



## 2023 IDAHO STATE RAM SALE HEALTH & SOUNDNESS GUIDELINES

Standards for health and soundness are determined by the Idaho Ram Sale Committee. These standards are necessary to protect both the buyer and seller in establishing a high level of quality for the Idaho Ram Sale. The purpose of this information is to offer guidelines to the seller, buyer, and sifting committees for health and soundness examinations.

**ELIZA testing**- All yearling rams are required to be ELIZA tested. Test papers must accompany the ram at check in.

\*\*Rams must be bled within 30 days of the sale\*\*  
No "Brucella Ovis Free" status will be accepted from any state!

**Genotype testing**- All stud rams are required to be Scrapie Susceptibility Genotype tested (QQ, QR, RR).

**Head and Eyes**- Malformations of the eyelids (entropion or ectropion) are inherited malformations and are not permitted in this sale. Animals that have been surgically corrected are not permitted in this sale. Active infections of the eye (keratitis or conjunctivitis) are not permitted. Some irritation from shipping is permissible. 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.

**Ears**- Active infections, severe cuts and swellings (hematoma) are not permitted. Irritation from ear tags is permitted if minor; however, the tags must be removed and the ear treated with a disinfectant. Malformed ears from prior injury are discouraged. Animals with ears that are severe and predisposed to future injury and infection will be rejected. Malformed ears are not permitted in registered stud rams.

**Teeth**- Incisor teeth must be in contact with the dental pad. Severely "overshot" or "undershot" jaws are to be rejected. Stud rams must have perfect occlusion. Teeth will determine age. Range rams showing more than the mature central incisors erupted will not be allowed to sell. Minor inflammation around erupting teeth is normal and acceptable.

**Mouth**- No severe ulcers or infections in the mouth. No sore mouth lesions.

**Boils**- Boils are caused by specific bacteria (*Corynebacterium ovis*) which is spread between animals through breaks in the skin. No active boils are allowed in the sale because of the contagious nature of this disease. Specific areas where boils generally occur are head, neck, chest, scrotum, and flanks. Boils and open sores on the sternum (chest) are a problem frequently overlooked often resulting in internal infection and abscesses.

**Swollen Lymph Nodes**- Any swollen node indicating an infection will cause the sifting of that animal. Nodes of the head, shoulder and hind leg are palpable and should be normal. Slight swelling of the nodes of the mandible (lower jaw) may be related to eruption of the teeth and are allowed.

**Horns**- Small horns are permitted on commercial bucks unless malformed and excessive, making them susceptible to infection and fly strike. Horns are not permitted on registered stud rams.

**Pizzle Rot-** Infection of the sheath (pizzle) or damaged penises are not allowed. Active infection, swelling, and heavy scabs are not allowed. Small healed scab areas, with no swelling or discharge, with evidence of adequate treatment can be allowed at the discretion of the sifting committee.

**Tails-** Tails must be docked so that the tail can be lifted. The tail will be approximately 1 to 1 ½ inches in length.

**Legs and Feet-** Bucks should have balanced conformation with strong legs and pasterns. Pasterns should not touch the ground in moving and the thickness of the hand should be able to pass between the fetlock joint and the floor. No moving lameness is allowed and cause should be determined unless of a temporary nature from shipping as determined by the sifting committee. No crossing or striking on movement. No unbalanced, malformed or turned-under feet. Feet should be trimmed. No enlarged joints or bones, which indicate an injury or infection. No straight hocks.

**Foot Rot-** Because foot rot is a contagious disease, the sifting committee reserves the right to examine one or more bucks in each pen for foot rot. The owner will have to tip the bucks and trim the feet for examination as required by the veterinarian. Any active foot rot lesion found is cause for elimination of the entire consignment. Owners should not trim feet less than ten days before sale to eliminate tenderness from trimming. No consignment accepted from quarantined flocks.

**Foot Abscess-** Foot abscess is reason for elimination of the individual sheep, but not the consignment, as foot abscess is considered non-contagious.

**Testicles-** The testicles should be of normal size and consistency and free of palpable swellings, which indicate damage or infection. No abnormal swellings in the testicle, epididymis or spermatic cord. No inguinal hernias. No atrophied (small-soft) testicles. No boils, shear cuts or scabbing from active mite infection of the scrotum. No malformed testicles.

**Back and Woolled Areas-** No damage from dog bites, fly strike or caustic agents which shows active skin damage of infection, or if there is indication that there is damage of the deeper tissue such as muscles, lymph nodes, and subcutaneous tissues. Healed scarred skin areas where these other conditions are not found can be allowed.

**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 animal.

**External Parasites/Chorioptic Mange-** Leg and scrotal mange, scabbed areas on the scrotum and pastern, will be examined under a microscope. The finding of live mites on an animal will cause that individual animal to be sifted. At the discretion of the sifting committee, additional animals within the consignment may also be sifted. (Animals should be treated twice before the sale with an approved insecticide, e.g. Coumaphos W.P.)

**Lice and Sheep Ked-** No sheep should be sold with evidence of active lice, sheep ked (sheep tick), or ear tick infestations. Animals that can be successfully treated with insecticides before the sale may be accepted at the discretion of the sifting committee.

**Vaccination Reactions-** Some vaccines by design, irritate tissues, and when injected cause a local reaction with a varying amount of tissue damage and secondary abscesses. To reduce these reactions, it is suggested that injections of these types of vaccines be given in the skin area back of (not underneath) the elbow. Vaccinations and subsequent swelling in the neck can lead to rejection from the sale.

**Antibiotics-** Some antibiotics injected in the muscle of the leg can cause permanent scarring and lameness (e.g. L.A. 200). Care should be exercised when treating animals so that permanent damage does not occur, causing elimination from the sale.