

# Submitting rams to 2019 B+LNZ Genetics Sheep Progeny Test

The Hub and three Next Generation sites are accepting rams this season.

#### **Next Generation sites**

# PML Maraetotara, Hawke's Bay

- Terminal Growth
- Meat Yield

# 2. Otiwhiti Station, Hunterville

- Maternal traits
- Facial Eczema

### 3. Low-input site, TBC

- Maternal traits
- Ethically-sustainable meat production

NB: The other Next Generation sites do not require rams for 2019, or are only open to their communities of interest.

#### Why submit a ram to a Next Generation site?

- Including a ram from your flock "connects" you to the across-flock genetic evaluation, NZGE, and validates the performance of your flock against other New Zealand flocks.
- Connectedness means your rams can be assigned NZTW and/or NZMW (Terminal Worth and Maternal Worth) figures, which assist your clients in their ram selection.
- From a marketing perspective, your rams are benchmarked across industry and have robust and comparable measures behind them.
- Including young rams in the Sheep Progeny Test means that if a particular animal is found to be exceptional, maximum use can be made of him over his lifetime.
- If you're focused on FE, meat-related traits or low-input traits, these sites allow you to benchmark against other flocks also pursuing these novel traits.

#### **Logistics and costs**

Site	Age of rams	Number of rams required	Mating	Cost per ram
PML	Hoggets Two-tooths	4-5 <sup>*</sup>	Natural	\$600
Otiwhiti	Hoggets only	4-5 <sup>*</sup>	Natural	\$600
Low-input	Hoggets Two-tooths	1	AI	\$1000

<sup>\*</sup> Team of rams required because of natural mating.

In addition to the per-ram fee, you also meet the costs of animal health testing and transport.



#### **Hub ram selection**

Ram selection for the Hub is more competitive than the Next Generation sites. It is based on maximising connectedness across the New Zealand flock, so preference is given to rams that are already widely connected. There is no cost to rams entering the Hub test, because of its industry-good significance.

These three questions will help you determine if your stud/breeder group meets the criteria:

- 1) Is your flock already well connected?
- 2) Does your breeder group or stud supply "sires of impact across the New Zealand flock" maternal and/or terminal?
- 3) It's been at least three years since you've had a ram in the Hub?

If you answer "yes" to all three questions, consider applying for the Hub.

However, even if you have "no" answers, you are welcome to submit a ram on a "pay for entry" basis. The cost is \$5000 for a terminal ram and \$15,000 for a maternal ram - the direct cost of testing a ram in the Hub.

#### Important dates and forms

#### 14 November 2018 EOIs open

Visit the SIL website to submit an EOI online: www.sil.co.nz/progeny-tests Or complete and return the enclosed form

### 12noon, Fri 30 November 2018 EOIs close

Email your form to: info@blnzgenetics.com

Or post: EOI Applications, B+LNZ Genetics, PO Box 5501, Dunedin 9016

## Mid December 2018 Applicants notified of success or otherwise

### **Progeny Test reporting**

If you have rams in the progeny test, you receive the following reports annually:

April Rams enter test - mating
July Pregnancy scanning

October Docking
January Weaning
February Processing

FE measures (if applicable)

April New cohort of rams enter test

For more information, email annie.oconnell@blnzgenetics.com