

Annual Ram Lamb Test Program Nearly Completed

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture's Meat Animal Evaluation Center wishes to announce that Pennsylvania's annual ram lamb testing program is nearing completion.

The 75 rams on test have completed 70 days of the 84-day test. These rams have been consigned by some of the more progressive sheep breeders in the northeast.

Pennsylvania's ram lamb performance testing program is the only centralized sheep performance testing program in the northeast. Many commercial and purebred sheep producers are becoming more aware of the need for reliable performance information on the seedstock which they are obtaining for use in the improvement of their flocks. As producers become more educated to the value of objectively attained information, the demand for centrally tested rams increases and consequently this encourages the purebred breeders to consign better rams to the performance testing program.

This year the group of rams on test includes: one Columbia; 23 Dorsets, including seven fall born lambs; 11 Hampshires, (one fall born); three Katahdin (two fall born); nien Polypays (two fall born); one Rambouillet; one Romanov; two Shropshires; and 23 Suffolks (one fall born).

The rams are weighed every 14 days and an average daily gain calculated, as well as a lifetime weight per day of age. They will be ratioed within their breed group. At the end of the 84-day

test the rams will be evaluated by a committee for breed character, breed type, correctness of mouth, breeding soundness, black fibre content, etc., and will need to meet minimum standards. The animals will be scanned ultrasonically to

determine backfat thickness and to estimate loin eye area.

After all the calculations and evaluations, approximately the top 75 percent of the rams will be offered for sale in Pennsylvania's 12th Performance Tested Ram

Lamb and Invitational Ewe Sale, scheduled for August 3 at 1 p.m. in the Penn State Ag Arena. In addition to the performance-tested rams, approximately 80-100 ewes consigned by the ram testing participants will add to the attractive-

ness of the sale.

To request a catalog or more specific information on the ram and ewe sale, contact Glenn Eberly, director, Meat Animal Evaluation Center, 651 Fox Hollow Road, State College, PA 16803, (814) 238-2527.

DVC Professor Honored

DOYLESTOWN (Bucks Co.) — Delaware Valley College (DVC) professor Frederick Hofsaess was recently honored by the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) with the Eastern Regional Outstanding Teacher Award, sponsored by the Agway Foundation, Inc., at a recent conference at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Hofsaess, the chairman of the college's Animal Science Department, was one of four award win-

ners, receiving a plaque plus a stipend of \$500 for his honor. He was nominated by Dr. Craig Hill, dean of Delaware Valley College, with a submission of a dossier that included letters of recommendation from administrators, faculty, peers and students, along with an essay Hofsaess himself wrote on his philosophy of teaching.

The submitted materials were then reviewed by three members of NACTA's Teacher's Recommendation Committee. In addition to his Outstanding Teacher

Award, Hofsaess was also named as one of 15 newly inducted NACTA teacher fellows.

The National Association of College's and Teachers of Agriculture is comprised of nearly 1,000 college and university teachers whose collective purpose is to promote teaching excellence in agricultural higher education.

Hofsaess became the third Delaware Valley College faculty member to receive the Outstanding Teacher Award. The two previous winners were Craig Hill (1988) and David Blumenfeld (1980). All three, along with former chairman of DVC's Agronomy Department, Julian Prun-deanu, had also been named a NACTA Teacher Fellows.



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