

TO: Potential Ram Test Cooperators
FROM: Scott Lake, Bob Stobart
SUBJECT: The 2012-2013 ANNUAL RAM PERFORMANCE TEST
DATE: August 20, 2012

The **51st** annual ram performance test will be conducted by the University of Wyoming Animal Science Department at the UW Livestock Center in Laramie. The **delivery date** for rams in this year's test will be **September 29-30th**. **The Field Day is tentatively scheduled for March 18, 2013.**

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 **\$270** per head for **registered animals** that are eligible to participate in the Registry of Merit Program and **\$5.00** per head for the jackpot for a total of **\$275**. **Non-registered** rams will pay **\$270** 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 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.

Junior participants will pay \$190 for their first ram on test and then \$270 per ram 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 that 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 scrapie 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 18, 2013**, 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 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.

SCHEDULE 2012-2013

September 29 & 30th	Rams to be delivered to UW Livestock Center
October 5	Rams shorn
October 8	Rams weighed and started on test
November 5	28-day weighing
December 3	56-day weighing
December 31	84-day weighing
January 28	112-day weighing
February 11 (?)	Score ram faces
February 25	End of test - weighing
February 25	Scoring of Rams and then shearing
March 18	Field Day - rams picked up by owners Silent auction

REGULATIONS FOR UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING RAM TEST 2012-2013

1. Ram lambs will be delivered to the Livestock Center on September 29 and 30th, 2012. The Livestock Center is located southwest of Laramie on Highway 230.
2. Rams will be shorn on October 5, and then weighed and started on official test Monday, October 8, 2012.
3. Rams will be on test for 140 days and will be weighed off test on Monday, February 25, 2013.
4. Individual fleeces will be cored for yield and grade. Core samples will be processed by Yocom McColl Testing Labs Inc. Staple length will be determined from side samples at the University Wool Laboratory.
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 an 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	October 1 to November 18
Day 50-99	\$125	November 19 to January 6
Day 100 to end of test	\$ 0	January 7 -

7. Feeding and management of the rams on test will be under the supervision of Scott Lake and Bob Stobart
8. **NEW!!! RFI DATA FOR ALL RAMS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL REPORT**
9. **All rams must 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.
- 5.
6. **NEW!!!! The Wyoming Rambouillet Association decided that for a ram to certify, it must have a face score of 2.5 or less and a wrinkle score of 2.5 or less.**

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 Scott Lake 307-766-3892; Bob Stobart; 307-766-5212 (307-399-2512 cell).

Thanks

Scott Lake
Bob Stobart