

TO: Potential Ram Test Cooperators

FROM: Kalli Koepke, Shepherd UW LREC- 719-314-6571

Travis Smith, Supervisor UW LREC- 307-399-7674

Scott Lake, Ph.D., Director LREC- 307-460-8129

Whit Stewart, Ph.D., Extension Sheep Specialist- 307-766-5374

SUBJECT: The 2020-2021 ANNUAL RAM PERFORMANCE TEST

The 59th 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 **2020-2021 Annual Ram Performance Test** will be **October 9th- 11th**. **The Field Day is tentatively scheduled for April 3rd, 2021.**

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.

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 3rd, 2021**, 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 2020-2021

October 9-11	Rams delivered for 2020-2021 WFRT
October 12-16	Rams Shorn
October 19	Initial weight
November 16	28-day weighing/Warm up growsafe
November 23	Start of growsafe trial- weigh rams on
November 30-4	Rams hooves trimmed
December 14	56-day weighing
December 18	Last day Registrations can be turned in to be eligible for Certification
January 4	End of Grow Safe Trial/weigh rams off
January 11	84-day weighing
February 8	112-day weighing
February 8-12	Rams hooves trimmed
March 8	Final Weight
March 8-15	Rams scored and shorn
April 3	Field Day- rams picked up by owners Silent auction

REGULATIONS FOR UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING RAM TEST 2020-2021

1. Ram lambs will be delivered to the Livestock Center on October 9-11th, 2020. The Livestock Center is located southwest of Laramie on Highway 230.
2. Rams will be shorn on October 12-16, and then weighed and started on official test Monday, October 19, 2020.
3. Rams will be on test for 140 days and will be weighed off test on Monday, March 9, 2021.
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 19- December 7
Day 50-99	\$125.00	December 8- January 27
Day 100 to end of test	\$0.00	January 28-

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. There will not be exceptions this year!**
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