

**TO: Potential Ram Test Cooperators**

**FROM: Kalli Koepke, Shepherd UW LREC**

**Scott Lake, Ph.D., Interim Director LREC**

**Whit Stewart, Ph.D., Extension Sheep Specialist**

**SUBJECT: The 2018-2019 ANNUAL RAM PERFORMANCE TEST**

The 57<sup>th</sup> annual ram performance test will be conducted by the University of Wyoming Laramie Research and Extension Center at the LREC Livestock Center in Laramie. The **delivery date** for rams in this year's test will be **October 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>**. **The Field Day is tentatively scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

Those wishing to participate in the pilot test period of a range-based test period need to have lambs delivered **September 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>**. This initial period will not be part of the overall ram test, rather it will serve as pilot project to test protocols (e.g. Smart Feeder Technology) to be used in future tests. A separate summary report will be provided at the end of ram test. For additional info on the range-based test protocol please contact Dr. Stewart 307-766-5374 or whit.stewart@uwyo.edu.

The test is open to all breeds. The purpose of central performance testing is to generate data to be used as a selection tool. Thus, it's highly recommended that ram lambs be consigned from multiple sires (e.g. 3-5 ram lambs per sire). Similarly, to place selection pressure on reproductive efficiency, consigning twin born rams is recommended in the absence of NSIP estimated breeding values (EBV's). The animals may be registered or non-registered. Only registered rams will be eligible for the American Rambouillet Sheep Breeders/Association Registry of Merit Program.

**Test fees are due on or before the day of delivery of rams.**

**Cost:** Charges will be **\$295.00** per head for **registered animals** that are eligible to participate in the Registry of-Merit Program plus **\$5.00 per head for the jackpot** for a total fee of **\$300.00**. **Non-registered** rams will pay **\$295.00** per head. This will cover feed, care and veterinary attention for the 140-day test period, the ten-day warm-up period ahead of the test and the three-week period between the completion of the test and the field day. Additionally fee covers cost of wool analysis from Yocom McColl Testing Laboratories Denver, CO.

**Jackpot!** \$5.00 per head, **½ of the proceeds go toward the scholarship fund to help a junior enter a ram in the ram test.** Only rams eligible for Registry of Merit Program must pay the \$5.00.

Junior participants will pay **\$190.00** for their first ram on test and then **\$295.00** for subsequent rams entered.

**Please make checks payable to the Wyoming Wool Growers Association.**

Wool from both shearing's will be sold by the University to help pay for shearing costs.

**Health:** It would be suggested that rams be introduced to feed before delivery. The animals will be vaccinated against **enterotoxemia** and sore mouth shortly after arrival and will be drenched for internal parasites. However, it would help the animal's adjustment to ensure that rams are free of parasites and have been vaccinated for **enterotoxemia at least two weeks** before delivery and their feet are trimmed. **Please indicate on your entry form if rams have been vaccinated for any of the above or if they have been drenched.**

**Note:** All rams need to have your scrapie tag in their ear when they are delivered. At the end of the test an ultrasonic evaluation of fat thickness and loin eye will be obtained and reported. All rams will be tested for Brucella Ovis and scrapie genotyped at the end of the test.

**Field Day:** The Wyoming Ram Performance Test Field Day will be held tentatively on **April 13, 2019**, about three weeks after completion of the test. The morning program will include inspection of the test rams and analysis of their records. Lunch will be served. During the three-week period between the completion of the test and the field day the rams will be full fed grass hay. Owners will be able to pick their rams up the day of the field day. There will be a silent auction for any ram that was on test.

#### SCEHDULE 2018-2019

*September 10-13	<b>Early delivery for range based test (September 15 to October 15<sup>th</sup>)</b>
October 5-8	Rams to be delivered to UW LREC Livestock Center
October 15-19	Rams Shorn
October 22	Rams weighed and started on test
November 19	28-day weighing
November 26-30	Rams hooves trimmed
December 17	56-day weighing
January 14	84-day weighing
February 11	114-day weighing
February 11-15	Rams hooves trimmed
March 11	End of test- weighing
March 11-22	Rams scored and shorn
April 13	<b>Field Day- rams picked up by owners Silent auction</b>

#### **REGULATIONS FOR UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING RAM TEST 2018-2019**

1. Ram lambs will be delivered to the Livestock Center on October 5-8th, 2018. The Livestock Center is located southwest of Laramie on Highway 230.
2. Rams will be shorn on October 15-19, and then weighed and started on official test Monday, October 22, 2018.
3. Rams will be on test for 140 days and will be weighed off test on Monday, March 11, 2019.

4. Individual fleeces will be cored for yield and grade and samples will be taken for staple length. Wool will be processed by Yocom McColl Testing Labs Inc..
5. Feed. The rams will be self-fed a mixed ration primarily composed of alfalfa, corn, and soyhull based grower pellet with free choice mineral premix provided
6. Liability. All animals remain the property of the cooperator. The University of Wyoming will make every effort to take proper care of the animals and to provide proper veterinary services, but it will not be responsible for any losses occurring during the test. In the event of a major health problem, the appropriate cooperator will be contacted as soon as possible for direction for disposal. If a ram is removed from test for health reasons, or dies on test, a partial refund of the entry fee will be made.

Refund Schedule

Day 0-49	\$150.00	October 23- December 11
Day 50-99	\$125.00	December 12- January 30
Day 100 to end of test	\$0.00	January 31-

7. Feeding and management of the rams on test will be under the supervision of Dr. Doug Zalesky, Dr. Whit Stewart, and Ms. Kalli Koepke
8. All rams will have scrapie identification tags in their ears and the number recorded on the entry form at the time of delivery to the University farm.

FOR RAMBOUILLET RAM OWNERS

1. For Rambouillet rams consigned- all necessary procedures and rules for establishing Certified Rams and Registry of Merit Sire will be followed.
2. All Rambouillet rams MUST BE REGISTERED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE TEST STARTS to be eligible as Certified rams.
3. If a Rambouillet entered in the Certified Sire program qualifies as a certified ram, he must be classified with the American Rambouillet Association as a certified ram. The owner will be billed for \$15.00 classification fee, as this program has been set up to carry itself without additional cost to the Association.
4. Breeders submitting rams for testing would submit a statement containing their INTENTION OF ENTERING RAMS IN THE CERTIFIED SIRE PROGRAM before the testing begins and list birth dates accompanying the flock or ear tag numbers.

Please send ram test entry forms along with the sheep. If you need more forms, just drop us a line. Payment should accompany rams. Please make check payable to the Wyoming Wool Growers Association. The following rams that are entered on the attached sheet will be tested under the program and covered under the contract illustrated in the text above.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kalli Koepke; 307-766-3706 (719-314-6571 cell), Doug Zalesky; 307-766-3665, or Whit Stewart; 307-766-5374.

Thanks

Kalli Koepke  
Doug Zalesky  
Whit Stewart