

NDSU HETTINGER RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER

2026-27 Fall Dakota Ram Test

Sep. 20th – Mar. 13th

Location:

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

Cost: **\$350/ram**

Out-of State Consignors: Include
an additional **\$30** total for end-of
test health certificate.

Optional DNA Testing: **\$21.50/hd**

Entries:

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

Delivery:

Sep. 16th – 20th
Contact Rachel to schedule
delivery.

Contact Information

Rachel Gibbs, 701-567-4323
rachel.gibbs.1@ndsu.edu

Why should you consign?

- This test is primarily designed to identify differences in heritable and economically important traits, including wool quality and post-weaning growth performance in developing rams.
- As a centralized performance test, this test minimizes the impact of non-genetic factors on post-weaning growth performance as rams are managed in the same environment and on the same plane of nutrition.
- Consignors are provided with detailed information on economically relevant traits to aid in genetic selection decisions and marketability of sires.

Eligibility to Consign

- Rams (any breed) must be born between Oct. 2025 & April 2026.
 - Rams born 10/1-12/31 will be classified as Fall-Borns & will be tested and reported separately from Spring-Born Rams.
- Breed registration is not required to consign, but may be required for breed certification programs.
- All ram lambs must originate from a scrapie- and footrot-free flock and be accompanied by a current certificate of veterinary inspection.





2026-27 Fall Dakota Ram Test

DUE: Sep. 20th, 2026
Registration

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

	Unique/Flock ID/Tag/Tattoo	Premises ID/ Scrapies Tag Info	Reg. Number	Birth Date (MM/DD/YR)	Birth Type (S-Tw- Trp)	Breed (Include Horned or Polled)	Sire ID	Dam ID	*Codon 171 Genotype
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									

***Indicate DNA testing interest if rams have not been tested and include an additional \$21.50/ram to obtain test results.**

I agree to the regulations pertaining to the conditions and management practices established for the 2026-2027 Fall Dakota Ram Test.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

e-mail Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____
City State Zip Code



2026-27 Fall Dakota Ram Test

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

By Sep 20th, 2026	Ram Delivery to HREC Deadline
Sep. 21-23 (Tentative)	Shear, Process, Vaccinate, Pour, & Deworm
Sep 24th & 25th	Performance Test Start
	0-day Weights & Carcass Scanning
October 22nd	28-day Weights
November 19th	56-day Weights
December 17th	84-day Weights
	Trim-Hooves & Revaccinate
January 14th, 2026	112-Day Weights
February 10th & 11th	140-Day Weights – End of Growth Testing Period
	Bleed (B-ovis and DNA), staple length, face, belly, & wrinkle scores
Feb. 12-13th (Tentative)	Shear, micron sampling, fleece weights, carcass scan, and scrotal circumference
March 13th	Field Day; rams picked up by owner 9 AM (MST)

Test Guidelines

1. **Liability:** All animals remain the property of the consignor. 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 the test for health reasons or dies while on the test, a partial refund of the entry fee may be provided.
2. **Feeding and management** of the rams on test will be under the supervision of Dr. Rachel Gibbs & Dr. Chris Schauer with the help of HREC staff/interns. Rams will be self-fed a mixed ration containing a commercial protein supplement (15%), oats (55%), corn (15%), and alfalfa pellets (15%). 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. Consigners will be responsible for extensive veterinary care outside of general management and monitoring.
3. **Feed Efficiency:** Feed intake and efficiency data will be generated by smart feeders during the growth test period for participating rams. *Rams will be adapted to this equipment prior to testing and producers will be notified if rams fail to pass the adaptation.
4. **Health:** Rams will be vaccinated against enterotoxemia and sore mouth, treated for internal parasites, and poured for external parasites shortly after arrival. Rams will be tested for *Brucella ovis* (ELISA) at the end of the performance test.

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Test Guidelines Cont.

ARSBA RAMBOUILLET RAM CONSIGNORS

All guidelines for establishing ARSBA Certified Rams and Registry of Merit sires will be followed.

- Rams must be *registered no later than 60 days after the test starts* to be eligible as Certified Rams.
- If a ram 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.
- Consignors should submit a ***STATEMENT OF INTENT*** to enter rams in the Certified Sire Program ***before the testing begins*** and list birth dates accompanying the flock or ear tag numbers. For the ARSBA certification program, eligibility rams must genotype QR or RR at codon 171; QQ rams are not eligible for certification.

COLUMBIA RAMS AND OTHER BREEDS CONSIGNED

All data will be collected based on the ARSBA Rambouillet Certified Ram program, and breeds will be ranked separately. Columbia Rams that meet CSBA criteria will be eligible for Certified Columbia Ram designation. 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. Associations are encouraged to contact Rachel Gibbs for breed-specific testing requests. **The ARSBA Rambouillet Index will NOT be used for other breeds.*