

Submitting rams to B+LNZ Genetics Sheep Progeny Test 2020

The Hub sites and the Next Generation Low-input site are accepting rams this season.

Hub Site, Glenside Station & Invermay

- maximising connectedness across the New Zealand flock
- Resource for genetics research

Low-input site, Orari Gorge

- Maternal traits
- Ethically-sustainable meat production

NB: The other Next Generation sites do not require rams for 2020, or are only open to their communities of interest.

How to submit a ram

Visit the SIL website to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI): **www.sil.co.nz/progeny-tests**

Or complete and return the enclosed EOI form via:

Email: info@blnzgenetics.com

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

Please note: The Progeny test page also includes a link to the Ram Supply Agreement form. You do not need to complete the supply agreement as part of the EOI process. If your ram is accepted into one of the sites, we will ask you to then complete and return the form. We are including a copy of it now, so you can familiarise yourself with the terms and conditions associated with submitting rams to the B+LNZ Genetics Sheep Progeny Test.

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.

Hub ram selection

Ram selection for the Hub is more competitive than a Next Generation site. 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 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, you are more likely to be accepted into 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.

Logistics and costs

| Site | Age of rams | Number of rams required | Mating | Cost per ram |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------------|
| Hub site | Any age | 1 | AI | No cost* |
| Low-input | Hoggets Two-tooths | 1 | AI | \$1000 |

*No cost if your ram is accepted into the Hub through the EOI process. A ram can also be entered on a “pay for entry” basis. See previous page “Hub ram selection” for details and costs.

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

Important dates and forms

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8 November 2019 | EOI’s open |
| 29 November 2019 | EOI’s close |
| Mid-December 2019 | 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 |
| April | New cohort of rams enter test |

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