

# **CALIFORNIA RAM SALE**

## **CONSIGNOR RULES & REGULATIONS**

The California Ram Sale is registered to and is under the management of, the California Wool Growers Association (CWGA) located at P.O. Box 68, Catheys Valley, CA 95306

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- The rules of the California Ram Sale will be strictly enforced. It is important that all rules are abided by prior to, during, and after the sale in order to uphold the integrity of this sale.
- Please review the California State laws and requirements for rams entering into the state at [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal\\_Health/pdfs/SheepEntryRequirements.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/pdfs/SheepEntryRequirements.pdf). These regulations will be strictly enforced.
- Please make sure your ELISA testing paperwork is correct and all ear tags are properly listed. It is imperative to have all tags in the rams at the time when blood is drawn by the Veterinarian.
- A separate document must be provided for each lot. The papers are to be segregated by the consignors according to lot and clearly identified by lot number. All paperwork should be legible and clearly identify all rams in each lot. No fax copies.
- All rams passing sifting will be ultrasounded and weighed. Data will be provided to the consignors and buyers.

## **1. PURPOSE – The California Ram Sale is:**

- A. To improve lamb and wool quality.
- B. To improve and help sustain production and the industry.
- C. To provide breeders of quality sheep an outlet.
- D. To provide the California sheep industry with consistently high-quality rams.

## **2. MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Consignors are required to be a CWGA member in a regular, feeder, or youth category.
- B. Consignor must be a member in good standing as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year prior to the sale.

## **3. ALLOTMENT**

- A. Quality and condition are given priority in the allotment of rams to be sold. Those consignors not fully complying with the rules will be penalized at the following year's sale. Consignors with rams below the standard in previous sales may be excluded from the sale or have their consignment reduced the following year.
- B. The primary means of establishing a consignor's allotment size is the average price received by a consignor, in comparison with other consignors of the same breed from the previous year.
- C. Consignors to previous sales are not guaranteed they will be permitted entries in the following year's sale.
- D. The number of rams to be sold by each consignor is set annually each year per the recommendations of the Ram Sale Committee (Sale Committee) to the management of the CWGA and will vary according to the needs of the industry.
- E. Minimum sale consignment: at least three head must be entered. Consignors will be given priority to consign single entry rams into the Sale at the discretion of the Sale Committee.
- F. New consignors:
  - a. Will not be granted a single registered ram allotment, unless permitted by the Sale Committee.
  - b. Must purchase a name sign for \$25.00.
  - c. May be inspected prior to the sale.
  - d. The Management reserves the right to adjust all allotment quotas.
  - e. Priority to sell in the California Ram Sale will be given to California breeders.

## **4. OWNERSHIP**

Consignors must provide the name and address of prior owners of each ram upon request.

## **5. SALE ORDER**

- A. All Single Registered Rams. Such rams must be selected and positively identified by the Quality Sifting Committee.
- B. After sifting, if a consignor has only one range ram, it must be sold during the first round. If the consignor has additional rams, the single ram must be included with another pen of rams.
- C. All rams that are sifted will be eliminated from the sale.
- D. Sale order is determined by the average price received by a consignor, in comparison with other consignors of the same breed from the previous year.

## 6. EAR TAGS

- A. All rams entered must have an Official Scrapie, Tamper-Resistant ear tag in their ear upon arrival. If you are not enrolled in the Voluntary Scrapie Program and are not using the tamper-resistant ear tags, but are using another approved tag, the ram must also carry the tamper-resistant tag. This tag must be in the ram's ear at the time of the ELISA test so that the tag number corresponds with the test results.
- B. Insertion of tamper resistant ear tags in older rams can result in tissue reaction and swelling. This can be minimized by either inserting the tags in an existing hole or by using an ear punch (such as a Temple Tag Ear Punch, which cuts a 1/4" hole) before inserting the tag.

## 7. EPIDIDYMITIS

- A. ELISA [enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for *Brucella ovis*].
  - a. All rams are required to be ELISA tested and must be accompanied by the proper documentation showing the ELISA test has been done within 60 days of the first day of the sale.
  - b. Any ram that is sifted for Epididymitis by the Health Sifting Committee will be retested by sale management. A copy of the test results will be provided to the consignor and remain confidential.
  - c. A separate document must be provided for each lot. The papers are to be segregated by the consignors according to lot and placed in separate envelopes with the lot number written on the outside. A photocopy is permissible if there is more than one ram listed on the original document.
  - d. A numbered ear tag and an ear or flank tattoo are required to match the ram to the document, and the tag must be in the ram's ear at the time the bloodwork is drawn. For consignors enrolled in the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (VSFCP) the Allflex VSFCP tamper-proof ear tag must be used to satisfy this requirement, the tag must be in the rams ear at the time the blood work is drawn, or an official approved ear tag as assigned through the USDA-APHIS.
  - e. The documentation of the ELISA test that is provided to the ram sale management will be provided to the buyer.
  - f. Also included in the sale catalog will be an explanation of the ELISA test, the advantages of the test and the limitations of the test.
  - g. Consignors who flocks are certified as *Brucella ovis* free are not required to have rams ELISA tested. A copy of the flock certificate must be provided to the sale management. Documentation will be provided to the buyer.

California State Law states: "Rams 6 months of age and older imported into California require a negative *Brucella ovis* test within 60 days of entry OR must originate from a *Brucella ovis* free flock. The Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) must include the official ID number, test results, name of the approved laboratory, date of the test or the 'Brucella ovis free flock number.'"

The development of the ELISA test now makes it possible to eradicate *Brucella ovis* epididymitis from flocks. The ELISA test indicates the ram's status at the time of the examination. Negative results are not a guarantee that the ram is not in the incubation stage of the disease nor that the ram will not come down with the disease at a later date if exposed to the *Brucella ovis* bacteria. Negative results only indicate that no evidence of infection could be detected on the day the blood sample was drawn.

## **8. SCRAPIE**

- A. A Consignors listed as "Scrapie Infected, Trace or Source Flocks" at the time of the sale cannot participate in the sale. Consignors are required to notify the sale management of their listing status on their final entry and on any change in status.
- B. The Sale Committee encourages participation in the Federal Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (VSFCP) and/or requires enrollment in the Scrapie Eradication Program. The intent of the VSFCP is to monitor participating flocks for 5 or more years and to certify flocks that are free of scrapie. Information on the VSFCP can be obtained from your state district veterinarian or through the internet at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_diseases/scrapie/free-certi.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/free-certi.shtml)
- C. All rams, unless already enrolled in the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program, will have VSFCP tamper-proof tags placed in their ears prior to the sale. Consignors will be required to complete a Ram Identification Form (all entries may be placed on the single form) and submitted to the sale office. For trace-back purposes, CWGA will retain a record of all rams sold through the sale, with their corresponding ear tag numbers and data, for a period of at least 5 years.

## **9. REGISTRATION PAPERS**

- A. Rams will not be considered registered unless registration papers are available at the sale grounds for inspection when rams are branded. Registration papers are to be endorsed and ready for transfer.
- B. For pens of registered range rams, registration papers are to be segregated by the consignors according to lot, and papers for each lot placed in separate envelopes, on the outside of which is to be written the registration number of papers within and the lot number according to the catalog. (To be applied in accordance with the rules of the various associations.)
- C. The sale clerk will handle registration papers for all rams listed as registered. Registration papers are to be submitted when rams are branded.
- D. Buyers will be provided the registration papers at the time of purchase. It is the responsibility of the new owner to make the transfer through the Breed Association.

## **10. COMMISSION AND ENTRY FEES**

- A. The commission fee is 10% on all rams.
- B. Entry Fees are \$15 per ram.
- C. Consignors will not receive an entry fee refund for rams that do not sell.
- D. Entry Fee MUST ACCOMPANY FINAL ENTRY FORM. Entries sent in without fee will be returned.
- E. A minimum sale price of \$400.00 has been set on all rams.
- F. Consignors have the right to exercise one written reserve bid on each lot. The reserve bid must be given to the sale manager by 12:00 pm noon Sale Day. Any reserve bids received after 12:00 pm noon will not be honored. If the lot is purchased by the reserve bid, the consignor will pay full commission on the amount of the reserve bid.

## **11. RELEASE FROM GROUNDS**

Sale rams will not be permitted to leave the grounds without a signed sales slip or signed statement by the sale manager. Sale management will designate an individual and area in the sale office to issue releases to consignors following the sale.

## **12. SIFTING**

Rams may be sifted any time prior to or during the sale.

## **13. SIFTING COMMITTEES**

- A. Each ram will be inspected by the Health Sifting Committee and Quality Sifting Committee. The Committees' objectives are to raise the standard of quality of rams sold and provide buyers with rams that have been cleared of all reasonably detectable defects that might interfere with their breeding usefulness.
- B. Both committees are appointed by, and responsible, to the management.
  - a. Health Sifting Committee:
    - i. Passes health judgment on all rams to be offered at the California Ram Sale.
    - ii. Only the veterinarian, not the students, will sift the rams.
  - b. Quality Sifting Committee:
    - i. Passes quality judgment on all rams to be offered at the California Ram Sale.
- C. Both Committees are specifically instructed to eliminate all rams which do not meet the standards outlined in the Health Standards section.
- D. Rams with "wool blindness" will be sifted. Wool on the face should not touch or obscure the eyes or eye lashes when the fleece is at full length.
- E. The body condition of rams at sale time must be adequate for rams to be turned out with ewes. Rams that weigh under 200 pounds will be sifted. Rams with a body condition score under 2 will be sifted.

## **14. HEALTH STANDARDS**

Standards for health and soundness are determined by the Sale Committee. These standards are necessary to protect both the buyer and the seller and maintain a high level of quality for the California Ram Sale. The following guidelines should be considered by consignors as they are the basis for Health and Quality Sifting Committees in conducting health and soundness examinations.

- A. Contagious Disease – Rams with any contagious disease are not allowed in the sale. Bringing rams with a contagious condition may be cause for elimination of the entire consignment.
- B. Proper Age – All Rams must be yearlings and have lamb's teeth or permanent yearling teeth. Because of variations in maturity and tooth eruption, the second set of incisors can have broken through the skin but cannot be completely erupted. Eruption is defined as two-year old teeth (second set of incisor teeth) no longer than one-third the length of yearling teeth. Rams with fully erupted two-year old teeth (second set of incisor teeth) will not be allowed in the sale.
- C. Head
  - a. Eyes
    - i. Malformations of the eyelids: (entropion or ectropion) are inherited malformations and are not permitted in the sale. Rams which have had this condition surgically corrected are not permitted in the sale.
    - ii. Active infections of the eye: (Keratitis or conjunctivitis) are not permitted. Some irritation from shipping is permissible.
    - iii. Scarring of the surface of the eye (cornea) from prior infections or injury will be permitted if minor, but rejected if severe enough to inhibit vision.

- b. Ears
  - i. Active infections, severe cuts, and swellings (hematoma) are not permitted.
  - ii. Minor irritation from ear tags is permitted, however, the ear tags must be removed and the ear treated with a disinfectant.
  - iii. Range rams are not required to have registration tags in their ears. The tags may be attached to the registration papers.
  - iv. Malformed ears from prior injury are to be discouraged. Those which are severe and predisposed to future injury and infection will be rejected. This is not permitted in single registered rams.
  - v. Infections of the ear canal (otitis) or infestations with ticks will be rejected.
- c. Teeth
  - i. Severely "overshot" or "undershot" jaws are not permitted.
  - ii. Minor inflammation around erupting teeth is normal and is acceptable.
- d. Mouth
  - i. No severe ulcers or infections in the mouth. No irritation or wounds from foxtails or other foreign matter.
  - ii. No soremouth lesions. Any lesions found are cause for elimination of the entire consignment.
- D. Boils – Boils are caused by a specific bacteria (*Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*) which is spread between rams through breaks in the skin. No active boils, healed boils, or boil scars are allowed in the sale because of the contagious nature of this disease. Specific areas where boils generally occur are head, neck, chest, and scrotum and are a problem frequently overlooked. Internal infection and abscesses can result and appear to be the major cause of culling and death in range rams.
- E. Swollen lymph nodes – Any swollen nodes indicating an infection are cause for sifting the ram. Nodes of the head, shoulder and hind leg are palpable and should be normal. Slight swelling of nodes of the lower jaw (mandible) may be related to eruption of the teeth and are allowable.
- F. Horns
  - a. Horns are not permitted on single registered rams of polled breeds.
  - b. Small horns are permitted on commercial rams, unless they are malformed and/or excessive, making them susceptible to injury and infection.
- G. Pizzle Rot – Infections of the sheath (pizzle) or damaged penis are not allowed.
- H. Active infection with swelling and large scabs are not allowed. Small healed scab areas, with no swelling or discharge, with evidence of adequate treatment may be allowed in the discretion of the veterinarian.
- I. Legs and Feet
  - a. Rams should have balanced conformation with strong legs and pasterns. Pasterns should not touch the ground in moving, and the thickness of a hand should be able to pass between the fetlock joint and the floor.
  - b. No moving lameness is allowed. The cause of the lameness will be considered by the Health Sifting Committee. If the nature of the lameness is determined by the Health Sifting Committee to be temporary, the result of shipping or other temporary trauma related to the sale, the ram may be allowed in the sale.
  - c. No crossing or striking on movement.
  - d. No unbalanced, malformed or turned-under feet. No enlarged joints of bones, indicating an injury or infection.
  - e. No straight hocks.
- J. Foot Rot – Because foot rot is a contagious disease, the Health Sifting Committee reserves the right to examine one or more bucks in each pen for foot rot. The owner is required to tip the bucks and trim the feet for examination if requested by the veterinarian. Any active foot rot lesions found are cause for elimination of the entire

consignment. Owners should not trim feet less than ten days before sale. This will reduce the possibility of tenderness from trimming.

- K. Foot Abscess – A foot abscess is reason for elimination of an individual ram. In contrast with the situation with foot rot, a foot abscess is considered non-contagious, but is considered reason for elimination of an individual ram.
- L. Testicles
  - a. The testicles should be of normal size and consistency and free of palpable swellings which indicate damage or infection. There should be:
  - b. No abnormal swellings in the testicle, epididymitis or spermatic cord.
  - c. No inguinal hernias.
  - d. No atrophied (small-soft) testicles.
  - e. No boils, shear cuts or scabbing from active mite infection of the scrotum.
  - f. No malformed testicles.
- M. Scrotal Circumference – Rams with a scrotal circumference of less than 32 centimeters will be eliminated from the sale.
- N. Rectal Prolapse – Rams with signs of rectal prolapse or rectal prolapse repair are not allowed in the sale.
- O. Back and Woolled Areas – There should be no damage from dog bites, fly strike, or caustic agents which shows active skin damage or infection. If there is an indication that there is damage of the deeper tissue such as muscles, lymph nodes and subcutaneous tissues the ram will be sifted. Healed scarred skin areas where this type of permanent damage is not detected may be allowed.
- P. Systemic Illness – Any signs of systemic disease indicated by depression abnormal respiration (pneumonia), increased body temperature, or severe diarrhea are cause for elimination of the individual ram. (For best results, all rams should be treated for internal parasites (wormed) within two weeks of the sale.)
- Q. External Parasites
  - a. Chorioptic Mange: Leg and scrotal mange scabs on the scrotum and pastern will be examined under the microscope. The finding of live mites on a ram will cause an individual ram to be sifted. At the discretion of the Health Sifting Committee, additional rams within the consignment may also be sifted. (Rams should be treated twice before the sale with an approved insecticide.)
  - b. Lice and Sheep Ked: No ram will be sold with evidence of active lice, ram ked (sheep tick) or ear tick infestations. (Rams which can be successfully treated with insecticides before the sale may be accepted at the discretion of the Health Sifting Committee.)
- R. Vaccination Reactions
  - a. Some vaccines (foot rot, ram epididymitis, enterotoxemia, vibrio) can be irritating to tissue and may cause a local reaction with varying amounts of tissue damage and secondary abscesses.
  - b. To reduce the occurrence and size of these reactions and prevent them from being mistaken for boils, vaccinations should be given well in advance of the sale date and the vaccine manufacturers' directions should be carefully followed. In the absence of a specific recommendation, the skin area back of (not underneath) the elbow is suggested for the injection site.
- S. Antibiotics – Some antibiotics injected into the muscle of the leg can cause permanent scarring and swelling. Care should be exercised that in treating rams permanent damage does not occur which causes elimination from the sale.

## **15. ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS**

- A. The following additional conditions will eliminate rams from the sale:
  - a. Washing rams on sale grounds.
  - b. Shearing on sale grounds.
  - c. Blackface rams are to be closely shorn, including legs and flanks within 45 days of the sale. Rams not in compliance must be shorn or they will be eliminated from the sale.
  - d. Whiteface rams may be shorn, but must not carry more than 12 months fleece. If the rams are shorn, the legs must also be shorn. Trimming and blocking are prohibited.
  - e. Dorsets are to be considered a meat breed of sheep and are to be closely shorn within 45 days of date of the sale.
  - f. Polypays can be classified as either a meat or wool breed.
  - g. Artificial coloring or oiling in the wool.
  - h. Black fiber or kemp where excessive on basis of importance of wool to breed involved.
- B. Single registered rams lacking quality representative of the breed will be sifted at the determination of the Quality Sifting Committee.
- C. Sifted rams will be marked by the Health and Quality Sifting Committee at the time of inspection and these rams shall be removed from the barn as soon as possible but no later than 8:00 am on Sale Day and a penalty of \$50 per sifted ram will be assessed for each ram in violation.
- D. If rams get sick after they pass the Health Sifting Committee, consignors are to report such information to the sale management.

## **16. SALE OF RAMS ON THE GROUNDS**

- A. No rams (which includes sifted and/or non-consigned rams) will be allowed to be sold on the grounds before, during or after the sale. Consignors not fully complying with this rule will not be allowed to sell. Any offers to purchase consignors' sifted rams by any member of the Health or Quality Sifting Committee should be reported immediately to the chairman of the Sale Committee so an appropriate course of action can be initiated.
- B. Rams not consigned to the sale will not be allowed in the same area of the grounds as consigned rams. A restricted area may be provided for sifted rams and rams not consigned to the sale. Buyers will not be allowed in this restricted area.
- C. The only rams which can be sold as a pen sale, are those designated by the Sale Committee. These pen sales will include those individuals who entered a pen consignment.

## **17. CONSIGNORS GETTING RAMS TO THE RING**

Each consignor is responsible to get rams in the ring on time according to the sale order. Late lots will be sold at the end of the sale or integrated into the sale order per the sale management's decision.

## **18. BREEDERS**

Each ram is at the buyer's risk as soon as declared sold. No rams are guaranteed by the consignor to be successful.



## **19. CONSIGNOR SIGNS**

- A. Ram Sale (CWGA) sponsored, provided, and paid for signs will be the only signs permitted at the Ram Sale. No individual name signs permitted except those furnished by the CWGA. Each additional sign, including those that are broken and must be replaced, will cost the consignor \$25.00.
- B. A pen sign that is 11 inches in width by 17 inches in height (legal size) will also be allowed, but not provided by the ram sale management. The contents of this sign are limited to information about the rams in the pen to which it is attached, e.g. micron testing, ELISA testing, performance test results, scrotal circumference, etc. The sign must be white with black text only.

## **20. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE**

- A. All rams must be on the grounds by 3:00 pm the day prior to sifting unless arrangements have been made with sale management.
- B. Rams will be fed by the consignors without charge through the night of the sale.

## **21. DEFINITION OF LIABILITY**

- A. All rams on grounds are held at consignor's risk until sold. The buyer assumes all risk as soon as the lot is declared sold. CWGA assumes no responsibility whatsoever for rams on sale grounds prior to or after the ram sale, or going to or from the ram sale. CWGA assumes no liability whatsoever for damage due to fire, flood, lockouts, accidents, war, or any other causes.
- B. CWGA will make every effort to conduct the sale in an honorable manner allowing no false practices of false bidding. CWGA attempts to protect both buyer and seller in every reasonable way, but under no circumstances does the CWGA assume any liability.
- C. CWGA disclaims liability for any injury or damage to any person or property resulting from any cause whatsoever occurring in or about the grounds or premises whereon said ram sale is being held, and or any other person to keep the grounds or premises in good condition and repair.

## **22. PAYMENT**

Payments to consignors will be completed after buyers payments have cleared the bank.

## **23. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

In the event of any disputes, the Sale Committee has the authority to arbitrate and settle all claims.