

MEMORANDUM

TO: Potential Ram Test Cooperators
FROM: Dan Waldron & Reid Redden
SUBJECT: 2017-2018 Annual Ram Performance Test
DATE: AUGUST 2, 2017

The 2017-2018 test will be conducted at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension center at San Angelo. We have adequate facilities to test approximately 80 rams. If entries exceed our capacity here at San Angelo, we will either limit the number of entries or explore different options. The calendar will remain similar to previous years.

The annual ram performance test will be conducted by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension at San Angelo. The **delivery date** for rams in this year's test will be **September 11, 2017**.

The test is designed to evaluate post-weaning performance of ram lambs born from October through April. The test is open to all breeds, but based on the type of data collected, it is more useful for finewool breeds. The performance information obtained will be more useful if more than one son per sire is tested. The animals may be registered or non-registered. Animals should be lambs at the start of the test, and those showing yearling teeth will not be accepted. Cooperators who plan to enter more than 20 animals are requested to give advance notice to Dan Waldron.

Test fees are due on, or before, the day of delivery of rams.

It is suggested that lambs be introduced to feed before delivery. The lambs will be drenched for internal parasites and vaccinated for enterotoxemia immediately after arrival. However, it might prove to the producer's advantage to ensure that rams are free of parasites and have been vaccinated for enterotoxemia **at least two weeks** before delivery. Rams should not be shorn immediately before delivery and **should have at least a half-inch of wool** at the delivery date. All wool shorn will be available for producers to pick up.

Rams will be examined and tested for epididymitis before entering the test. Producers may wish to have their animals tested prior to delivery for their own information. However, all rams will be re-bled after arriving at the station. Blood samples will be sent to an appropriate laboratory for evaluation. The cost of this testing will be included in the total costs. In so far as facilities permit, the animals will be maintained in separate groups until this has been accomplished.

After the rams are officially weighed on test, breeders are requested to leave the rams on test except for reasons of health as determined by Station personnel. The rams will be fed in large groups.

The rams will be self-fed a commercially prepared and pelleted ration. This year's feed will be composed of the following:

2017-2018 Ram Test Ration (pelleted)

	Amount (as fed, lbs/ton)	Percent (as fed)
Alfalfa, dehy, 17% CP	580	28.86
Cottonseed hulls	480	23.88
Cottonseed meal	150	7.46
Molasses, cane	100	4.97
Sorghum, grain	500	24.88
Soybean meal, 44% CP	150	7.46
Ammonium chloride	10	0.49
Calcium carbonate	10	0.49
TM salt	20	0.97
Vitamin A	1	0.05
Binder	50	0.30
	2051	100.0

At the time of delivery, rams should have their scrapie tags. Breeders should provide as much information as possible on their animal(s); such as their *date of birth, sire, type of birth and age of dam*. IF THIS INFORMATION IS NOT SUPPLIED BEFORE THE INITIAL WEIGH DAY, RAMS WILL BE CONSIDERED UNREGISTERED RAMS.

The test will be conducted on a self-sustaining basis. Texas A&M AgriLife will not purchase feed using state funds. An account known as the Ram Test Feed Account will be maintained. **Checks and entry forms should be brought with the rams. Make checks payable to: Ram Test Feed Account.**

An initial deposit of **\$375.00** per animal will be required and is expected to cover the cost of testing. Any unused funds will be returned after the test is completed. If costs exceed the initial deposit, cooperators will be billed for the difference. A separate accounting will be made for each cooperator, but since the lambs will be group-fed, the feed intake will be based on averages. **Because feed purchases must be made in advance of the test, it is required that payment be received on or before delivery day.**

Additional copies of the entry form can be printed from the ram test webpage:
sanangelo.tamu.edu (Click on 'Performance Tests' link)

Proposed schedule for Texas A&M Ram Test

Delivery date	September 11, 2017
Shear	September 26, 2017
Weigh on Test	September 27, 2017
Weigh Days	November 15, 2017 January 3, 2018
Final Weigh Day	February 14, 2018
Shear	February 15, 2018

An entry form is attached. If you wish to enter rams in the test, please fill out and return the form or deliver with the rams. Additional information can be obtained from:

Drs. Dan Waldron, Reid Redden
Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center
7887 U.S. Highway 87 N.
San Angelo, Texas 76901-9714
Phone: (325) 653-4576 (ext. 221 Waldron, ext. 224 Redden)
E-Mail: d-waldron@tamu.edu

American Rambouillet Sheep Breeders' Association Registry of Merit Program

Only registered rams born between October 1, 2016 and April 30, 2017 will be eligible for the American Rambouillet Sheep Breeders' Association Registry of Merit Program. Fall born lambs that weigh less than 135 lbs and spring born lambs that weigh less than 100 lbs on the initial weigh day will not be eligible for certification. Codon 171 (scrapie) genotype must be submitted in order for rams to be certified. ROM Index will be used to determine which rams are eligible to be certified. Contact the ARSBA for further details on current ROM requirements. **If you want your rams to be considered for the ARSBA's program, sign the declaration at the bottom of the entry form.**

2017 - 2018 RAM PERFORMANCE TEST ENTRY FORM

TO: Texas A&M AgriLife Research

Date: _____

I hereby make application for entry of _____ rams in the Performance Test beginning in September, 2017. Enclosed is a deposit of \$375.00 per animal, totaling \$_____ to the Ram Test Feed Account to cover all or part of the cost. I agree to the terms specified in the attached letter.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Registered or Commercial	Flock No.	Scrapie Tag No.	BREED	Date of Birth	Type of birth	SIRE ID	Dam's Age
R or C							
R or C							
R or C							
R or C							
R or C							
R or C							
R or C							
R or C							
R or C							
R or C							
R or C							

*** Please show type of Birth: S (single), TW (twin), TR (triplet)**

Sign the following ONLY if you want your rams to be considered for the ARSBA's Registry of Merit Program

DECLARATION OF INTENT, ARSBA REGISTRY OF MERIT PROGRAM

I hereby declare my intention to enter the above rams for testing and consideration as candidates in the Certified and Registry of Merit Program. All animals are registered or may be registered by the American Rambouillet Sheep Breeders' Association and were born between October 1, 2016 and April 30, 2017.

I understand and agree that these animals will be sifted by a Committee who will have authority to remove any and all unqualified animals from consideration for Certified or Registry of Merit ram.

Signed: _____