

## 2009 Dakota Fall Ram Test Program

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*Dr. Christopher Schauer, NDSU, Hettinger Research Extension Center*

*Dave Pearson, NDSU, Hettinger Research and Extension Center*

*Dr. Jeff Held, SDSU, Sheep Extension Specialist*

The 2009 Dakota Fall Ram Test will be held at the Hettinger Research Extension Center in Hettinger, ND. Chris Schauer and Dave Pearson will serve as the test managers.

Cost. The cost per ram is \$200.00, \$25.00 per ram at entry and the balance upon delivery at the test site. This will cover feed, management, veterinary attention, and wool testing. Wool from both shearings will be sold by the Ram Test to help cover shearing costs. **If you need DNA testing done by the HREC please notify Dave or Chris. You will be billed separately for those fees.**

Health. Rams will be vaccinated against enterotoxemia and sore mouth shortly after arrival. All rams will be drenched for internal parasites. Please indicate on your entry form if rams have been vaccinated for any of the above or if they have been drenched.

In order to comply with North Dakota health regulations, all rams will be tested for Brucella ovis (ELISA) at the end of the performance test. Lambs over 6 months of age at the beginning of the test must be tested for B. Ovis before they can be accepted in the station or originate from a certified B. Ovis free flock. **All animals must be accompanied by COMPLETED TEST ENTRY FORM, health papers, and originate from a footrot and scrapie free flock. Federal I.D. tag must be in animal's ear and listed in the health paper.**

### SCHEDULE 2009 DAKOTA FALL RAM TEST (Dates Subject to Change)

September 10 - September 28	Rams to be delivered to the HREC
October 1, 2009	Rams shorn
October 5, 2009	Rams weighed and started on test
November 2, 2009	28 day weighing
November 30, 2009	56 day weighing
December 28, 2009	84 day weighing
	trim hooves and re-vaccinate
January 25, 2010	112 day weighing
February 4, 2010	wool samples, staple, scoring
February 22, 2010	140 day weighing - End of growth test period
February 23, 2010	Rams shorn - core sampling, wool weights, scrotal circumference
March 12, 2010	Ultrasound
March 13, 2010	Field Day; rams picked up by owner

**Delivery:** Contact Chris Schauer (701-567-4323) prior to delivery at the HREC. Transportation is available from Hettinger Ram Sale and Newell Ram Sale by contacting Dave Pearson (701-567-4488).

## REGULATIONS FOR 2009 DAKOTA FALL RAM TEST

1. Ram lambs will be delivered to the test site September 10 thru September 28, 2009.
2. Rams will be shorn on October 1, 2009; weighed and will start the official test on October 5<sup>th</sup>.
3. Individual fleeces will be sampled at the britch and side in early-February. Samples will be used to determine staple length (adj. for 365 days), clean yield and fiber diameter. Samples will be sent to Texas A&M University for yield and fiber analysis (OFDA).
4. Core samples will be taken on February 23, 2010 for use in the Index.
4. Feed. The rams will be self-fed a mixed ration containing a commercial protein supplement, oats, corn, and alfalfa pellets.

<u>Ration</u>	<u>%</u>
Oats	39.50%
Corn	30.30%
Market Lamb 38-10	
CTC	15.10%
Alfalfa Pellets	15.10%
	100.00%

<u>Nutrient Density</u>	<u>%</u>
TDN	78.80%
CP	17.16%
Ca:P	3:1

5. Liability. All animals remain the property of the cooperator. The manager will make every effort to take proper care of the animal 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 on direction for disposal. If a ram is removed from test for health reason, or dies while on test, a partial refund of the entry fee will be made.
6. Feeding and management of the rams on test will be under the supervision of Dave Pearson and Chris Schauer.

### RAMBOUILLET RAM OWNERS

1. For Rambouillet rams consigned - all necessary procedures and rules for establishing Certified Rams and Registry of Merit sires 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. If you do not have registration numbers on rams when you send in your entry forms, please send them to us as soon as you get them.
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 the \$15.00 classification fee, as this program has been set up to carry itself without additional cost to the ram test.
4. Breeders submitting rams for testing should 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. For ARSA certification program eligibility rams must genotype QR or RR at codon 171; QQ rams are not eligible for certification. The genotype information must be included on the "Test Entry Form".



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Nomination fee is \$25 per ram. The balance is due upon delivery to the HREC. Please fill in the information listed above and send it with your nomination fee to Chris Schauer by **September 21, 2009**.

Please make checks payable to **HREC-Dakota Fall Ram Test**. Also, **PLEASE include your (not your ram's) date of birth in the memo line on your check.**

If you have an interest in consigning rams please contact me by September 21, 2009.

Note: **Please address entries to:** Christopher Schauer  
Hettinger Research Extension Center  
2009 Dakota Fall Ram Test  
PO Box 1377  
Hettinger, ND 58639  
Phone: 701-567-4323  
e-mail: christopher.schauer@ndsu.edu

*\*Be sure to give the month-day-year of birth as we need this to figure weight per day of age.*

Vaccinated for: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Drenched: \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Product Used: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to the regulations pertaining to the conditions and management practices established for the 2009 Dakota Fall Ram Test Program.

Producer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_