

October 7, 2008

Dear Performance Evaluation Consignor,

We appreciate your interest in the WV Small Ruminant (Sheep and Goat) Performance Test Program. Enclosed you will find the Guidelines, nomination form, and consignment form to be completed. Nomination forms, as well as the \$20.00 nomination fee, are due by **April 1, 2009**. Consignment forms are to be completed and delivered with the rams/bucks at time of delivery. Rams/Bucks are to be delivered to the WVU Reymann Memorial Farm, approximately 2 miles northeast of Wardensville on State Route 259, between 8:30 am and 2 pm on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the consignment form you must present the necessary health papers **prior** to unloading rams and bucks. For out of state consignors you will need an Interstate Health Certificate from your home state. Consignors from WV can present a copy of their up to date honor flock certificate or have your veterinarian inspect your flock and write you an official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). USDA regulations state that your sheep/goats must have an official Scrapie ID and that the ID number must be listed on the CVI.

Rams/Bucks must arrive at the test station with feet recently trimmed. Each animal will be examined at delivery, by a resident Veterinarian. If any evidence of Foot Rot/ Scald, Caseous Lymphadenitis, Ovine Exthyma or any other infectious disease is found at this time your rams/bucks will be rejected.

All rams should be sheared prior to delivery. Seeing as the weather can be unpredictable you may decide against this. Any ram not shorn at delivery will be shorn prior to the start of the test at a cost of \$5/ head.

The total estimated testing cost is \$70.00 per ram/buck. (\$20.00 per ram/buck will be due with the nomination form and the remaining \$50.00 per ram/buck is due at time of delivery.) Please make checks payable to the WV Purebred Sheep Breeders Association.

Bring rams/bucks that are a good representation of the quality you have available at home and that could be sold as flock/herd improvers at the conclusion of the test. Please double check all of your animals to make sure they are sound so that we don't have to turn any away. Make sure that they have 2 testicles of normal size, that their eyes are normal (no inverted eyelids), and that they have a sound mouth (incisor teeth are properly aligned with the dental pad).

This year our maximum testing capacity of rams is limited to 60 rams, as well as a maximum of 30 bucks. Please send in your nomination form, and fees, as soon as possible as the postmark will determine eligibility. If you have any questions or problems let me know and we will try to work with you the best we can. My email is [Brad.Smith@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Brad.Smith@mail.wvu.edu) , the office phone is 304-257-4688. Questions or comments can also be directed to the project assistant, Sara Hare ([Sara.Hare@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Sara.Hare@mail.wvu.edu) or 304-874-3561). We look forward to seeing you on Monday, April 20, 2009

Sincerely,

Brad D. Smith  
Extension Agent/ WV Small Ruminant Project Director





# Guidelines for the 2009 West Virginia Small Ruminant (Sheep and Goat) Evaluation Program

## Sponsors:

West Virginia Small Ruminant Project  
WVU Cooperative Extension Service  
Division of Animal & Nutritional Sciences, WVU  
West Virginia Purebred Sheep Breeders Association  
West Virginia Shepherd's Association

**LOCATION:** WVU Reymann Memorial Farm, approximately two miles north of Wardensville on State Route 259.

## PURPOSE:

1. To have a common environment and unbiased evaluation of economically important traits of young sires to be used in West Virginia flocks and herds.
2. To provide a test that is available to producers with both small and large flocks. Producers will have the opportunity to test rams and bucks for either home use or to be consigned to an annual Performance-Tested Sale. Thus both purebred and crossbred rams and meat goat bucks will be tested. Bucks should be at least 50% meat goat breed.
3. To promote performance testing of all sheep and goats in West Virginia flocks/herds and serve as an educational tool for the sheep and goat industry.
4. Provide an opportunity for purebred breeders and commercial producers to obtain performance tested rams and bucks that have been evaluated in part under similar environmental conditions.

## HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:

1. Rams/Bucks must carry appropriate Federal Scrapie Program identification tag at delivery.
2. No Rams/Bucks may enter from any flock under federal or state quarantine.
3. **ALL HEALTH PAPERS MUST ACCOMPANY RAMS/BUCKS BEING DELIVERED TO THE STATION. HEALTH PAPERS MUST BE PRESENTED AND CLEARED BEFORE THEY ARE UNLOADED**
4. All rams/bucks must have their feet trimmed within 10 days prior to delivery to the station.

5. Animals will be processed during the warm-up period as follows:
  - i. treated for control of internal and external parasites,
  - ii. feet soaked in a foot bath of zinc sulphate at time of delivery
  - iii. paint branded
  - iv. vaccinated for Enterotoxemia, Tetanus and Soremouth
  - v. treated for Coccidia
  - vi. Any rams not sheared within 10 days prior to delivery will be sheared prior to the On Test weigh day at a cost of \$5.00.
  - vii. genetic testing for scrapie susceptibility, which is **mandatory** and will be acquired **at** the test station
6. On arrival at the test station, ram lambs/kids will be evaluated for type, soundness (reproductive, mouth, feet/leg structure), and health (including any foot problems) by a committee and veterinarian. To qualify rams/bucks must meet all of the above conditions.
7. All horned animals **MUST** have their horns tipped before delivery to the station.

## ELIGIBILITY:

1. A maximum of 60 rams and 30 bucks will be accepted to the test. Cooperators will be notified of the number of rams/bucks accepted as soon as possible. Preference will be given to West Virginia cooperators. However out-of-state cooperators will be accepted if space is available with priority determined by previous participation and the postmark date on nomination forms.
2. To be eligible for the 2009 test, rams/bucks must be born between **January 1, 2009 - February 20, 2009**, inclusive.
3. Rams/bucks of any meat breed are eligible for the program. However, all rams/bucks of a recognized breed must be registered and registration numbers must be furnished prior to June 30. Crossbred rams/bucks also will be accepted for the test and the sale.
4. Rams/bucks must be raised by their natural mothers (lambs/kids raised on nurse ewes/does and foster dams are not eligible for the sale) except that ET lambs/kids may be consigned as long as there is a minimum of three full brothers consigned. ET lambs/kids must be gestated and raised by ewes/does of the same breed as the breed of the ram lamb/buck kid.
5. **NO SINGLE CONSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED.** It is strongly encouraged that at least three rams/bucks from the same contemporary group at weaning be consigned to the test (except as described previously for ETs).
6. Consignors of accepted rams/bucks agree to abide by all rules, regulations, terms, and conditions of the entire program, and any that might be adopted by the West Virginia Small Ruminant Test Committee for that particular test.

## PROCEDURES FOR ENTRANCE:

1. Complete Nomination form and mail with \$20.00 per ram/buck nomination fee, postmarked by April 1, 2009. Make check payable to "WV Purebred Sheep Breeders Association". Entry fees for rams/bucks not accepted due to insufficient facility space and/or rams/bucks that do not meet entry requirements will be refunded.
2. After notification of acceptance, complete Consignment Forms and deliver them with the rams/bucks on Monday, April 20, 2009
3. Weigh your lambs/kids between 30 and 90 days of age to calculate an adjusted weaning weight ratio to help identify your superior gaining rams/bucks. For assistance with this, submit your data to the West Virginia Small Ruminant Project. We encourage purebred breeders to also submit data to NSIP.

Data needed to calculate adjusted weaning weight ratios include:

- i. Birth dates
  - ii. Weaning date/ Weaning Weights
  - iii. Age of Dam
  - iv. Birth type/Rearing type
  - v. Birth weights (optional)
4. Rams/Bucks will be received between 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. on April 20, 2009.

## COSTS:

1. \$70 total per ram/buck (\$20 at nomination and \$50 at delivery) (applied to feed, bedding, Veterinary costs, yardage and other station costs associated with recording ultrasonographic data, genetic testing for scrapie, and conducting the Breeding Soundness Evaluation). \*This \$70 fee is our best estimate of the total cost to test each ram/buck. Each consignor will be responsible for all of the costs accumulated by their rams/bucks. The balance will be either added to or deducted from the sale proceeds.
2. Sale costs will include a 5% commission for those rams/bucks making the sale and will be deducted from the sale proceeds.
3. If a ram/buck dies or is removed during the program, the cooperator will pay all costs accumulated to that date.

## SALE REQUIREMENTS:

1. To consign rams/bucks to the post-test sale, a cooperator must be a member of the West Virginia Purebred Sheep Breeders Association (304/257-4372).

2. To be eligible for the sale, registration certificates for each registered ram/buck enrolled in the program must be provided by **June 30, 2009:**
3. Animals in the following categories will not qualify for the sale:
  - a. Any ram with a scrotal circumference of less than 26 cm.
  - b. Rams with a USDA feeder lamb grade for muscle less than 1.0 / Bucks with a USDA meat goat grade for muscle less than 1.0
  - c. Rams/Bucks considered unsound and/or fail to pass the Breeding Soundness Evaluation.
4. After culling on the above information (item #3 a, b, & c), the balance of culling will be based upon the index. A minimum of two-thirds and up to three-fourths of the rams/bucks in a breed will be eligible to sell. The Small Ruminant Test Management Committee will determine those numbers.
5. The index will be used to determine sale order, but will not be published. The index will be calculated as follows:  
$$\text{Index} = [.4*(RFI \text{ ratio})] + [.3*(Loin \text{ Eye Area ratio})] + [.3*(ADG \text{ ratio})]$$
6. A floor price will be established for the sale based upon market conditions. Any ram/buck offered for sale that fails to bring the floor price will be the responsibility of the cooperator as soon as the ram/buck leaves the sale ring.
7. Seller agrees to guarantee ability of rams/bucks to breed and settle ewes/does if properly cared for.
8. The sale committee reserves the right to disqualify any ram/buck because of health, disposition or lack of identification, and/or if in the committee's opinion, the ram/buck appears to be misrepresented. As a cooperator, you agree to allow management to obtain blood samples for DNA testing/evaluation.

## OTHER:

1. Sale order will be determined by the Small Ruminant Evaluation committee and the sale committee. They will have the flexibility to adjust sale order so some sire groups may be offered for sale.
2. Rams/Bucks will be fed in groups, according to breed and age, within facility limitations.
3. All rams/bucks must remain on feed for the entire period unless removed with written permission from the test manager.
4. **Cooperators are recommended to wean lambs/kids at least 14 days prior to delivery and have them started on ad-libitum pelleted feed in order to minimize stress.**

5. Announcements at the sale will come from the auctioneer's box.
6. Non-sale rams/bucks will be released following breeding soundness exams. They must be picked up before 8:00 a.m. on sale day. Cooperators are encouraged to send inferior rams/bucks to slaughter.
7. Breeds represented by fewer than two consigners will be handled in the most appropriate manner possible as determined by the Small Ruminant Evaluation committee.

## LIABILITY:

Rams/Bucks in the evaluation program will receive appropriate management. Veterinary services will be used when deemed necessary by the station management and/or the program chairman. The sponsors assume no liability for loss of rams/bucks, property damage, personal injury, or the accuracy of consignor information or of data collected.

## SCHEDULE:

Birth Dates	Jan. 1, 2009-Feb. 20, 2009
Delivery to Test	April 20, 2009
On Test	April 30, 2009
Off Test	July 1, 2009
BSE & Ultrasound	TBA
Sale Day	July 25, 2009

Rams/Bucks will be weighed weekly to collect the gain data necessary to calculate Residual Feed Intake. On test and Off test weights will be taken the day prior to and the day after the official On test and Off Test dates and averaged to help take into account differences in gut fill. Progress reports will be disseminated at three week intervals and can be accessed on the web at: [www.caf.wvu.edu/avs/sheep/perftest.html](http://www.caf.wvu.edu/avs/sheep/perftest.html) .

## Addresses and phone numbers for reference:

### **Jerry Yates or Sara Hare**

Reymann Memorial Farm  
1695 SR 259 North  
Wardensville, WV 26851  
Phone 304-874-3561  
Fax 304-874-3561

### **Dr. Paul Lewis or Dr. Keith Inskeep** WVU Division of Animal & Nutritional Sciences

PO Box 6108  
Morgantown, WV 26506-6108  
Phone: 304-293-2406

### **Brad Smith**

115 ½ Virginia Ave  
Petersburg, WV 26847  
Phone: 304-257-4688

### **Fane Irvine**

900 East Tenth Ave  
Marlinton, WV 24954  
Phone: 304-799-4852

### **Sandy Smith**

WVPSBA Sec/Treas  
HC 33 Box 3001  
Dorcas, WV 26847  
Phone: 304-257-1046



## 2009 West Virginia Small Ruminant (Sheep and Goat) Evaluation Program Nomination Form

### Please Print

Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of **rams** you want to test: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of **bucks** you want to test: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

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(Owner's Signature)

(Date)

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Nomination Deadline: April 1, 2009

Nomination Fee: \$20.00 per ram/buck (due with this form)

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: WV PUREBRED SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION**

Send Nomination Fee and Form to:

Sara Hare  
West Virginia Small Ruminant Project  
Reymann Memorial Farm  
1695 SR 259 North  
Wardensville, WV 26851