

## 2025 Summer Dakota Ram Lamb Performance Test

The 2025 Summer Dakota Ram Lamb Performance Test will be held at the Hettinger Research Extension Center in Hettinger, ND. This test is primarily designed to identify differences in post-weaning growth performance for developing ram lambs managed under the same environmental conditions and plane of nutrition. This test aims to provide consignors with detailed information on ram growth performance to expand genetic selection criteria and advance flock improvement. Dr. Rachel Gibbs (NDSU Extension Livestock Specialist) and Dave Pearson (NDSU Hettinger Research Extension Center Shepherd) will serve as the test managers.

### Animal Requirements:

Ram lambs must be within 3-6 months of age at the time of delivery (June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025). This test is open to all sheep breeds, and rams can be purebred or crossbred.

### Cost:

The cost per ram lamb is **\$85**, due to the Hettinger REC upon delivery at the test site. This will cover feed, management, feed intake/efficiency monitoring, carcass scanning, and general veterinary attention. If you would like DNA testing, indicate that DNA sampling is needed on the registration fee and include an additional \$16/hd in the registration fee. Feed costs are subject to change based on actual feed prices. Additional funds may be requested at the end of the test to cover feed costs. Consignors will be responsible for extensive veterinary care outside of general management and monitoring.

### Health:

Ram lambs will be vaccinated against enterotoxemia, drenched for internal parasites, and poured for external parasites shortly after arrival. ***In order to comply with North Dakota health regulations, ALL ram lambs must be accompanied with a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) and individual federal identification*** (scrapie tag, 840 electronic RFID tag, or breed registration tattoo). All animals must also be accompanied with a ***completed test entry form and originate from a footrot and scrapie-free flock.***

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

By June 22, 2025	Ram Lamb Delivery to HREC
June 23-25th	Process, Vaccinate, & DNA Sample Ram Lambs
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	Performance Test Start Date
	0-day Weights & Carcass Scanning
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	28-day Weights – Consignor Update
August 21 <sup>st</sup>	56-day Weights – Consignor Update
September 4 <sup>th</sup>	Performance Test End Date
	70-day Weights, Carcass Scanning, Visual Inspection (Breed Standard &/or Skeletal Abnormalities)
September 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Field Day; Ram lambs picked up by owner

**Delivery:** Contact Rachel Gibbs (701-567-4323 or 325-340-3703) prior to delivery at the HREC. \*A centralized pickup location can be arranged with sufficient interest; contact Rachel to learn more about this option.

## REGULATIONS FOR 2025 SUMMER DAKOTA RAM LAMB PERFORMANCE TEST

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1. Ram lambs will be delivered to the test site by June 22nd, 2025. Rams should be weaned a minimum of 1 week prior to delivery and be disease, illness, and injury-free.
2. Ram lambs will be weighed and scanned for carcass measurements at the start of the official testing period on June 26th, 2025, weighed every 28 days thereafter, and weighed and scanned for carcass measurements at the end of the official testing period on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
3. Consigners and participating breed associations will be provided regular updates through email on ram lamb performance as data is collected.
4. Feed: Ram lambs will be self-fed a mixed ration containing a commercial protein supplement, oats, corn, and alfalfa pellets.

<u>Ration</u>	<u>%</u>
Oats	55%
Corn	15%
Market Lamb 38-10 CTC	15%
Alfalfa Pellets	15%
	100%

5. Feed Efficiency: Feed intake and efficiency data will be generated by smart feeders during the growth test period for participating ram lambs. \*Ram lambs will be adapted to this equipment prior to testing, and consigners will be notified if rams fail to pass the adaption period. This test is optional, only available to the first 80 head, and interest should be indicated on the registration form.
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 lamb is removed from the test for health reasons or dies while on the test, a partial refund of the entry fee will be made.
7. Feeding and management of the ram lambs on test will be under the supervision of Dave Pearson and Rachel Gibbs.

## 2025 SUMMER DAKOTA RAM LAMB PERFORMANCE TEST

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**Registration fees (\$85/head)** are due upon delivery to the HREC. Please include an additional \$16/hd for Codon 171 Genotype testing. Out-of-state consigners should include an additional \$30 to cover end-of-test health papers.

Please complete the registration form below and send to Rachel Gibbs with your registration fee by June 8th, 2025. All bucks must be delivered by June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

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

*I agree to the regulations pertaining to the conditions and management practices established for the 2025 Summer Dakota Ram Lamb Testing Program.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

## 2025 SUMMER DAKOTA RAM LAMB PERFORMANCE TEST

The following ram lambs are entered for testing under the program and are covered under the contract:

	Unique/Flock ID/Tag/Tattoo	Premises ID/ Scrapie Tag Info	Reg. Number	Birth Date (MM/DD/YR)	Birth Type (S-Tw-Trp)	Breed	Sire ID	Dam ID	*Codon 171 Genotype	Feed Efficiency (Y/N)*
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

\*Indicate DNA testing interest if rams have not been tested and include an additional \$16/head to obtain test results.

\*Indicate interest in feed efficiency data. This test is limited to the first 80 head due to the length of the test and facility constraints. You will be contacted if rams fail the adaption period and/or if rams are not included. Contact Rachel for more information.