

TO: Potential Ram Test Cooperators

FROM: Kalli Koepke, Doug Zalesky

SUBJECT: The 2013-2014 ANNUAL RAM PERFORMANCE TEST

The 52nd 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 **September 21st -23rd**. **The Field Day is tentatively scheduled for March 10th, 2014.**

The test is open to all breeds. The performance information collected will be more useful if more than one son per sire is tested. 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 **\$300.00** 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 **\$305.00**. **Non-registered** rams will pay **\$300.00** per head. This will cover feed, care and veterinary attention for the 140-day test period, the twelve-day warm-up period ahead of the test and the two-week period between the completion of the test and the field day.

We are shortening the total length of the testing period, from the day the rams come in until the field day this year. The "on-test" period will stay the same, 140 days. This is an effort to reduce the overall amount of feed necessary and subsequently reduce the cost of the test. Funds left over at the end of the test will be distributed back to consignors.

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 **\$300.00** for subsequent rams entered

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. This year, the scarpie genotyping (if the ram has not been genotyped) will be at the consignor's expense. We will try to get the cost reduced as much as possible. There are no state federal funds available for genotyping this year.

Field Day: The Wyoming Ram Performance Test Field Day will be held tentatively on **March 10, 2014**, 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 alfalfa/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 2013-2014

September 21-23	Rams to be delivered to UW LREC Livestock Center
October 3	Rams Shorn
October 7	Rams weighed and started on test
November 4	28-day weighing
November 10-16	Rams hooves trimmed
December 2	56-day weighing
December 30	84-day weighing
January 27	113-day weighing
February 2-8	Rams hooves trimmed
February 24	End of test- weighing
February 24-28	Rams scored and shorn
March 10	Field Day- rams picked up by owners Silent auction

REGULATIONS FOR UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING RAM TEST 2013-2014

1. Ram lambs will be delivered to the Livestock Center on September 21-23, 2014. The Livestock Center is located southwest of Laramie on Highway 230.
2. Rams will be shorn on October 3, and then weighed and started on official test Monday, October 7, 2014.
3. Rams will be on test for 140 days and will be weighed off test on Monday, February 24, 2014.
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 pelleted ration composed of barley, dehy-alfalfa, soy hulls, beet pulp with the balance consisting of salt, ammonium chloride, Vit ADE premix. The first load will contain a coccidiostat and the second load will contain and antibiotic.

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 7- November 25
Day 50-99	\$125.00	November 26- January 14
Day 100 to end of test	\$0.00	January 15-

7. Feeding and management of the rams on test will be under the supervision of Dr. Doug Zalesky and 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 University of Wyoming. 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) or Doug Zalesky; 307-766-3665.

Thanks

Kalli Koepke
Doug Zalesky