

NDSU HETTINGER RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER

Dakota Feeder Lamb Project

May 31st – October 17th

Partially State Board of Agricultural
Funded by: Research & Education



Location:

NDSU Hettinger Research
Extension Center
102 HWY 12 W
Hettinger, ND 58639

Cost: \$175/Sire-Group (5 lambs)
SBARE funding secured to cover
the majority of the general
management and harvest costs.
This cost (\$35/lamb;\$175/sire -
group) covers the remaining
expenses for general management
and feeding to finish lambs to be
harvested. Consignors will be
eligible to receive the harvested
product at the end of data
collection.

Entries:

Please address to: Hettinger
Research Extension Center
Attn. Rachel Gibbs
PO Box 1377
Hettinger, ND 58639
rachel.gibbs.1@ndsu.edu

Delivery:

Winter-Born: 5/29-5/31
Spring-Born: 6/26-6/28
Contact Rachel to schedule
delivery.

Contact Information

Rachel Gibbs, 701-567-4323
rachel.gibbs.1@ndsu.edu
Travis Hoffman, 701-231-2222
travis.w.hoffman@ndsu.edu

Why should you consign?

- This test is primarily designed to identify genetic potential differences between sires through progeny performance, resiliency, and end-product value.
- Consignors will be provided with detailed information on economically relevant traits including traditional growth metrics, carcass quality, carcass uniformity, and lamb value to aid in genetic selection decisions and marketability of commercial sires.
- As a centralized performance test, this test minimizes the impact of non-genetic factors as lambs are managed in the same environment and on the same plane of nutrition.
- Consignors are eligible to receive USDA-inspected harvested lamb from lambs they consign at the end of the data collection period.

Consignment Criteria

- **SIRE-GROUPED WETHER LAMBS – 5 Lambs Per Sire**
 - Winter Born: Jan-Feb Born
 - Spring Born: March-April Born
- All lambs must originate from a scrapie and footrot-free flock and be accompanied by a current certificate of veterinary inspection.



www.ag.ndsu.edu/HettingerREC

2026 Dakota Feeder Project

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Winter-Born Sire-Grouped Feeder Lambs	
By May 31st, 2026	Lamb Delivery to HREC Deadline
May 31st – June 7th	Adaption Period + Process, Vaccinate, Pour, & Deworm
June 8th & 9th	Performance Test Start
	0-day Weights & Carcass Scanning
July 6th	28-day Weights – Consignor Update
August 3rd	56-day Weights – Consignor Update
September 5th & 6th	Performance Test End
	90-Day Weights & Carcass Scanning
September 7-11th	Harvest at NDSU Meat Lab & Carcass Grading/Evaluation

Spring-Born Sire-Grouped Feeder Lambs	
By June 28th, 2026	Lamb Delivery to HREC Deadline
June 28th – July 5th	Adaption Period + Process, Vaccinate, Pour, & Deworm
July 6th and 7th	Performance Test Start
	0-day Weights & Carcass Scanning
August 3rd	28-day Weights – Consignor Update
August 31st	56-day Weights – Consignor Update
October 3rd & 4th	Performance Test End
	90-Day Weights & Carcass Scanning
October 5th – 9th	Harvest at NDSU Meat Lab & Carcass Grading/Evaluation

All Consignors	
October 17th	Feeder Lamb Project Field Day, Location & Time TBD

2026 Dakota Feeder Lamb Project

Test Guidelines

1. To be eligible to consign, feeder lambs must be sired by the same ram. Five feeder lambs per sire required in order to test for uniformity. No more than 5 feeder lambs per sire will be accepted. A maximum of 50 winter-born lambs and 50 spring-born lambs will be allowed to consign.
2. Feeder lambs will need to be delivered to the test site by the lamb delivery deadline (Winter-born: May 31st, 2026; Spring-Born: June 28th, 2026). Upon delivery, lambs will be processed, vaccinated, poured for external parasites, and dewormed.
3. Feeder lambs will be transitioned to a self-fed mixed ration containing a commercial protein supplement (15%), oats (55%), corn (15%), and alfalfa pellets (15%) over 7 days.
4. Feeder lambs will be weighed and scanned for carcass measurements at the start of the official testing period and again at the end of the testing period. Weights will also be collected every 28 days throughout the testing period and consignors will be provided with monthly updates. Initial and final weights will be collected on two consecutive days and averaged to minimize differences in gut fill. Weight gain, ADG, Age-adjusted ADG (weight-per-day of age), an ultrasound-estimated loin eye size and growth will be provided. Biological samples (saliva and blood) will be collected at the beginning of the test and periodically throughout the finishing period to evaluate differences in feeder lamb resiliency or the ability to handle stress and fight off disease. Feeder lamb resiliency data will be provided at the conclusion of the Dakota Feeder Lamb Project.
5. Feeder lambs will be shipped to the NDSU Meat Lab in Fargo, ND and harvested for carcass evaluation. Hot carcass weight, dressing percentage, yield and quality grade factors, and %BCTRC will be provided as well as indicators of carcass uniformity among sire groups. Lamb harvested will be provided back to the consignor unless otherwise specified on the registration form; additional fees for fabrication and packaging will apply.
6. Consigners and participating breed associations will be provided regular updates through email on feeder lamb performance as data is collected. Monthly updates will serve as a health update and should not be considered for performance evaluations. Final data will not be available until the conclusion of the Dakota Feeder Lamb Project on October 17th.
7. Liability: All animals remain the property of the consignor until harvest in which the consignor has first rights to the harvested lamb. 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 consignor will be contacted on direction for disposal. If a lamb is removed from test for health reason, or dies while on test, a partial refund of the entry fee may be issued.
8. Feeding and management of the lambs on test will be under the supervision of Dr. Rachel Gibbs with the help of HREC staff/graduate students/interns. Lamb harvest and carcass evaluation will be under the supervision of Dr. Travis Hoffman with the help of NDSU Meat Lab staff.

2026 Dakota Feeder Lamb Project

DUE: MAY 24th, 2026

The following sire-grouped lambs are entered for testing under the program and are covered under the contract:

	Unique ID/Tag/Tattoo	Premises ID	Birth Date (MM/DD/YR)	Birth Type (S-Tw-Trp)	Breed	Sire ID	Dam ID
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							

No. of Carcasses

Chilled, Whole or Quartered Carcasses (No Additional Fee; Must Pick-Up)

Processed/Fabricated/Packaged at \$1.25/lb Hanging Weight

**Additional Fees for Specialty Cuts, Value-added Processing (Sausage), & Shipping*

Sell to NDSU Meat Lab at/around Market Price (Limited to 25 lambs/harvest)

**Contact Rachel for Availability*

I agree to the regulations pertaining to the conditions and management practices established for the 2026 Dakota Feeder Project.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

e-mail Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____
 City State Zip Code