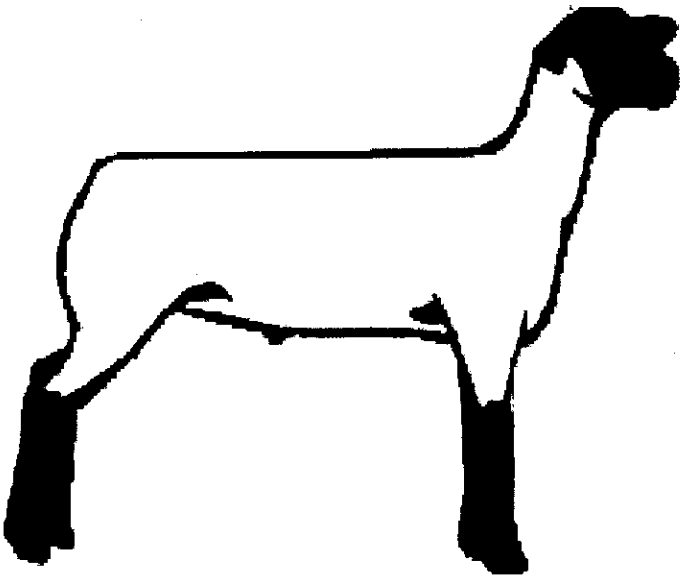
34th Annual
Virginia Performance Tested
Ram Lamb Sale



Saturday, August 29, 2009

1:00 PM

Virginia Sheep Evaluation Station

Steeles Tavern, VA

Breeding Season Management

Scott P. Greiner, Extension Animal Scientist- Sheep, Virginia Tech

A diligent amount of time spent studying performance information, pedigrees and other pertinent information is warranted as ram selection is the most important tool for making genetic progress in the flock. Of equal importance is the care and management of the newly acquired ram. Proper management and nutrition are essential for the ram to perform satisfactorily during the breeding season. With ram lambs, management prior, during, and after the first breeding season is particularly important.

Ram Lamb Management

Ram lambs offered through the Virginia Performance Tested Ram Lamb Sale have recently completed a gain test, which provided a high plane of nutrition. To prepare the rams for the breeding season and prevent excess fat deposition, rams have been limit fed a grain ration and had unlimited access to pasture since completion of the test. Young rams should be managed to be in moderate body condition prior to the breeding season (not excessively fat or thin), to provide adequate reserves of energy for use during the breeding season. The rams should continue to receive grain supplementation at a rate of 2% of their bodyweight daily, along with an abundance of high quality forage. Provide adequate clean water, and a high selenium mineral formulated for sheep free-choice. A facility for the newly acquired ram that allows for ample exercise will help create rams that are physically fit for the breeding season. The facility should allow the rams to remain cool during hot days, so potential fertility problem due to heat stress can be avoided. It is advisable not to commingle a newly purchased ram lamb with older, mature rams. Particular care should be taken if rams from different sources need to be commingled, and all commingling should take place prior to the breeding season.

Many factors influence the breeding capacity of rams, including age, breed, nutrition, management, and environment. As a general guideline, ram lambs are capable of breeding 15 to 25 ewes during their first breeding season. Ram lambs should be observed closely to monitor their breeding behavior and libido to ensure they are servicing and settling ewes. The use of a marking harness, rotating colors every 17 days, is an excellent management tool for this purpose. The breeding season should be kept to a maximum of 60 days for young rams. This will prevent over-use, severe weight loss and reduced libido. Severe weight loss may impair future growth and development of the young ram, and reduce his lifetime usefulness. When practical, supplementing ram lambs with grain during the breeding season will reduce excessive weight loss. Rams used together in multiple-sire breeding pastures should be of similar age and size. Ram lambs cannot compete with mature rams in the same breeding pasture. A sound management practice is to rotate rams among different breeding pastures every 17 days. This practice decreases the breeding pressure on a single ram.

Preparing the Ewe Flock for the Breeding Season

Some advance planning and simple management practices will assist in having a successful breeding season. Vaccination of the ewe flock for Campylobacter (vibrio) and Chlamydia are important for abortion disease control. For ewe lambs and ewes not previously vaccinated, these products typically require an initial injection prior to the breeding season followed by a second vaccination during gestation. In subsequent years, a single booster vaccination is required. Follow product label directions when administering any vaccine. A month prior to the breeding season is also an opportune time to trim and inspect feet on the ewe flock, and perform preventative foot care. This is also a good time to make final culling decisions, and sell poor producing and thin ewes.

Flushing is the practice of increasing energy intake, and therefore body condition, during the 10-14 days prior to breeding. This practice has been shown to be effective in increasing ovulation rates, and thereby increasing lambing percentage by 10-20%. The response to flushing is affected by several factors, including the body condition of the ewe. Ewes that are in poor body condition will respond most favorably to the increase in energy, whereas fat ewes will show little if any response. Flushing can be accomplished by moving ewes to high quality pastures, or through providing .75 to 1.25 lb. corn or barley per head per day from 2 weeks pre-breeding through 4 weeks into the breeding season. Provide a high-selenium, sheep mineral free choice.

Like rams, ewes are also prone to heat stress during early breeding seasons. Prolonged exposure to high temperatures can have an effect on ewe fertility and embryo survival. To help reduce these embryo losses and resulting decrease in lamb crop, minimize handling during the heat of the day and allow the flock access to a cool, shaded area.

Ram Management After the Breeding Season

Young rams require a relatively high plane of nutrition following the breeding season to replenish body condition and meet demands for continued growth. Body condition and projected mature size of the ram will determine his nutrient requirements during the months following the breeding season. Rams should be kept away from ewes in an isolated facility or pasture after the breeding season. In the winter months, provide cover from extreme weather that may cause frostbite to the scrotum resulting in decreased fertility.

All stud rams should receive breeding soundness exams (BSE) to assure fertility on an annual basis. Assess the ram battery in early summer, so that new rams can be acquired in a timely fashion for the next breeding season.

34th Annual
VIRGINIA PERFORMANCE TESTED RAM LAMB SALE

Saturday, August 29, 2009 1:00 p.m.
Virginia Sheep Evaluation Station
Virginia Tech Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Research and Extension Center
Steeles Tavern, VA

Sale Day Phone: (540) 230-2680
Prior to Sale Day Call: (540) 231-9163

Schedule

9:00 a.m. – Barn open to the public

Lunch available on site, provided by Virginia Junior Sheep Breeders

1:00 p.m. – Performance Tested Ram Sale

Location: The Virginia Sheep Evaluation Station is located on the Virginia Tech Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Research and Extension Center. Directions: ½ mile east of Interstate 81 at exit 205 (approximately 20 miles south of Staunton, VA).

Terms and Conditions

Sponsor: Virginia Sheep Producers Association
Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Phone: (540) 231-9163

Auctioneer: Robbie Reeves
Mt. Solon, VA
(540) 350-2672

Guarantee: All rams are being sold as guaranteed breeders if properly managed. If a ram fails to perform satisfactorily, notification must be made to the consignor promptly and not later than April 1, 2010. Consignors are not liable for failure to have a lamb crop. This guarantee is between the buyer and seller only, and no other parties assume any liability, legal or otherwise, expressed or implied.

Terms: Cash (check). Absentee bids may be left with the contacts listed above.

Risk: All animals at purchaser's risk as soon as sold.

Health: Proper health certificates for transport will be furnished to the buyer upon request.

Registration: Registration papers will be transferred to purchaser at no charge.

About the Rams and the Data

Nutrition and Management

Fifty rams (29 Suffolk, 6 Fall Dorset, 4 Winter Dorset, 6 Winter Hampshire, 5 Winter Katahdin) from 9 consignors were delivered to the Virginia Sheep Evaluation Station on May 5, 2009. The rams were weighed, vaccinated for clostridial diseases, dewormed, had feet trimmed and soaked, and scrotal measurements taken. Rams were allocated to four pens based on breed and age. After a two-week adjustment period, the rams started on test. A pelleted ration containing approximately 75% TDN and 14% CP was fed ad libitum for the entire 63-day test. Rams also had access to pasture during the entire feeding period. The FAMACHA system was used during the course of the test for parasite control (none of the rams were dewormed during test period). Rams of all breeds have been genotyped to be free of the spider gene (normal, NN genotype). At the conclusion of the test rams were evaluated for structural soundness and overall type by a committee. Unsound and unsuitable rams have been eliminated from the sale. Additionally, all rams selling have passed a breeding soundness examination conducted by veterinarians from the VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. The breeding soundness exam includes measurement of scrotal circumference, examination of the reproductive tract, and semen evaluation. Since the conclusion of the test (July 20), rams have been limit fed the pelleted ration and had access to pasture. The rams have been dewormed and had their feet trimmed since completion of test.

Performance Data

%:	All rams are registered/recorded with their respective breed association. For breeds with open flock books or appendix registries, breed percentage (%) is indicated. PB = purebred, 75% = three-quarter-blood, 50% = half-blood, etc.
Birth Type:	S = single, TW = twin, TR = triplet, QD = quadruplet
Codon 171:	Genotype associated with genetic resistance to scrapie. Presence of at least one *R* is associated with scrapie resistance.
Final Wt.:	Ram weight at the conclusion of the 63-day test on July 15.
Test ADG:	Average daily gain in pounds per day for the entire 63-day test.
Final WDA:	Weight-Per-Day-of-Age at the conclusion of the test. Calculated by dividing final weight by days of age. Indicative of the ram's growth since birth, and includes growth prior to arriving at the test station (weaning growth) as well as gain on test.
ADG and WDA Ratios:	Expresses ADG or WDA for an individual ram as a percentage of the average performance for all rams in his test group. A ratio of 100 is average, 110 would be 10% above average, and 90 is 10% below average. Ratios may only be compared on rams that are in the same breed and test group.
Scrotal Cir.:	Actual scrotal circumference in cm measured during breeding soundness exam.
Adj. FT:	Ultrasound fat thickness measurement (in.) taken between the 12th and 13th ribs. Adjusted to a constant live weight of 125 pounds.
Adj. LMA:	Ultrasound loin muscle area measurement (square in.) taken between the 12th and 13th ribs. Adjusted to a constant live weight of 125 pounds.
Test Group Averages:	Averages for all rams that concluded the test. Includes both sale rams and those not selling.

Sale Order

Rams will sell by breed test group. Within breed test group, sale order is determined by a gain index which combines ADG and WDA. *Please note the attached list of rams is tentative pending results of the final breeding soundness exam.* Sale order will be available sale day.

2009 Virginia Ram Lamb Performance Test Sale
August 29, 2009 1:00 PM
Virginia Sheep Evaluation Station, Steeles Tavern, VA
Sale Day Phone (540) 230-2680 Prior to Sale Call (540) 231-9163

Test ID	Flock ID	%	Sire	Birth Date	Birth Type	Codon 171 Genotype	7/21/09 63-day Wt.	Test ADG	ADG Ratio	7/15/08 63-day WDA	WDA Ratio	Scrotal Cir.	125 lb Adj. FT	125 lb. Adj. LMA
FALL DORSET														
Virginia Tech; Scott Greiner; Dept of Animal & Poultry Sciences; Blacksburg, VA 24061; 540-231-9159														
1	K003	PB	K Bar K 066053	9/10/2008	Tw	RR	228	0.89	104	0.73	97	35.5	0.10	3.12
2	K009	PB	VA Tech G029	9/13/2008	Tw	QR	234	0.89	104	0.75	100	35.0	0.05	2.14
3	K015	PB	VA Tech G014	9/16/2008	S	RR	224	0.74	87	0.73	97	36.0	0.08	3.34
4	K033	PB	VA Tech G029	9/23/2008	Tw	RR	224	0.88	103	0.74	99	36.0	0.05	2.87
5	K042	PB	VA Tech G029	9/30/2008	S	QR	225	0.77	91	0.77	102	37.5	0.10	2.84
6 Fall Dorsets Avg.							228	0.85	100	0.75	100	35.8	0.07	2.90
WINTER DORSET														
Virginia Tech; Scott Greiner; Dept of Animal & Poultry Sciences; Blacksburg, VA 24061; 540-231-9159														
31	K067	PB	K Bar K 066053	1/31/2009	S	QQ	157	1.00	108	0.92	97	35.0	0.12	2.83
32	K079	PB	K Bar K 066053	2/3/2009	S	RR	161	0.77	83	0.96	102	30.5	0.12	2.34
33	K090	PB	Hunter 63286	2/13/2009	S	QR	151	1.01	109	0.95	101	33.0	0.13	2.54
3 Winter Dorsets Avg.							156	0.93	100	0.94	100	32.8	0.12	2.57
WINTER HAMPSHIRES														
Fox Grape Farm; William & Wanda Brockman; PO Box 55; Piney River, VA 22964; 434-277-5019														
101	47-08	PB	Cabaniss 258-06	12/17/2008	Tw	QR	171	0.85	91	0.79	83	35.0	0.10	2.78
102	7-09	PB	Cabaniss 258-06	1/23/2009	Tw	QR	175	1.06	113	0.97	103	33.0	0.11	2.62
103	5-09	PB	Cabaniss 258-06	1/22/2009	Tw	RR	176	0.97	104	0.98	103	36.0	0.14	3.06
104	52-09	PB	Fox Grape 45-07	2/24/2009	Tw	QR	155	1.13	121	1.05	111	33.0	0.16	2.74
105	23-09	PB	Cabaniss 258-06	1/29/2009	Tw	QR	168	0.90	97	0.97	103	32.0	0.13	2.61
106	9-09	PB	Cabaniss 258-06	1/24/2009	S	QR	162	0.70	75	0.91	96	33.0	0.12	2.45
6 Winter Hampshires Avg.							168	0.93	100	0.95	100	33.4	0.13	2.70
WINTER SUFFOLK														
Lotsa Rock Farm; Michael Swisher; 2100 Crums Church Rd; Berryville, VA 22611; 540-955-2539														
231	09-04	PB	Cornerstone 5111	2/8/2009	Tw	RR	166	1.19	111	1.02	95	34.5	0.13	2.47
Suffangus Farm; Carroll W. & C.McCheyne Swortzel; 401 Indian Ridge Road; Greenville, VA 24440; 540-337-1426; 540-280-6974														
232	7171	PB	VA Tech H7274	2/1/2009	S		198	1.23	115	1.16	108	33.5	0.21	2.96
233	7191	PB	VA Tech H7274	1/13/2009	Tw	RR	200	1.02	96	1.06	98	35.0	0.18	3.34
234	7190	PB	VA Tech H7274	1/16/2009	Tw	RR	213	1.29	121	1.15	107	33.0	0.18	2.92
235	7188	PB	VA Tech H7274	1/19/2009	Tw	QR	187	0.93	87	1.02	95	32.0	0.14	2.88
236	7176	PB	VA Tech H7274	1/27/2009	Tr	RR	184	1.04	97	1.05	98	36.0	0.15	3.76
237	7173	PB	VA Tech H7274	1/28/2009	Tw	RR	186	1.18	110	1.07	100	35.0	0.17	3.14
238	7186	PB	VA Tech H7274	1/24/2009	Tw	QR	193	1.05	98	1.08	101	32.0	0.19	3.28
239	7170	PB	VA Tech H7274	2/4/2009	S	RR	187	1.19	111	1.12	104	30.5	0.16	2.86

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Test ID	Flock ID	%	Sire	Birth Date	Birth Type	Codon 171 Genotype	7/21/09 63-day Wt.	Test ADG	ADG Ratio	7/15/08 63-day WDA	WDA Ratio	Scrotal Cir.	125 lb Adj. FT	125 lb. Adj. LMA
Sponaugle Suffolks; John H. Sponaugle; 8888 Leroy Road; Grottoes, VA 24441; 540-249-5197														
241	631A	PB	Kimm 5093	2/16/2009	Tr	RR	179	1.08	101	1.15	108	34.0	0.13	2.53
242	624	PB	Kimm 5093	2/16/2009	S	RR	179	0.95	89	1.15	108	31.5	0.15	2.83
243	556A	PB	Sponaugle 05-755A	2/18/2009	Tw	RR	170	1.06	100	1.11	103	33.0	0.19	2.75
244	6813A	PB	Sponaugle 05-755A	2/19/2009	Tw	RR	195	1.28	120	1.28	119	34.0	0.16	2.64
245	6813B	PB	Sponaugle 05-755A	2/19/2009	Tw	RR	190	1.09	102	1.25	116	34.5	0.14	2.97
Virginia Tech; Scott Greiner; Dept of Animal & Poultry Sciences; Blacksburg, VA 24061; 540-231-9159														
247	K272	PB	VA Tech H7241	2/26/2009	Tr	QR	159	1.26	118	1.10	102	29.5	0.13	2.69
248	K227	PB	Kimm 03005-07057	2/10/2009	Tr	QR	176	1.17	109	1.09	101	33.0	0.17	2.41
249	K224	PB	Kimm 02239-05081	2/10/2009	Tw	RR	164	1.19	112	1.02	95	33.0	0.19	3.09
Double Scott Farm; John Scott, Jr.; RR 2, Box 452; Princeton, WV 24740; 304-425-6504														
250	330	PB	Mint Gold Ranch 7005 RR	1/13/2009	Tw	RR	182	0.96	90	0.96	89	34.0	0.12	2.44
251	331	PB	Mint Gold Ranch W1270-4019RR	2/7/2009	S	RR	187	0.98	91	1.14	106	34.0	0.15	3.11
252	332	PB	Mint Gold Ranch 7005 RR	1/30/2009	Tw	RR	193	1.15	108	1.12	104	31.5	0.08	3.01
253	333	PB	Mint Gold Ranch 7005 RR	1/31/2009	Tw	RR	188	1.10	103	1.10	102	32.0	0.05	2.61
254	329	PB	Mint Gold Ranch W1270-4019RR	1/11/2009	S	QR	204	1.02	95	1.07	99	37.0	0.13	2.70
Meadows Suffolks; Andy Meadows & Willie Morris, Mgr.; 118 Culpepper Ave; Buchanan, VA 24066; 540-529-2177														
257	H251B	PB	Kimm 9108-06095	2/24/2009	Tw	QR	163	1.07	100	1.11	103	31.0	0.19	3.05
258	692B	PB	Kimm 9108-06095	2/13/2009	Tw	RR	177	1.15	108	1.12	104	35.0	0.13	2.82
29 Winter Suffolks Avg.							177	1.07	100	1.07	100	32.8	0.15	2.84
WINTER KATAHDIN														
OW Farms; Pete Odle; 343 Crabapple Rd; Nickelsville, VA 24271; 276-479-2890														
702	OW69	PB	MSP 5007	1/18/2009	Tw	RR	156	0.85	97	0.85	114	33.0	0.22	2.30
Big H Livestock; Jim & Sally Hash; 518 Old Prater Rd; Marion, VA 24354; 276-782-8422														
703	15	PB	JM 7-30	1/19/2009	S	RR	136	0.98	112	0.74	100	31.0	0.18	2.08
704	18	PB	JM 7-30	2/16/2009	Tw	RR	119	0.98	111	0.76	102	28.0	0.19	2.08
5 Winter Katahdins Avg.							133	0.88	100	0.75	100	30.4	0.20	2.16
49 Rams Avg.							176	1.00	100	0.98	100	33.0	0.14	2.74