the day-to-day care of the rams and the owner of the animal.
15. ALL SHEEP COMING TO THE 2015 WWGA/MSLC/UW "RAM SIRE TEST" MUST HAVE WHAT THE RAM TEST MANAGEMENT CONSIDERS AN "ACCEPTABLE DOCK". IT IS WELL UNDERSTOOD THAT EXTREME SHORT DOCKING IS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO RECTAL PROLAPSE. ANY RAM WHICH IS SHORTER THAN THE RECOGNIZED ACCEPTABLE LENGTH FOR THE COMMERCIAL SHEEP INDUSTRY AND WHICH THE TEST MANAGEMENT BELIEVES MAY HAVE A PREDISPOSITION FOR RECTAL PROLAPSE WILL BE PENNED SEPARATELY AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON THE TEST. RAMS REMOVED FOR INADEQUATE TAIL LENGTH SHALL BE PROMPTLY REMOVED BY THE OWNER UPON NOTIFICATION BY THE RAM TEST MANAGEMENT. IT WILL BE THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE RAM TEST MANAGEMENT WHETHER OR NOT A RAM HAS AN ACCEPTABLE TAIL LENGTH. IT IS IMPORTANT TO RE-EMPHASIZE THAT IT IS THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE RAM TEST MANAGEMENT AS TO ADEQUACY OF TAIL LENGTH FOR RAMS PARTICIPATING ON THE WWGA/MSLC/UW RAM SIRE TEST, AND TEST MANAGEMENT DECISIONS IN THIS REGARD ARE FINAL AND NOT SUBJECT TO REVIEW OR DEBATE.
16. Should an animal die prior to July 13<sup>th</sup>, one-half (50%) of the entry fee will be refunded. If an animal dies, the owner will be contacted immediately by University of Wyoming personnel and they will have the option to have it necropsied at their own expense.
17. Formal protest for any action of the Test must be made in writing to the Executive Committee of the Ram Sire Test at 811 N Glenn Rd., Casper, WY 82601. The Executive Committee consists of the President and President Elect of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, one representative of the Mountain States Lamb Cooperative and the Head of the Department of Animal Science at the University of Wyoming (or his designee). Written protest must be received within 15 days of occurrence of the event in protest. The executive Committee will review any protest and their decision will be final.