# MONTANA RAM SALE RULES

Updated: 3-17-25

The purpose of the Montana Ram Sale is to provide sheep producers with quality rams, which will improve the genetics of commercial flocks.

**ENTRIES:**

1. Consignors must be residents of the state of Montana and members of the Montana Wool Growers Association with dues fully paid for the year previous to, and including the year of the sale. Rams must be bred, born, and raised by the consignor in Montana.
2. Requests for entries must be submitted to the Montana Wool Growers Association by May 5th of the sale year. Entry fees must be mailed or emailed to the secretary of the Montana Wool Growers Association by the date specified on the entry form.
3. Entry fees are $20.00 per head.. The association will charge 10 percent of the sale price on all rams sold. If the ram sale consignor establishes a floor price and the rams do not meet that floor price and are not sold, the commission shall be 10 percent of the established floor price OR $20.00, whichever is higher.
4. Actual cost of bedding used for the sale will be charged per ram on a prorated basis.
5. The Association reserves the right to reduce, increase or change the size of lots entered and designate pen lot size. The Association further reserves the right to reject any or all entries, and the right to limit the number of entries from consignors.
6. The Association accepts the entries for the sale with the understanding that the consignor agrees to comply with the rules of the sale, and that for willful violation of any rule the Ram Sale Committee may assess penalties. These penalties will be in the breed or breeds that the violation took place and may include exclusion from future sales.
7. Ram Sale Consignors are allowed to bring an extra ram if they wish to donate a ram to an approved cause with a max donation of one ram per sale. Consignors must request this by August 1 of the sale year.

**RAM HEALTH:**

8. All rams will be inspected by the sale veterinarian prior to the sale and any diseased sheep, or sheep with physical defects shall be eliminated from the sale. Sifted rams shall be removed from sale pens prior to Wednesday Noon. Rams must have their feet trimmed and sheath area sheared prior to the inspection.
9. All rams must be tagged for interstate shipment as required by USDA National Scrapie Eradication program. Rules and regulations are available from USDA, State Veterinarian's office or MWGA.
10. All rams must have been ELISA tested negative for Brucella Ovis within 27 days prior to the sale date or be from a certified Brucella Ovis free flock. All tests to be used for qualifying rams must be done by a licensed, accredited veterinarian and the blood sample must be submitted to an approved lab for testing. Individual identification of the rams tested must be recorded and accompany the blood samples to the laboratory. Individual identification shall be by an ear tattoo or by ear tag. Consignors must provide the sale veterinarian a list of ear tag numbers and a copy of the OFFICIAL test results; in the case of Brucella Ovis free flocks, a copy of the official document issued by the Montana State Veterinarian. Rams which have lost their identification will not be sold through the ring, but may be sold by the consignor as a sifted ram. The consignor must meet rules applying to sifted rams.
11. It is required that all rams be treated for external parasites between two weeks and a month prior to the sale with an approved insecticide. Careful attention should be paid to getting the bellies thoroughly sprayed. The ram's bellies will also be sprayed at the time of sifting.
12. Rams must have scrotal circumference of at least 11 inches on ram lambs and 12 inches on a yearling ram.
13. Rams, which are sifted for reasons other than a quarantinable disease, or Ram Epididymitis, may be sold at the discretion of the sale veterinarian by private treaty, but only after the sale. In all such cases the buyer must be informed as to why the ram was sifted.
14. All Black Faced Rams must have a genotype test (codon 171) to comply with out-of-State import regulations and test either QR or RR. This test may be either a blood or ear sample test and may be done by the breeder or veterinarian. Official results must be presented to the inspecting veterinarian at sifting.

**RAMS:**

15. Rams consigned to the sale must arrive on the grounds and be unloaded by 11 a.m. on the Tuesday prior to sale day. Any consignor arriving after that time without a valid reason will have their rams disallowed from the sale. The Ram Sale Committee will rule on reasons for late arrival. Consignors may not bring more rams than allotted with the intention of substitution for sifted rams, or deciding on sale lots prior to sale.

16. All yearling consignments shall be closely machine shorn on or after the Friday of President's Day weekend of the sale year and no later than the 1st weekend in June. Ram lamb consignments may be represented as unshorn or closely machine shorn between the above specified dates.
17. Rams shall not be block sheared so as to misrepresent the body of the ram or wool staple length. No tempera or other artificial coloring is allowed on any ram sold at the sale. Black face range ram consignments may be trimmed in accordance with the above rules; trimming is not allowed on whiteface range rams.

**CONSIGNORS:**

18. Personal signs are not to be used in the Ram Barn.
19. Consignors can only submit data for the catalog that has been third party verified. Unverified raw data is not allowed. Consignors will limit their comment to 20 words or less. Announcements in the sale arena are limited to the same information. Comment section is not to be used for raw numerical data.
20. All pen card data including the comments must match what is written in the catalog.
21. Consignors who semen test rams and use the results of the semen test at the sale must have the test conducted by a licensed veterinarian within 30 days of sale date and prior to arrival on grounds of the ram sale.
22. Consignors who micron side and/or Britch, and use the information at the sale, must take the wool samples on June 1 or later of sale year and submit them to the Montana Wool Lab. The side sample should be taken from over the next to last rib and seven inches down from the top of the back. The Britch sample should be taken 12 inches down from the top of the back and half way across the thigh. A square inch sample is required.
23. All information listed on pen cards must have valid documentation. Failure to produce such on demand of the Ram Sale Committee may result in exclusion of the consignor's sheep from the sale.
24. Consignors, or their representatives, must be present to assist in veterinary inspection and in paint branding sheep with lot numbers.
25. Rams will be moved to and from the sale ring by the sale day crew. Consignor may assist in this process, but it is not mandatory. It is the responsibility of the consignor to have the ram(s) in their assigned pens according to lot number. Failure to do so will result in the ram(s) being passed by in the sale order and will be considered a no sale in the consignors average. The ram(s) may be sold private treaty at the close of the sale. Refer to Rule 28 under Settlement.

**BIDDING:**

26. In bidding on pens of rams, bids will be based on the price per head – not the pen as a whole. The auctioneer will settle misunderstandings or disputes as to bids.
27. Sellers have the right of bidding once upon each lot offered, but such bids must be given to the auctioneer as the lot enters the ring. If the reserve price is not quickly reached it will be announced and unless bid at once the lot will be returned to the pens as a **NO SALE. NO SALES** will count towards the total number of rams sold when determining consignor's sale average.
28. The Association will make every effort to conduct the sale in an honorable manner, to allow no false practice or fake bidding, to protect both the buyer and seller in every reasonable way, but under no circumstances does the Association assume any responsibility whatsoever.

**SETTLEMENT:**

29. Terms of the sale are cash. All rams on the grounds are held at consignor's risk until sold. Ownership changes when the sheep are sold in the ring. Sheep are held at the purchaser's risk after the time of sale in the ring. All purchases are to be settled for on sale day, at the clerk's desk on the grounds. No Sheep can be released for shipment prior to the close of the sale without written order from the sale manager or clerk.
30. Private sales of consigned rams before or during the auction is strictly forbidden. On private sales made after the auction closes and while sheep are on the grounds, the regular commission will be collected and settlement made in the clerks' office. Private sales of consigned rams must be reported to the sale manager before rams are removed from the sale grounds.
31. In case of purchase of rams by irresponsible parties, the Association will not assume the financial responsibility for the rams, but will assume the responsibility of returning them to the original consignor in case a satisfactory settlement cannot be made for them.
32. The Association disclaims liability for any injury or damage to any person or property resulting from any cause whatsoever occurring on or about the sale grounds or premises.

33. No person under the age of 18 as of the date of the sale shall be eligible to enter rams into the sale or be eligible to purchase rams in their own name.
34. Persons under the age of 18 may only enter rams into the sale or purchase rams if a parent or legal guardian assumes contractual and legal responsibility for the minor's actions.

**RAM SALE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS IN ALLOTTING RAMS**

Rule #5 gives the Ram Sale Committee the right to set the guidelines governing entries and allotments on a year-to-year basis to fit existing conditions.

1. Each consignor of whiteface rams will be given a single range ram at the approximate rate of one to four.

   Committee Ram Sale allotment Guidelines -

   BF starting consignment is 4; 2 animal increase;

   WF starting consignment is 5; 2,3, or 5 animal increase based on the 1 single - 2 pens of two ratio

   Building the Sale Order -

   BF - High average starts

   WF - Loosely based on average and how many lots that you have; start by placing lots of 20 & above, then the 13-18 size lots, last place the smaller lots. Long-term consignors are on a rotation.

2. All blackface and Columbia rams will sell as singles.
3. If there are more new consignor applications than a breed can accommodate, entry order will be randomly selected by a lottery conducted by the Ram Sale Committee.
4. Consignors who are dropped from the sale will not be considered for reapplication for two sale years.
5. If a consignor drops out of the sale for one or more years they will be considered a new consignor when reapplying for entry into the ram sale. The committee may take into consideration production factors, weather factors, or other circumstances of consignors who drop out of the sale for good reason and wish to return the next year.