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**WYOMING WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

811 N. GLENN ROAD • CASPER, WYOMING 82601 • PHONE (307) 265-5250 • FAX (307) 234-9701

[WWW.WYOWOOL.ORG](http://WWW.WYOWOOL.ORG) • [wyo wool@wyowool.org](mailto:wyo wool@wyowool.org)

## WWGA/Mountain States/UW Completes Another Successful Ram Sire Test

*77 Rams Post Impressive Numbers*

The Wyoming Wool Growers Association wrapped up its tenth annual Ram Sire Test, held in cooperation with the University of Wyoming Department of Animal Science and the Mountain States Lamb Cooperative, in Laramie on Thursday, August 26, 2010.

A total of 77 ram lambs born in 2010 from 7 consignors successfully completed the 75-day Test and posted some of the best results in the history of the Test. The overall average rate of gain on this year's Test was .97 pounds per head per day, which was very near the all time high mark of 1.04#/day set in 2005. The rams were fed a ration specially formulated by UW Animal Science nutritionists which is designed to grow the rams without putting on excessive fat.

The Test measured several economically important traits including Average Daily Gain (ADG), Loin Eye Area (LEA) and Back Fat (BF) as measured by ultrasound. Rams were weighed at 25-day intervals during the Test and measured at the conclusion of the Test by ultrasound. In addition to all of the data collected as described, for the first time possibly in the world, all of the rams passing through this years Ram Sire Test will also have GrowSafe data, which describes the actual cost of gain for each animal (see separate article on GrowSafe)

A unique aspect of the WWGA/MSLC/UW Ram Sire Test was the use of an overall performance index, which combines the animals genetic potential for muscling and it's performance in the feedlot and includes the loin eye area per cwt multiplied by the average daily gain. Rams are initially sorted using a preliminary Performance Index, with the top 50% then being visually appraised in order to determine the final order.

Using this criteria and procedure, the high overall performance indexing ram was a Hampshire ram from the University of Wyoming. The February 2010 buck lamb posted an overall performance index ratio of 127.19. This tremendous individual posted other scores which included: an ADG across the 75-days of the Test of 1.26 lbs/day; Final Weight= 234.0 lbs, and had a loin eye area of 4.97 sq. inches, second largest of all the rams on the test.

The high indexing ram of UW was closely followed by a ram lamb consigned by Allison Ramsbottom of Kaycee, WY. This large-framed, growthy Suffolk X Hampshire lamb posted a Final Index score 123.61 and had a LEA of 4.58 and had the exact same ADG as the UW buck of 1.26#s/day.

The ram with the largest LEA was a consignment from Allison Ramsbottom with a LEA of 4.98". The high ram in terms of ADG on this year's Test was another Ramsbottom ram with a ADG of 1.27#s/day while on the 75-day Test.

The top 21 rams from this year's Test are eligible to sell in the Wyoming State Ram Sale in Douglas on September 14, 2010. Sheep producers from across the country will have the opportunity to purchase these top rams at that sale with all of the performance information from the Test available for their review.

For more information or complete Test results, contact the WWGA's office at 307-265-5250, by email at [wyowool@wyowool.org](mailto:wyowool@wyowool.org), or Test results can be downloaded from the Association's website at [www.wyowool.org](http://www.wyowool.org).



Pictured is the high indexing ram lamb of the 2010 WWGA/MSLC/UW "Ram Sire Test". The ram is consigned by UW and will be offered for sale in the upcoming WWGA Wyoming State Ram Sale, September 14<sup>th</sup> in Douglas, WY