



NEWS RELEASE

April 19, 2019

2019 California Ram Sale Averages Above Last Year

Sacramento, CA. – Composite rams, a combination of Texel, Columbia and Suffolk breeding, topped the 99th annual California Ram Sale with an average price of \$775 a head. A total of 393 rams were sold at the April 13 sale by consigners from Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and California.

All rams averaged \$660 a head compared to \$658 in 2018.

This annual sale, hosted by the California Wool Growers Association (CWGA), is known as a source of quality sheep genetics for commercial producers raising market lambs and breeding replacement ewes. All rams are health and quality sifted by teams of veterinarians and sheep producers prior to the sale, held at the Porterville fairgrounds.

For the fourth year in a row, all sale rams were ultrasounded for loin eye and backfat. Together with ram weight, a Range Ram Index is calculated using a base value of 100 for comparisons. The index is confirmation a ram has the genetics to sire lambs with improved carcass qualities.

Highest indexing ram of the sale was a Composite consigned by Nancy East of Alturas, CA. The ram had an index of 123.0. A Suffolk ram sold by Mike Mann of New Cuyama, CA, had the second highest index at 114.5. Third highest indexing ram at 112.7 was sold by David Hansen of Fairview, UT. Matt Olsen of Spanish Fork, UT received the Best Consignment Award. Best Suffolk Consignment Award went to Kurt and Carol Heupel of Weldon, CO.

Sale consignors bringing rams with the largest loin eye measurements were East and Hansen.

High selling pen of the sale was consigned by David Hansen of Fairview, UT. The five Suffolk rams brought a total of \$5,875. A total of 393 range rams were sold at the auction, down from 2018's sale with 460 head. The 264 head of Suffolk rams averaged \$668, 75 head of crossbred rams averaged \$523, 32 whiteface rams averaged \$665, and 12 Hampshire rams averaged \$523. New this year were two head of Dorpers which averaged \$725.

Efforts by consignors to continuously improve the quality of the rams at this sale are appreciated by buyers, said Dan Macon, CWGA president. Those buyers understand they will be able to produce a better product for consumers with high quality rams, Macon said.

Contributions and the proceeds from the California Ram Sale support CWGA in its continued efforts to deliver lasting value to support and grow all segments of the California Sheep Industry.

For questions, contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or erica@woolgrowers.org.

Since 1860, the California Wool Growers Association (CWGA) has been the voice of the California sheep industry, delivering lasting value to support and grow all segments of the California sheep industry. For information or questions about CWGA, please contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or info@woolgrowers.org.

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