

1997-98 Dakota Performance Ram Test

Open House

The ram testing consignors would like to *thank* Dave Pearson, Ram Test Manager, for the excellent care and assistance provided to the program. *Thanks* to Tim Faller, Hettinger Research and Extension Center Superintendent, for the opportunity to conduct this worthy project on the station. Also, a big *thank you* to consignors and interested parties for their time and effort throughout the test.

The South Dakota Performance Ram Testing program was established primarily to identify differences in wool traits for rams managed under the same environmental conditions and plane of nutrition. Secondly, to measure post-weaning growth rate as indicated by weight gain. An added feature is evaluation of animal carcass merit using real-time ultrasound technology.

The 1997-98 Performance Ram Test included fifty-three rams. Five breeds of sheep were represented: Rambouillet, Columbia, Corriedale, Merinos and Polypay.

The ram test calendar, which follows, summarizes the dates on which specific activities were conducted during the test.

1997-98 RAM TEST CALENDAR

September 17-24 -Rams to be delivered to the station

October 1 -Rams shorn, weighed, ultrasound and started on test

October 29 -28 day weighing

November 26 -56 day weighing

December 24 -84 day weighing

January 21 -112 day weighing

February 18 -140 day - End of growth test period

March 7 -Rams to be shorn, ultrasound, field day, rams to be picked up by owner

TEST PROCEDURES

Fleece weight and staple length were calculated on a 365-day basis although the test period for fleece weight and staple length was 157 days. Side and britch samples were sent to the Yocum-McColl Testing Laboratory to determine fiber diameter and variability, and clean wool yield. Average daily gain was calculated based on the total weight gain (including fleece) during a period of 140 days.

Fiber Diameter: determined for each sample using laserscan technology method. The diameter is estimated by measuring four hundred clean fibers to determine an average (mean). In addition, the variation within a sample is determined. For each individual ram and type of sample you will find a histogram which illustrates the variation. The horizontal axis indicates microns and the vertical axis shows the number of fibers from the total fibers measured which was a specific diameter. A narrow distribution pattern indicates relative fleece uniformity. The standard deviation (std.dev.) and coefficient of variation (C.V.) are given to provide numerical indications of the variation. A fleece sample with a C.V. should be considered more uniform than one with a large C.V. ($C.V.=std.dev/mean \text{ fiber dia.}$).

Staple length: determined by measuring with a ruler at the shoulder, side and britch. Values were adjusted (less 1/8") for the stubble remaining after the initial shearing and an average calculated from these three sites.

Clean wool: determined from the laboratory scoured clean yield estimates on side samples. Analytical procedures meet ASTM standards.

Face cover and body skin fold scores: determined by averaging subjective scores from a three person committee selected by the ram test committee. Scores were assigned from 1 to 4 for each trait. The lower the value the more open face or freedom from skin folds.

Average daily gain: calculated by dividing the total gain by the number of days in the test period (140 days).

Index: utilized the following formula established by the Texas and Wyoming Ram tests and the approved index for the American Rambouillet Sheep Association's register of merit program (ROM). (Revised July 8, 1993.)

Index = 60 (average daily gain in pounds) + 4.0 (365-day adjusted staple length in inches up to 5.5 inches) + 4.0 (365-day adjusted clean wool in pounds) ± fiber diameter and variability points according to the following schedule:

Fiber diameter (micron) of side

3 (22-actual microns) = +points up to 9

3 (actual microns -22) = -points up to -6

Variability-Britch compared to side

2.5 deduction for each micron the britch is coarser than the side. No points given if britch is finer than side

Index ratios: To compare one ram with another an index ratio was calculated by the following formula. The average index ratio for all rams is 100; and individual with an index ratio of 130 would be 30 percent higher than the average and so on.

Actual Ram Index

Ram Index Ratio = Average Ram Index Value x 100

The top 30% of the registered Rambouillet rams as indicated by index are eligible for the Certified Ram Classification. In addition to the above requirement, a ram must meet acceptable standards from the standpoint of body type, amount of body skin folds, freedom from anatomical weaknesses and wool defects, including extremely hairy britch or excessive amount of belly type wool. All certified rams must have a minimum of 4.0 inches staple length, 9 pounds clean wool, a wool grade of 60's or finer on the side and 56's or finer on the britch, a maximum of 2.7 face cover score, and must have gained at least 0.55 pounds per day on test.

Carcass Merit: at the beginning and end of the test fat cover and ribeye area were measured at the 12-

13th rib by real-time ultrasound. This information is not included in the index. However, these measures may help producers identify rams with superior carcass merit. Ribeye area is a good indicator of overall muscling, rams with larger ribeyes would be expected to be more muscular compared to those with smaller ribeyes. More muscular individuals would be expected to exhibit high growth rates relative to those with less muscularity. Fat cover is an indicator of maturity pattern i.e. frame-size. Those rams carrying less fat (finish) would likely be later maturing, or perhaps younger than those with greater amounts of fat cover. For fat cover, the only valid comparison for this set of rams is the final measurement.

American Grade	Spinning Count Grade	Micron Diameter
Fine	Finer than 80's	Under 17.70
Fine	80s	17.71 - 19.14
Fine	70s	19.15-20.59
Fine	64s	20.60 - 22.04
½	62s	22.05 - 23.49
½	60s	23.50 - 24.94
3/8	58s	24.95 - 26.39
3/8	56s	26.40 - 27.84
1/4	54s	27.85 - 29.29
1/4	50s	29.30 - 30.99
Low 1/4	48s	31.00 - 32.69
Low 1/4	46s	32.70 - 34.39

CONSIGNOR/RAM ID

John Gupman
Wooly Acres
HC 82 Box 15
Lemmon SD 57638
RAM #1, 2

Dan & Sharon Anderson
Circle Cross
HC 68 Box 542
Meadow SD 57644
RAM #5, 6, 7, 8

Paul Erk
Erk Brothers
HC 66 Box 61
Newell SD 57760
RAM #10, 11, 12, 13

Robert & Mary Mertz
7280 Zeandale RD
Manhattan KS 66502
RAM #15, 16, 17

Matt Benz
2401 7th ST NE
Beulah ND 58523
RAM #22, 23

Morgan & Carol Veit
Box 26
Glad Valley SD 57629
RAM #30, 31, 32

TW & Faye Schalesky
RR1 Box 95
Newell SD 57780
RAM #35, 300

Paul D. Noeske, Jr.
3315 126R Ave SE
Oriska ND 58063-9745
RAM #3, 4

Kevin & Marcia Hagbom
HCR 1 Box 109
Regent ND 58650-9789
RAM #9

John Bode
RR2 Box 17
Faulkton SD 57438
RAM #14

Jim & Teena Lynn
HCR 68 Box 2
Edgemont SD 57735
RAM #18, 19, 20, 21

Lenard Chapman
HC 66 Box 87
Bison SD 57620
RAM #24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

Cook Sisters
Box 7
Glad Valley SD 57629
RAM #33, 34

Darold Benz
PO Box 26
Beulah ND 58523
RAM #36

Germann Ranch
HC 3 Box 45
Rhome ND 58651
RAM #37, 38

Harold Osborn
2354 94th Ave SE
Wimbledon ND 58492
RAM #103

Loris & Darlene Megli
M & M Livestock
310 S J Highway
Lamar MO 64759
RAM #200

Prairie Rose Polypay
ULA Widdel
1211 163rd Ave SE
Minot ND 58701-9744
RAM #400, 401

Wes Limesand
NDSU/Dept of Animal & Range Sciences
Hultz Hall
Fargo ND 58105
RAM #100, 101

Don Osborne
9555 22nd St SE
Wimbledon ND 58492
RAM #102

Tim Faller
Hettinger Research/Extension Center
Box 1377
Hettinger ND 58639
RAM #104, 105

Jim Crouch
Box 613
Aurora MO 65605
RAM #201

Burton Anderson Family
HC1 Box 55
Highmore SD 57345
RAM #39, 40, 41, 42

Table of Abbreviations: 1997-98 Dakota Performance Ram Test-Final Reports

TID = Test identification number

FID = Flock identification number

H/P = Horned or polled

B Date = Birth date

B WT = Beginning weight

F WT = Final weight

GAIN = Pounds gained over 140 test days

ADG = Average daily gain

GR 365-d = Pounds of grease fleece weight, adjusted to 365 days

YIELD CWFP = Clean wool fibers present, % fleece yield calculation

CL FL 365-d = Pounds of clean fleece weight, adjusted to 365 days

SIDE and Britch

GRADE = Spin count

AFD = Actual fiber diameter, expressed in microns

SD = Standard deviation from the mean (average)

CV = Coefficient of variation, expression to describe the variation from the mean value

STL ADJ = Staple length, adjusted to 365 days

FS = Face score, range from 1 to 4

BSF = Body skin folds, range from 1 to 4

BW = Belly wool, range from 1 to 3

SC CIR = Scrotal circumference, taken at final shearing

INDEX = Multiple trait composite index score, developed for the Rambouillet-Certificate of Merit Program

RATIOS = Simple method to mathematically compare animals for a given trait(s)

TOP 30% OF RAMBOUILLET RAMS

TEST ID	PRODUCER	FLOCK ID	INDEX	INDEX RATIO	CERTIFICATION STATUS
40	ANDERSON FAM.	490	140.69	134.94	YES
4	P. NOESKE	488	131.32	125.96	NO-GRADE
30	VEIT	016	129.67	124.37	YES
36	D. BENZ	780	125.46	120.33	NO-GRADE
19	J&T LYNN	190	117.64	112.84	YES
41	ANDERSON FAM.	479	115.56	110.84	NO-GRADE
5	CIRCLE CROSS	1566	112.83	108.22	NO-GRADE
9	K&M HAGBOM	299	112.18	107.59	YES
27	L. CHAPMAN	398	111.73	107.17	YES
33	COOK	4073	111.01	106.47	YES
34	COOK	4096	110.24	105.73	NO-GRADE
16	RM MERTZ	340	109.62	105.14	YES
2	WOOLY ACRES	1013	109.12	104.66	NO-GRADE
		TEST AVE = 104.26			

T ID	Producer	FID	H/P	BT	B DATE	B Wt	F Wt	GAIN	ADG
Rambouilletts									
4	P. NOESKE	488	P	TW	04/17/97	138	266	128	0.91
40	ANDERSON FAM.	490	P	S	04/00/97	111	261	150	1.07
30	VEIT	016	H	TW	02/17/97	140	271	131	0.94
36	D. BENZ	780	S	TW	01/28/97	111	237	126	0.90
2	WOOLY ACRES	1013	P	S	03/13/97	114	217	103	0.74
41	ANDERSON FAM.	479	H	S	01/00/97	125	240	115	0.82
11	ERK BROS.	7712	P	S	04/06/97	99	214	115	0.82
23	MATT BENZ	1517	P	TW	01/19/97	163	263	100	0.71
19	J&T LYNN	190	H	TW	03/04/97	94	210	116	0.83
31	VEIT	027	P	S	03/03/97	144	220	76	0.54
39	ANDERSON FAM.	401	H	S	12/01/97	140	230	90	0.64
12	ERK BROS.	7799	H	S	04/12/97	102	214	112	0.80
34	COOK	4096	H	TW	03/15/97	138	251	113	0.81
5	CIRCLE CROSS	1566	P	S	03/25/97	118	244	126	0.90
18	J&T LYNN	185	H	TW	02/17/97	108	214	106	0.76
9	K&M HAGBOM	299	P	S	04/02/97	129	243	114	0.81
22	MATT BENZ	1513	P	TW	01/19/97	154	272	118	0.84
20	J&T LYNN	191	H	TW	02/25/97	106	224	118	0.84
42	ANDERSON FAM.	492	H	S	04/00/97	80	202	122	0.87
15	RM MERTZ	290		TW	03/14/97	103	216	113	0.81
33	COOK	4073	H	TW	03/04/97	125	245	120	0.86
38	GERMANN	713	H	S	02/17/97	125	248	123	0.88
7	CIRCLE CROSS	1685	P	S	05/03/97	102	176	74	0.53
3	P. NOESKE	452	P	TW	04/07/97	142	246	104	0.74
27	L. CHAPMAN	398	P	S	04/02/97	114	253	139	0.99
29	L. CHAPMAN	B-566	P	TW	04/15/97	82	186	104	0.74
14	JOHN BODE	205	S	TW	02/20/97	134	236	102	0.73
16	RM MERTZ	340		S	05/04/97	106	233	127	0.91
1	WOOLY ACRES	993	P	S	03/01/97	112	229	117	0.84
13	ERK BROS.	7859	P	TW	04/16/97	100	192	92	0.66
17	RM MERTZ	345		TW	05/15/97	90	215	125	0.89
24	L. CHAPMAN	4611	P	S	03/16/97	82	163	81	0.58
10	ERK BROS.	7683	P	S	04/02/97	97	183	86	0.61
6	CIRCLE CROSS	1597	P	S	03/28/97	129	272	143	1.02
21	J&T LYNN	209	H	TW	03/04/97	93	218	125	0.89
32	VEIT	030	H	S	03/04/97	127	229	102	0.73
37	GERMANN	711	P	S	02/15/97	128	236	108	0.77
28	L. CHAPMAN	B-547	H	TW	03/20/97	86	196	110	0.79
26	L. CHAPMAN	390	H	S	03/16/97	93	208	115	0.82
8	CIRCLE CROSS	1706	P	S	05/23/97	90	193	103	0.74
35	SCHALESKY	0011	H	S	03/29/97	121	236	115	0.82
25	L. CHAPMAN	387	H	TW	03/16/97	88	88	0	0.00
Averages						114.512195121951	227	112	0.80
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T ID	Producer	FID	H/P	BT	B DATE	B Wt	F Wt	GAIN	ADG

	COLUMBIA								
103	H. OSBORNE	5563	P			110	244	134	0.96
105	HETTINGER	7-626	P	TW	05/06/97	101	216	115	0.82
102	D. OSBORNE	222	P			116	232	116	0.83
101	NDSU	7266	P			114	228	114	0.81
104	HETTINGER	7-655	P	S	05/14/97	99	213	114	0.81
100	NDSU	7151	P			125	202	77	0.55
Averages						111	223	112	0.80

	CORRIEDALE								
200	M&M LVSTK	98	P	TW	05/02/97	120	230	110	0.79
201	JIM CROUCH	217	P	S	01/30/97	131	254	123	0.88
Averages						126	242	117	0.83

	MERINO								
300	SCHALESKY	0003	H	S	03/18/97	92	165	73	0.52
Averages						92	165	73	0.52

	POLYPAY								
400	PRAIRIE ROSE	7049	P	TW	03/13/97	100	204	104	0.74
401	PRAIRIE ROSE	7093	P	TW	03/19/97	94	177	83	0.59
Averages						97	191	94	0.67

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			SIDE				BRITCH			
T ID	Producer	FID	GRADE	AFD	SD	CV	GRADE	AFD	SD	CV

Rambouillets

4	P. NOESKE	488	58	26.1	4.4	16.9	54	28.1	5.1	18.1
40	ANDERSON FAM.	490	62	23.3	3.5	15.0	60	24.6	4.1	16.7
30	VEIT	016	60	24.8	5.0	20.2	56	27.8	6.7	24.1
36	D. BENZ	780	58	25.4	5.2	20.5	54	28.2	6.4	22.7
2	WOOLY ACRES	1013	58	25.7	4.2	16.3	58	28.1	5.5	19.6
41	ANDERSON FAM.	479	56	27.0	4.2	15.6	54	28.0	4.4	15.7
11	ERK BROS.	7712	58	25.9	4.3	16.6	50	30.5	6.0	19.7
23	MATT BENZ	1517	60	24.3	3.8	15.6	56	26.6	4.8	18.0
19	J&T LYNN	190	62	22.8	3.6	15.8	60	24.2	4.7	19.4
31	VEIT	027	60	23.6	3.5	14.8	56	26.4	4.3	16.3
39	ANDERSON FAM.	401	58	25.9	4.1	15.8	56	26.8	4.5	16.8
12	ERK BROS.	7799	60	24.9	4.3	17.3	56	27.8	5.6	20.1
34	COOK	4096	54	28.3	5.0	17.7	54	29.1	5.6	19.2
5	CIRCLE CROSS	1566	56	26.5	4.4	16.6	54	28.4	5.1	18.0
18	J&T LYNN	185	60	24.2	5.1	21.1	56	26.7	6.5	24.3
9	K&M HAGBOM	299	60	23.7	3.4	14.3	60	24.7	4.0	16.2
22	MATT BENZ	1513	56	26.8	4.3	16.0	56	27.7	4.8	17.3
20	J&T LYNN	191	58	25.6	4.5	17.6	56	27.7	5.8	20.9
42	ANDERSON FAM.	492	58	25.6	4.3	16.8	54	28.3	5.6	19.8
15	RM MERTZ	290	62	23.3	3.9	16.7	58	25.1	4.4	17.5
33	COOK	4073	60	24.1	3.9	16.2	58	25.6	4.7	18.4
38	GERMANN	713	60	24.9	4.0	16.1	56	27.1	4.8	17.7
7	CIRCLE CROSS	1685	58	26.3	4.9	18.6	54	28.3	5.4	19.1
3	P. NOESKE	452	54	28.6	5.2	18.2	50	29.4	5.6	19.0
27	L. CHAPMAN	398	60	24.4	4.0	16.4	56	26.7	4.4	16.5

29	L. CHAPMAN	B-566	58	25.5	4.8	18.8	56	27.8	5.4	19.4
14	JOHN BODE	205	60	24.8	3.9	15.7	54	28.4	5.1	18.0
16	RM MERTZ	340	62	22.5	3.8	16.9	60	24.5	5.0	20.4
1	WOOLY ACRES	993	60	24.1	3.6	14.9	54	28.4	5.1	18.0
13	ERK BROS.	7859	64	21.7	3.5	16.1	62	23.1	3.5	15.2
17	RM MERTZ	345	62	23.0	3.9	17.0	60	24.9	5.2	20.9
24	L. CHAPMAN	4611	62	23.0	4.1	17.8	56	27.2	5.9	21.7
10	ERK BROS.	7683	62	22.9	3.6	15.7	60	24.8	4.4	17.7
6	CIRCLE CROSS	1597	60	24.8	4.2	16.9	56	27.8	4.9	17.6
21	J&T LYNN	209	62	22.2	3.8	17.1	58	25.0	3.8	15.2
32	VEIT	030	56	26.9	4.6	17.1	56	27.8	4.8	17.3
37	GERMANN	711	60	24.9	5.0	20.1	56	27.4	4.8	17.5
28	L. CHAPMAN	B-547	58	26.2	4.6	17.6	60	24.8	6.8	27.4
26	L. CHAPMAN	390	62	22.6	3.8	16.8	60	24.2	4.7	19.4
8	CIRCLE CROSS	1706	56	27.8	5.0	18.0	56	27.4	5.9	21.5
35	SCHALESKY	0011	60	24.8	3.6	14.5	54	29.6	5.1	17.2
25	L. CHAPMAN	387	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Averages			60	24.9	4.2	16.9	56	27.0	5.1	18.9

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T ID	Producer	FID	GRADE	AFD	SD	CV	GRADE	AFD	SD	CV
	COLUMBIA									
103	H. OSBORNE	5563	54	28.4	5.5	19.4	50	29.9	6.3	21.1
105	HETTINGER	7-626	50	29.8	5.4	18.1	48	32.6	6.8	20.9
102	D. OSBORNE	222	50	30.2	5.6	18.5	50	30.7	5.3	17.3
101	NDSU	7266	50	30.2	5.1	16.9	48	32.2	5.9	18.3
104	HETTINGER	7-655	58	26.2	4.3	16.4	58	25.8	4.4	17.1
100	NDSU	7151	56	27.2	4.4	16.2	54	28.6	4.7	16.4
Averages			54	28.7	5.1	17.6	50	30.0	5.6	18.5

T ID	Producer	FID	GRADE	AFD	SD	CV	GRADE	AFD	SD	CV
	CORRIEDALE									
200	M&M LVSTK	98	54	28.2	6.2	22.0	46	32.9	7.8	23.7
201	JIM CROUCH	217	50	31.0	4.9	15.8	46	33.3	5.3	15.9
Averages			50	29.6	5.6	18.9	46	33.1	6.6	19.8

T ID	Producer	FID	GRADE	AFD	SD	CV	GRADE	AFD	SD	CV
	MERINO									
300	SCHALESKY	0003	70	20.1	3.4	16.9	64	21.9	3.4	15.5
Averages			70	20.1	3.4	16.9	64	21.9	3.4	15.5

T ID	Producer	FID	GRADE	AFD	SD	CV	GRADE	AFD	SD	CV
	POLYPAY									
400	PRAIRIE ROSE	7049	50	30.9	5.1	16.5	44	36.1	7.0	19.4
401	PRAIRIE ROSE	7093	56	27.4	7.3	26.6	46	34.0	10.8	31.8
Averages			54	29.2	6.2	21.6	44	35.1	8.9	25.6

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T ID	Producer	FID	GR	YIELD	CL FL	STL	FS	BSF	BW	Sc	Index	CL FL
	Rambouillets											
			365-d	CWFP	365-d	ADJ				Cir		Ratio
4	P. NOESKE	488	33.5	51.9	17.4	4.5	3	2	1	37	131.32	142.93
40	ANDERSON FAM.	490	27.9	55.4	16.5	4.4	1	1	1	41	140.69	135.63
30	VEIT	016	30.2	58.2	16.4	5.3	1	1.5	1	37	129.67	135.25
36	D. BENZ	780	29.8	50.3	15.9	5.2	2.3	1	1	33	125.46	130.72

2	WOOLY ACRES	1013	25.6	55.9	14.3	4.9	1.3	1	1	33	109.12	117.60
41	ANDERSON FAM.	479	23.3	59.1	14.0	4.7	1	1	2	39	115.56	115.32
11	ERK BROS.	7712	23.7	58.7	13.9	4.9	1.5	1	1	35	107.26	114.51
23	MATT BENZ	1517	26.5	51.5	13.7	4.2	1	1	1	37	102.57	112.28
19	J&T LYNN	190	23.3	58.5	13.6	4.9	1	1	1	33	117.64	111.88
31	VEIT	027	22.1	54.4	13.5	4.5	1	1.3	1	35	92.62	110.83
39	ANDERSON FAM.	401	24.2	53.9	13.4	4.5	1	1	2	38	101.86	110.19
12	ERK BROS.	7799	26.0	50.6	13.2	4.1	3	1	1	30	103.95	108.38
34	COOK	4096	25.6	51.3	13.1	4.3	1.5	1	1	36	110.24	108.13
5	CIRCLE CROSS	1566	23.3	55.9	13.0	4.4	1.3	1	1	35	112.83	106.91
18	J&T LYNN	185	23.3	55.8	13.0	4.6	1	3	1	35	103.40	106.72
9	K&M HAGBOM	299	22.8	56.1	12.8	4.9	1.5	1	1	34	112.18	105.14
22	MATT BENZ	1513	24.7	51.4	12.7	3.9	2	1.5	1	32	108.75	104.20
20	J&T LYNN	191	24.2	51.9	12.6	4.7	1	1.3	1	34	108.21	103.23
42	ANDERSON FAM.	492	20.0	60.3	12.2	4.3	1.3	1.5	1	38	105.55	100.33
15	RM MERTZ	290	25.6	47.5	12.2	4.8	2	1	1	33	107.68	99.93
33	COOK	4073	23.3	55.0	11.9	5.4	1	1	1	36	111.01	98.11
38	GERMANN	713	21.9	47.6	11.8	3.9	3	1.5	1	36	104.09	96.90
7	CIRCLE CROSS	1685	25.6	45.5	11.6	4.0	1.3	2	1	28	83.39	95.72
3	P. NOESKE	452	26.5	43.4	11.5	3.7	1	1.3	1	38	97.24	94.62
27	L. CHAPMAN	398	22.1	48.7	11.4	4.6	1	1	1	36	111.73	93.75
29	L. CHAPMAN	B-566	19.5	51.7	11.4	3.8	1	1	1	34	93.31	93.50
14	JOHN BODE	205	21.9	52.0	11.4	4.2	2	1	1	34	91.03	93.48
16	RM MERTZ	340	20.9	54.0	11.3	4.1	1.5	1	1	28	109.62	92.95
1	WOOLY ACRES	993	25.6	43.2	11.1	4.2	1	2.5	1	36	94.44	90.88
13	ERK BROS.	7859	18.1	59.1	10.7	4.4	1.5	1	1	29	97.29	88.16
17	RM MERTZ	345	19.5	53.3	10.4	4.5	1	1	2	32	105.42	85.63
24	L. CHAPMAN	4611	20.5	50.7	10.4	4.3	3	2.5	1	31	79.93	85.33
10	ERK BROS.	7683	20.0	50.9	10.2	5.1	3	1	1	30	90.64	83.72
6	CIRCLE CROSS	1597	19.5	51.6	10.1	4.6	1	1	1	36	106.42	82.89
21	J&T LYNN	209	16.7	59.8	10.0	4.8	2	1	1	36	105.07	82.34
32	VEIT	030	18.1	61.0	10.0	4.1	1.5	1	1	33	91.85	82.05
37	GERMANN	711	20.5	53.4	9.7	4.8	1.8	1	2	38	92.05	80.11
28	L. CHAPMAN	B-547	18.6	51.6	9.6	3.6	2	3	1	39	97.40	79.10
26	L. CHAPMAN	390	19.1	55.1	9.3	3.6	2.5	3	1	37	94.92	76.37
8	CIRCLE CROSS	1706	20.0	45.7	9.1	3.5	3	1	1	35	89.62	75.16
35	SCHALESKY	0011	16.7	51.4	8.4	4.2	1	1	1	34	81.82	69.26
25	L. CHAPMAN	387	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
Averages			22.93	53.0073170731707	12.16	4.3	1.6	1.3	1.1	34	104.26	100.00
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			GR	YIELD	CL FL	STL				Sc	Index	CL FL
T ID	Producer	FID	365-d	CWFP	365-d	ADJ	FS	BSF	BW	Cir		Ratio
	COLUMBIA											
103	H. OSBORNE	5563	31.2	47.8	17.5	4.6	1.75	1	1	40	135.79	144.22
105	HETTINGER	7-626	23.7	56.0	13.2	4.9	1.3	1	1	35	108.60	109.09
102	D. OSBORNE	222	24.7	49.0	12.7	4.2	2.5	1	1	36	109.99	104.72
101	NDSU	7266	20.9	44.4	10.0	3.7	1.8	1	1	33	92.53	82.68
104	HETTINGER	7-655	19.1	51.4	9.8	4.4	1	1	2	34	100.80	81.32

T ID	Producer	FID	H/P	BT	B DATE	B Wt	F Wt	GAIN	ADG
Rambouillets									
40	ANDERSON FAM.	490	P	S	4/00/97	111	261	150	1.07
6	CIRCLE CROSS	1597	P	S	03/28/97	129	272	143	1.02
27	L. CHAPMAN	398	P	S	04/02/97	114	253	139	0.99
30	VEIT	016	H	TW	02/17/97	140	271	131	0.94
4	P. NOESKE	488	P	TW	04/17/97	138	266	128	0.91
16	RM MERTZ	340		S	05/04/97	106	233	127	0.91
36	D. BENZ	780	S	TW	01/28/97	111	237	126	0.90
5	CIRCLE CROSS	1566	P	S	03/25/97	118	244	126	0.90
17	RM MERTZ	345		TW	05/15/97	90	215	125	0.89
21	J&T LYNN	209	H	TW	03/04/97	93	218	125	0.89
38	GERMANN	713	H	S	02/17/97	125	248	123	0.88
42	ANDERSON FAM.	492	H	S	4/00/97	80	202	122	0.87
33	COOK	4073	H	TW	03/04/97	125	245	120	0.86
22	MATT BENZ	1513	P	TW	01/19/97	154	272	118	0.84
20	J&T LYNN	191	H	TW	02/25/97	106	224	118	0.84
1	WOOLY ACRES	993	P	S	03/01/97	112	229	117	0.84
19	J&T LYNN	190	H	TW	03/04/97	94	210	116	0.83
41	ANDERSON FAM.	479	H	S	1/00/97	125	240	115	0.82
11	ERK BROS.	7712	P	S	04/06/97	99	214	115	0.82
26	L. CHAPMAN	390	H	S	03/16/97	93	208	115	0.82
35	SCHALESKY	0011	H	S	03/29/97	121	236	115	0.82
9	K&M HAGBOM	299	P	S	04/02/97	129	243	114	0.81
34	COOK	4096	H	TW	03/15/97	138	251	113	0.81
15	RM MERTZ	290		TW	03/14/97	103	216	113	0.81
12	ERK BROS.	7799	H	S	04/12/97	102	214	112	0.80
28	L. CHAPMAN	B-547	H	TW	03/20/97	86	196	110	0.79
37	GERMANN	711	P	S	02/15/97	128	236	108	0.77
18	J&T LYNN	185	H	TW	02/17/97	108	214	106	0.76
3	P. NOESKE	452	P	TW	04/07/97	142	246	104	0.74
29	L. CHAPMAN	B-566	P	TW	04/15/97	82	186	104	0.74
2	WOOLY ACRES	1013	P	S	03/13/97	114	217	103	0.74
8	CIRCLE CROSS	1706	P	S	05/23/97	90	193	103	0.74
32	VEIT	030	H	S	03/04/97	127	229	102	0.73

14	JOHN BODE	205	S	TW	02/20/97	134	236	102	0.73
23	MATT BENZ	1517	P	TW	01/19/97	163	263	100	0.71
13	ERK BROS.	7859	P	TW	04/16/97	100	192	92	0.66
39	ANDERSON FAM.	401	H	S	12/01/97	140	230	90	0.64
10	ERK BROS.	7683	P	S	04/02/97	97	183	86	0.61
24	L. CHAPMAN	4611	P	S	03/16/97	82	163	81	0.58
31	VEIT	027	P	S	03/03/97	144	220	76	0.54
7	CIRCLE CROSS	1685	P	S	05/03/97	102	176	74	0.53
25	L. CHAPMAN	387	H	TW	03/16/97	88	88	0	0.00
Averages						114.512195121951	227	112.365853658537	0.80

Wrap-up for the 1997-98 Dakota Performance Ram Test Program

Prepared by Jeff Held, SDSU Extension Sheep Specialist

The 1997-98 Dakota Performance Ram Test concluded in early-March at the Hettinger Research and Extension Center in Hettinger, ND. More than fifty rams were tested for wool, growth and carcass traits over the 150-day testing period. Five breeds were represented in the program this past year, Rambouillet, Columbia, Merino, Corriedale and Polypay, yet the majority were Rambouillets. Consignors were from North and South Dakota, Kansas and Missouri.

This impressive set of rams was on display during an open house on March 7 at the Hettinger station. They were freshly sheared at that time, many commented on the high quality and uniformity among the rams coming off test. The data collected certainly supported these observations.

Acknowledgments

The ram testing committee truly appreciates the support for the ram test given by consignors, producers and academic staff in the North and South Dakota State University systems. A special thanks to Tim Faller, Superintendent at the Hettinger Research and Extension Center at Hettinger, ND and Dave Pearson, Shepard at the Hettinger location. Their assistance and cooperation was certainly a key to the success of the ram test program this past year.

For those producers interested in a complete set of final ram test results and consignor information contact Jeff Held, SDSU Extension Sheep Specialist, Box 2170, Brookings, SD 57007. Many top quality rams from the 1997-98 Dakota ram test will be offered at public auctions this fall, or available privately.