

March 7, 2016

Dear Potential Consignors,

Thank for you for your interest in submitting a ram or buck to the 2016 WV Small Ruminant Evaluation Program! There will be some significant changes in the program this year that we want to make you aware of.

In the past year the WV legislature has not continued funding for the WV Small Ruminant Project, severely impacting our ability to serve producers in West Virginia. One major component of this funding was the support of extension agents in Grant County to oversee our annual ram and buck test. In light of these changes we have decided to move the location of the ram and buck test to Morgantown. Faculty in the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design as well as our colleagues in extension are committed to serve small ruminant producers in our state and will provide the support necessary to conduct the ram and buck test this year and into the future. Last year a fall-born ram test was successfully conducted in Morgantown and it was determined that the facility at WVU was capable to host a larger test including bucks as well.

Enclosed you will find test guidelines as well as, Nomination and Consignment forms to be completed.

- **Completed nomination forms need to be postmarked by April 29, 2016 and include a check for \$20/ram and buck.**
- Consignment forms are to be completed and delivered with the rams/bucks at the time of delivery.
- Rams/bucks are to be delivered to the WVU Animal Science Farm, Stewartstown Rd, Morgantown, WV on Saturday May 14th between 8:30am and 2pm.

In addition to the consignment form you must present necessary health papers prior to unloading rams or bucks. Out-of-state consignors will need an Interstate Health Certificate from your home state. Consignors from WV can present a copy of their up to date 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 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 Ecthyma 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 \$100.00 per animal and is due at the time of delivery to the test station.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: West Virginia University

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 do not 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 30 rams and 30 bucks. 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 Scott.Bowdridge@mail.wvu.edu, the office phone is 304-293-2003, and my cell is 919-390-4761. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, May 14 2016.

Sincerely,



Scott A. Bowdridge
Assistant Professor