

2024 - 2025 Dakota Fall Ram Test Program

*Dr. Rachel Gibbs, Dr. Christopher Schauer and Dave Pearson,
NDSU, Hettinger Research Extension Center
Jaelyn Whaley, South Dakota State University*

The 2024-2025 Dakota Fall Ram Test will be held at the Hettinger Research Extension Center in Hettinger, ND. Rachel Gibbs and Dave Pearson will serve as the test managers.

Cost. The cost per ram is **\$350** due upon delivery at the test site. **Please add \$16/hd if you do not have your DNA testing done, we will test them. Depending on where feed prices go, we may have to ask for more \$ at the end of the test to cover the feed bill, but I hope not.** This will cover feed, management, veterinary attention, and wool testing. Wool from the Ram Test to help cover shearing costs. **NEW!!! We are now offering the option to measure individual ram feed intake, feed efficiency, and gas emissions at no additional cost for 2024-2025. Contact Rachel Gibbs with questions regarding this addition. We anticipate conducting a 28 day test for these traits.**

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 2024 - 2025 DAKOTA FALL RAM TEST (Dates Subject to Change)

By September 22, 2024	Rams to be delivered to the HREC
September 23-25, 2024 (tentative)	Rams shorn
September 26, 2024	Rams weighed, started on test
October 24, 2024	28 day weighing
November 21, 2024	56 day weighing
December 19, 2024	84 day weighing
	trim hooves and re-vaccinate
January 16, 2025	112 day weighing
	140 day weighing - End of growth test period
February 13, 2025	Bleed B-ovis and DNA, staple length, wrinkle score, scrotal circumference
February 14, 2025	Rams shorn - core sampling, wool weights
February 17, 2025	Ultrasound
March 15, 2025	Field Day and Sale; rams picked up by owner 9 AM (MST)

Delivery: Contact Rachel Gibbs (325-340-3703) prior to delivery at the HREC. Transportation is available from Hettinger Ram Sale and Newell Ram Sale by contacting Chris Schauer and confirming your # of head. The HREC will have a trailer onsite to load animals.

REGULATIONS FOR 2024-2025 DAKOTA FALL RAM TEST

1. Ram lambs will be delivered to the test site by September 26, 2024.
2. Rams will be shorn, weighed, and will start the official test on September 26.
3. Individual fleeces will be shorn and sampled on February 14. 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. Feed: The rams will be self-fed a mixed ration containing a commercial protein supplement, oats, corn, and alfalfa pellets.
5. **NEW!!!! Feed intake and efficiency data will be generated by smart feeders during the growth test period for participating rams. Gas emissions including methane and carbon dioxide production will be measured using a GreenFeed System. *Rams will be adapted to this equipment prior to testing and producers will be notified if rams fail to pass the adaption period. This is a voluntary collection, not required.**
6. 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.
7. Feeding and management of the rams on test will be under the supervision of Dave Pearson and Rachel Gibbs.

Ration	%
Oats	55%
Corn	15%
Market Lamb 38-10 CTC	15%
Alfalfa Pellets	15%
	100%

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".**

COLUMBIA RAMS AND OTHER BREEDS CONSIGNED

All data will be collected based on the Rambouillet Certified Ram program, but breeds will be separate. The Rambouillet Index will NOT be used. Certification criteria are up to the individual breed associations. All health requirements are the same. DNA testing is not required, but can be done upon request.

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\$350 is due upon delivery to the HREC. **Please add \$16 to your registration fee if you have not done your DNA testing.** Please fill in the information listed above and send it with your nomination fee to Rachel Gibbs by **September 22, 2024**. All rams must be delivered no later than September 22.

Please make checks payable to **Hettinger Research Extension Center**.

Note: **Please address entries to:** Hettinger Research Extension Center
 Attn. Rachel Gibbs
 PO Box 1377
 Hettinger, ND 58639
 Phone: 701-567-4323
 e-mail: rachel.gibbs.1@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 2024-2025 Dakota Fall Ram Test Program.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

e-mail Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City

State

Zip Code

