

TO: Potential Ram Test Cooperators

FROM: Kalli Koepke, Shepherd UW LREC

Scott Lake, Ph.D., Interim Director LREC

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SUBJECT: The 2019-2020 ANNUAL RAM PERFORMANCE TEST

The 58th 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** of rams for the **grazing trial** will be **August 26th-28th**. The **delivery date** of rams for the **2019-2020 Annual Ram Performance Test** will be **October 6th- 9th**. **The Field Day is tentatively scheduled for April 4th or 11th 2020.**

Those wishing to participate in the pilot test period of a range-based test period need to have lambs delivered **August 26th to 28th**. 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 4th or 11th, 2020**, about four 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 2019-2020

August 26-28	Deliver rams for grazing trial
September 2	Bond rams to Smart Feeders
September 9	Initial weight for grazing trial
October 11-14	Rams delivered for 2019-2020 WFRT
October 14-18	Rams Shorn/New Rams Warm-up for Grow Safe Trial
October 21	Initial weight/Final weight for grazing trial/Warm-up for Grow Safe Trial
October 28	Start of Grow Safe trial
November 18	28-day weighing
November 25-30	Rams hooves trimmed
December 16	56-day weighing
January 6	End of Grow Safe Trial
January 13	84-day weighing
February 10	112-day weighing
February 17-21	Rams hooves trimmed
March 9	Final Weight
March 10-20	Rams scored and shorn
April 4 or 11	Field Day- rams picked up by owners
	Silent auction

REGULATIONS FOR UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING RAM TEST 2019-2020

1. Ram lambs will be delivered to the Livestock Center on October 11-14th, 2019. The Livestock Center is located southwest of Laramie on Highway 230.
2. Rams will be shorn on October 14-18, and then weighed and started on official test Monday, October 21, 2019.
3. Rams will be on test for 140 days and will be weighed off test on Monday, March 9, 2020.
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 cooperators. 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 21- December 9
Day 50-99	\$125.00	December 10- January 28
Day 100 to end of test	\$0.00	January 29-

7. Feeding and management of the rams on test will be under the supervision of 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; 719-314-6571 or kkoepke@uwyo.edu, or Whit Stewart; 307-766-5374.

Thanks

Kalli Koepke
Whit Stewart