

WISCONSIN RAM TEST March-Born, Group-3, 2006

Final Weight Report, Aug 4, 2006

Breed	Ram Identification		Date of Birth	Start 6/9	Finish 8/4	Test ADG 6/9 - 8/4	Adjusted Test ADG 6/9 - 8/4	Adj Backfat Thickness inches	Adj Loin Eye Area sq inches	Adj Loin Depth inches	Bnlss Clsly Trmmd Rtl Cts percent	Lean Gain/Day lbs
	Breeder	Rt Ear										
Katahdin	Spruce Springs	266	Mar 26	62.00	108.50	0.83	0.81	0.18	2.10	1.06	42.09	0.18
	Spruce Springs	264	Mar 14	45.50	89.50	0.79	0.79	0.23	2.37	1.16	44.47	0.18
	Average			53.75	99.00	0.81	0.80	0.21	2.24	1.11	43.28	0.18
Hampshire	UW Madison	6086	Mar 06	105.00	167.50	1.12	1.14	0.12	2.90	1.14	49.16	0.29
	UW Madison	6120	Mar 21	97.00	156.00	1.05	1.05	0.19	3.05	0.99	49.75	0.27
	UW Madison	6088	Mar 06	108.50	164.00	0.99	1.01	0.17	2.62	1.07	45.42	0.23
	Pope	429	Mar 29	79.50	135.50	1.00	0.98	0.17	2.94	1.25	49.69	0.26
	Pope	417	Mar 21	87.00	136.50	0.88	0.88	0.21	2.68	1.05	46.28	0.21
	Average			95.40	151.90	1.01	1.01	0.17	2.84	1.10	48.06	0.25
Polypay	UW Madison	6373	Mar 16	84.00	116.50	0.58	0.58	0.18	2.81	1.11	48.96	0.15
	Average			84.00	116.50	0.58	0.58	0.18	2.81	1.11	48.96	0.15
Siremax	Sheep Improv Inc	6405	Mar 15	86.50	145.50	1.05	1.06	0.11	3.77	1.32	58.75	0.32
	Sheep Improv Inc	6406	Mar 15	74.00	130.00	1.00	1.00	0.16	3.48	1.29	55.56	0.29
	Sheep Improv Inc	6409	Mar 15	86.50	140.50	0.96	0.97	0.19	3.80	1.46	57.67	0.29
	Sheep Improv Inc	6595	Mar 15	82.00	131.00	0.88	0.88	0.14	3.95	1.35	60.65	0.28
	Average			82.25	136.75	0.97	0.98	0.15	3.75	1.35	58.16	0.29
TEST	AVERAGE			83.13	135.08	0.93	0.93	0.17	3.04	1.19	50.70	0.25

Sponsored by the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative and UW-Madison Extension

This report has been edited to fit. The full original report can be seen by [clicking here](#).

In 2006, Cindy Wolf (Sheep Improvement Company) entered four Siremax ram lambs into the Wisconsin Ram Test for March born lambs. There are a number of points that can be made based on the results of this test, which follow below. We were surprised by some of the numbers, but were reassured when we asked the report's authors about how the test was conducted and the results calculated. A word of caution: This is a very small sample, so the basis for comparison is weak. However, the measurements are accurate.

- RED Adjusted Test Average Daily Gain: Siremax and Hampshires virtually identical.
- GOLD Adjusted Backfat Thickness: Siremax and Hampshires virtually identical.
- BLUE Adjusted Loin Eye Area: Siremax 32% larger than Hampshires.
- GREEN Adjusted Loin Depth: Siremax 22.7% larger than Hampshires.
- On average, the Siremax lambs were 11% lighter than the Hampshire lambs at scanning.
- LAVENDER Boneless Closely Trimmed Retail Cuts. This is derived by a formula, not cutting, and is expressed as a percentage of carcass weight. Siremax 58%, Hampshires 48%.
- PINK Calculated Lean Gain per Day: Siremax .29lb, Hampshires .25lb

NOTE

From 1993 to 1996, Siremax used Texel cross rams. The Texel is a muscular breed primarily developed in Holland, imported by US MARC and released from quarantine in 1990. The muscularity of Texels is, at least in part, due to the presence of a mutated myostatin gene ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texel_\(sheep\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texel_(sheep))). A test for the presence of this gene has been developed by Geneseek (Lincoln NE), and tests have been made of randomly selected Siremax ram lambs for the mutated version of the gene. Whereas it might be calculated that this presence, in the first Siremax crosses, might have shown an allele frequency of about 25%, actual tests since 2005 have shown allele frequencies of 50-55%, on average. If these results could be verified by wider testing, we might conclude that having a 20% emphasis on Rib Eye Depth in our Lambplan Carcase Plus Index has preserved and increased the presence of the Myostatin Mutation in the Siremax flock.