Dear Performance Evaluation Consignor,

We appreciate your interest in the WV Small Ruminant Performance Test Program. Enclosed you will find the Guidelines, and consignment form to be completed. Consignment forms are to be completed and delivered with the rams/bucks at time of delivery. Rams/Bucks are to be delivered to the WVU Reymann Memorial Farm, approximately 2 miles northeast of Wardensville on State Route 259, between 8:30 am and 4 pm on Monday, April 23rd.

In addition to the consignment form you must present the necessary health papers **prior** to unloading rams or bucks. For out of state consignors you will need an Interstate Health Certificate from your home state. Consignors from WV can present a copy of their up to date honor flock certificate or have your veterinarian inspect your flock and write you an official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). USDA regulations state that your sheep/goats must have an official Scrapie ID and that the ID number must be listed on the CVI.

Rams/Bucks must arrive at the test station with feet recently trimmed. Each animal will be examined at delivery. If any evidence of Foot Rot/ Scald, Caseous Lymphadenitis, Ovine Exthyma or any other infectious disease is found at this time your rams/bucks will be rejected.

All rams should be sheared prior to delivery. Any ram not shorn at delivery will be shorn prior to the start of the test at a cost of $5/ head.

The estimated testing cost is $80.00 per ram/buck and is due at delivery of rams/bucks to the test station.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: WV PUREBRED SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Bring rams/bucks that are a good representation of the quality you have available at home and that could be sold as flock/herd improvers at the conclusion of the test. Please double check all of your animals to make sure they are sound so that we don't have to turn any away. Make sure that they have 2 testicles of normal size, that their eyes are normal (no inverted eyelids), and that they have a sound mouth (incisor teeth are properly aligned with the dental pad).

This year our maximum testing capacity of rams is limited to 60 rams. If you have any questions or problems let me know and we will try to work with you the best we can. My email is Brad.Smith@mail.wvu.edu , the office phone is 304-257-4688, and my cell is 304-668-9908. We look forward to seeing you on Monday, April 23, 2012.

Sincerely,

Brad D. Smith
Extension Agent/ WV Small Ruminant Project Director

Guidelines for the 2012 West Virginia Small Ruminant Evaluation Program

Sponsors:
West Virginia Small Ruminant Project
WVU Cooperative Extension Service
Division of Animal & Nutritional Sciences, WVU
West Virginia Purebred Sheep Breeders Association
West Virginia Shepherd's Association

LOCATION:

WVU Reymann Memorial Farm, approximately two miles north of Wardensville on State Route 259.

PURPOSE:

1. To have a common environment and unbiased evaluation of economically important traits of young sires to be used in West Virginia flocks and herds.

2. To provide a test that is available to producers with both small and large flocks. Producers will have the opportunity to test rams and bucks for either home use or to be consigned to an annual Performance-Tested Sale. Thus both purebred and crossbred rams and meat goat bucks will be tested. Bucks should be at least 50% meat goat breed.

3. To promote performance testing of all sheep and goats in West Virginia flocks/herds and serve as an educational tool for the sheep and goat industry.

4. Provide an opportunity for purebred breeders and commercial producers to obtain performance tested rams and bucks that have been evaluated in part under similar environmental conditions.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:

1. Rams/Bucks must carry appropriate Federal Scrapie Program identification tag at delivery.

2. No Rams/Bucks may enter from any flock under federal or state quarantine.

3. ALL HEALTH PAPERS MUST ACCOMPANY RAMS/BUCKS BEING DELIVERED TO THE STATION. HEALTH PAPERS MUST BE PRESENTED AND CLEARED BEFORE THEY ARE UNLOADED

4. All rams/bucks must have their feet trimmed within 10 days prior to delivery to the station.

5. Animals will be processed during the warm-up period as follows:
    i. treated for control of internal and external parasites,
    ii. feet soaked in a foot bath of zinc sulphate at time of delivery
    iii. paint branded
    iv. vaccinated for Enterotoxemia, Tetanus and Soremouth
    v. treated for Coccidia
    vi. Any rams not sheared within 10 days prior to delivery will be sheared prior to the On Test weigh day at a cost of $5.00.
    vii. genetic testing for scrapie susceptibility, which is **mandatory** and will be aquired **at** the test station

6. On arrival at the test station, ram lambs/kids will be evaluated for type, soundness (reproductive, mouth, feet/leg structure), and health (including any foot problems) by a committee and veterinarian. To qualify rams/bucks must meet all of the above conditions.

7. All horned animals MUST have their horns tipped before delivery to the station.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. A maximum of 60 rams and 30 bucks will be accepted to the test. Cooperators will be notified of the number of rams/bucks accepted as soon as possible. Preference will be given to West Virginia cooperators. However out-of-state cooperators will be accepted if space is available with priority determined by previous participation and the postmark date on nomination forms.

2. To be eligible for the 2012 test, rams/bucks must be born between January 1, 2010 - February 29, 2012.

3. Rams/bucks of any meat breed are eligible for the program. However, all rams/bucks of a recognized breed must be registered (100%) and registration papers must be furnished prior to June 30. Crossbred rams/bucks also will be accepted for the test and the sale, any percentage registered ram will be considered as Crossbred.

4. Rams/bucks must be raised by their natural mothers (lambs/kids raised on nurse ewes/does and foster dams are not eligible for the sale) except that ET lambs/kids may be consigned as long as there is a minimum of three full brothers consigned. ET lambs/kids must be gestated and raised by ewes/does of the same breed as the breed of the ram lamb/buck kid.

5. **NO SINGLE CONSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED**. It is strongly encouraged that at least three rams/bucks from the same contemporary group at weaning be consigned to the test (except as described previously for ETs).

6. Consignors of accepted rams/bucks agree to abide by all rules, regulations, terms, and conditions of the entire program, and any that might be adopted by the West Virginia Small Ruminant Test Committee for that particular test.

PROCEDURES FOR ENTRANCE:

1. Complete Consignment Forms and deliver them with the rams/bucks on Monday, April 23, 2012.

3. Weigh your lambs/kids between 30 and 90 days of age to calculate an adjusted weaning weight ratio to help identify your superior gaining rams/bucks. For assistance with this, submit your data to the West Virginia Small Ruminant Project. We encourage purebred breeders to also submit data to NSIP.

   Data needed to calculate adjusted weaning weight ratios include:
   - i. Birth dates
   - ii. Weaning date/ Weaning Weights
   - iii. Age of Dam
   - iv. Birth type/Rearing type
   - v. Birth weights (optional)

4. Rams/Bucks will be received between 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. on April 23, 2012.

COSTS:

1. $80 per ram/buck at delivery (applied to feed, bedding, Veterinary costs, yardage and other station costs associated with recording ultrasonographic data, genetic testing for scrapie, and conducting the Breeding Soundness Evaluation). *This $80 fee is our best estimate of the total cost to test each ram/buck. Each consignor will be responsible for all of the costs accumulated by their rams/bucks. The balance will be either added to or deducted from the sale proceeds.

2. Sale costs will include a 5% commission for those rams/bucks making the sale and will be deducted from the sale proceeds.

2. If a ram/buck dies or is removed during the program, the cooperator will pay all costs accumulated to that date.

SALE REQUIREMENTS:

1. To consign rams/bucks to the post-test sale, a cooperator must be a member of the West Virginia Purebred Sheep Breeders Association.

2. To be eligible for the sale, registration certificates for each registered ram/buck enrolled in the program must be provided by **June 30, 2012:** Otherwise they will be considered as Crossbred.

3. Animals in the following categories will not qualify for the sale:

   a. Any ram with a scrotal circumference of less than 26 cm.

b. Rams with a USDA feeder lamb grade for muscle less than 1.0 / Bucks with a USDA meat goat grade for muscle less than 1.0
c. Rams/Bucks considered unsound and/or fail to pass the Breeding Soundness Evaluation.
d. Rams identified as QQ at Codon 171

4. After culling on the above information (item #3 a,b,c & d), the balance of culling will be based upon the index. A minimum of two-thirds and up to three-fourths of the rams/bucks in a breed will be eligible to sell. The Small Ruminant Test Management Committee will determine those numbers.

5. The index will be used to determine sale order, but will not be published. The index will be calculated as follows:
Index = [.4(RFI ratio)] + [.3*(Loin Eye Area ratio)] + [.3*(ADG ratio)]*

6. A floor price will be established for the sale based upon market conditions. Any ram/buck offered for sale that fails to bring the floor price will be the responsibility of the cooperator as soon as the ram/buck leaves the sale ring.

7. Seller agrees to guarantee ability of rams/bucks to breed and settle ewes/does if properly cared for.

8. The sale committee reserves the right to disqualify any ram/buck because of health, disposition or lack of identification, and/or if in the committee's opinion, the ram/buck appears to be misrepresented. As a cooperator, you agree to allow management to obtain blood samples for DNA testing/evaluation.

OTHER:

1. Sale order will be determined by the Small Ruminant Evaluation committee and the sale committee. They will have the flexibility to adjust sale order so some sire groups may be offered for sale.

2. Rams/Bucks will be fed in groups, according to breed and age, within facility limitations.

3. All rams/bucks must remain on feed for the entire period unless removed with written permission from the test manager. Non-sale rams/bucks will be released at the conclusion of the test. They must be picked up before 8:00 a.m. on sale day. Cooperators are encouraged to send inferior rams/bucks to slaughter.

4. Cooperators are recommended to wean lambs/kids at least 10 days prior to delivery and have them started on ad-libitum **pelleted** feed in order to minimize stress.

5. Announcements at the sale will come from the auctioneer's box.

6. Breeds represented by fewer than two consigners will be handled in the most appropriate manner possible as determined by the Small Ruminant Evaluation committee.

LIABILITY:

Rams/Bucks in the evaluation program will receive appropriate management. Veterinary services will be used when deemed necessary by the station management and/or the program chairman. The sponsors assume no liability for loss of rams/bucks, property damage, personal injury, or the accuracy of consignor information or of data collected.

SCHEDULE:

Birth Dates	Jan. 1 - Feb. 29, 2012
Delivery to Test	April 23, 2012
On Test	May 1, 2012
Off Test	July 3, 2012
Utrasound	June 26, 2012
Sale Day	July 21, 2012

Rams/Bucks will be weighed weekly to collect the gain data necessary to calculate Residual Feed Intake. On test and Off test weights will be taken two consecutive times and averaged to help take into account differences in gut fill. Progress reports will be disseminated at three week intervals and can be accessed on the web at: http://sheepandgoats.wvu.edu .

Addresses and phone numbers for reference:

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1695 SR 259 North
Wardensville, WV 26851
Phone 304-874-3561
Fax 304-874-3561

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