



RAM BUYERS GUIDE
Genetic Plan

A plan helps you get the best genetics for your flock

SIL recorded rams can target the traits you want to change in your genetic plan

- Step 1: Establish whether you need rams to breed replacement ewes (Dual Purpose Sire) and/or to breed lambs solely for meat production (Terminal Sire)
- Step 2: Record your current performance levels for lamb traits and for ewe traits (where ewes used for breeding)
- Step 3: Determine your breeding goals based on traits you wish to improve and any you wish to hold
- Step 4: Select a ram breeding flock with genetic information for these traits to address the goals of your genetic plan
- Step 5: Select rams with genetic merit that will change the combination of traits you want, in the direction you want

For more information go to www.sil.co.nz

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Ram Selection

Things to ask your ram breeder and to consider when selecting your rams

- Ask your breeder for genetic figures related to breeding goal traits in your genetic plan
- Ask to see genetic trend graphs for the flock describing genetic change the flock has been making
- Ask what percentage of rams are offered for sale from the number of ram lambs weaned?
- Select a group of rams based on their overall index values, ensuring your breeding goal traits are included in that index
- Consider “balance” across the traits by making sure individual sub-index or BV figures are not too low or too high
- You are buying a team of rams - it is better to have a mix of good rams than some high flyers with other lower ranked rams
- Don’t compare figures for sheep in different flocks unless they are in the same genetic evaluation analysis (SIL GE number)
- Ensure rams have good, sound conformation

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