



Laramie Research and Extension Center
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February 12, 2018

TO: Ram Test Consignors

From: Whit Stewart, PhD., Extension Sheep Specialist, 307-766-5374, whit.stewart@uwyo.edu

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Ram Test Participant:

Ram test has progressed rapidly, and the rams look impressive. As rams begin to plateau on their growth trajectory I would have expected to see gains slow and fattier rams however, they don't appear to be entering the final 28 days overfat. I've also been impressed with the staple length and follicle density and anticipate heavy shearing fleeces in a month. Wyoming produced the highest valued wool clip in 2017 according to the recently released USDA-NASS Sheep and Goat Report, and that is apparent looking at these rams.

With wool being at a premium this year I hope our conversations in the industry highlight the fact that ram test provides a rigorous selection tool at improving fleece characteristics. Even with improved genetic selection tools such as NSIP, the combined high heritability of fleece traits in a centralized performance test setting still result in rapid genetic improvement in addition to comparing across flock performance.

A couple of ram test reminders:

Trimming hooves 2-13-2018

Face, belly, and staple length scoring will be around the week of March 5th

Shearing will be around the week of March 5th

Last weigh date will be March 12th

Scoring and ultrasounds the week of March 12th

Reminder that the field day is scheduled for April 7th.

If you are planning on registering rams, Kalli needs to have information ASAP.

In a semi-related note we are ramping up 4-H wool judging throughout the state in addition to making preparations for a collegiate wool judging team this fall. If you are able to donate a couple of fleeces we would really appreciate it. Fleeces of any type are appreciated especially finer grades (70's to 62's) with a

minimum of 3 inch staple, and coarser grades (58s to 46s) with approx. 4 inch staple. We even appreciate dirty lower yielding fleeces for the grading rail.

As always call if you have any questions/concerns.

Best

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Whit Stewart', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Whit Stewart
Kalli Koepke
Doug Zalesky.