

NTS

Dutch Texel Sheep Studbook, North-East Department



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Secretariat:

Newsletter

North-East Department

Dear members,

The Netherlands 'awakened'. The first activities have also been organized within sheep country for a long time. The first locally organized activities have already been announced in our region. We also hope to be able to pick up the thread again this year with an autumn members' meeting.

We specifically bring a number of matters to your attention.

General Members' Meeting (GMM) NTS

The GMM will be organized in the autumn. Reporting about this will follow via the NTS and on www.texelsheep.nl.

Inspections

Before the so-called early inspections, organizing a real inspection was still quite uncertain. For this reason, the organization of the inspection in **Luttenberg has** decided for the alternative by means of a digital presentation.

The organization of the **National** Inspection in Apeldoorn, scheduled for August 28, has already started. For more information, please visit www.texelsheep.nl.

Application for Premium or Keurram

If you have a ram that you think may qualify for the premium or Keurram predicate and you would like the committee to visit you to assess this, you can do this before 1 July the secretariat of the North-East department.

The premier am inspection will be held on Tuesday 10 and Friday 13 August, subject to change. Depending on the assignment, a time and route schedule will be drawn up. Further publication will be made by the premium inspection committee via the website: www.texelsheep.nl You can also find the exact conditions for a premier ram on this site in the breeding regulations.

Breeding values

In the above, a lot of attention is paid to the exterior of our animals, rightly so because that makes the Texel bird really eye-catching. But also properties such as ease of birth, fertility, worm resistance, etc. make our Texel. Breeding values are now available for both conformation traits and many other traits. Breeding values are an expected value, an estimate of the genetic predisposition. Breeding values can be an important aid in breeding, but they must be interpreted correctly. That is why we repeat the basic principles of breeding values from an earlier newsletter from the NTS.

- When calculating a breeding value, the influence of the animal's own performance is higher when the heritability of the trait is higher. This differs: for litter size the heritability is 12%, for growth traits and most conformation traits the heritability is between 25 and 40%.
- The breeding value total born is expressed in lamb born/litter. When an animal drops from +0.10 to 0.0, it is popularly called that an animal has dropped 10 points. To put it into perspective: the offspring of such a ram will produce on average not 2.0 lamb but 1.9 lamb! We are talking about 1/10 lamb.
- Breeding values say something about the average expected effect of a trait: not all daughters of a ram with a breeding value for litter size of +0.5 (and mothers with an FW of 0) will bring +0.25 lamb/litter more. But 100 daughters together will produce 25 more lambs than 100 ewes with a FW of 0.0.
- Breeding values have 3 sources of information: 1. The pedigree (the average of the breeding value of father and mother) 2. Own measurements 3. The measurements of offspring.
- For most rams the breeding value for the 1st 2 years is based on pedigree only. His father and mother determine his breeding value. If there are no 1-year-old daughters of a ram, this applies even up to 3 years.
- In a ram with 6 daughters with a litter, the breeding value is roughly 75% based on the offspring and 25% on the pedigree. In 50 daughters with a litter, the influence of the parents is still 2%. The moment a ram has several daughters with a litter, this can have a major influence on the breeding value for litter size of that ram.
- For ewes, if she farrows once, her breeding value is only based for a few percent on her own litter and for the rest on that of her parents. This explains why a 1st-worps ewe with a two-ling not rise very clear. Multiple litters and multiple offspring with their own litter decrease the influence of the parents.
- The breeding value is corrected for farm conditions. Take a farm where the old ewes produce an average of 2.3 lambs/litter: A ram whose daughters produce "only" 2 lambs/litter on this farm will, based on these daughters, have a lower breeding value than a sire of daughters that on a farm with an average litter size of 1.5 lamb/litter yield an average of 1.8 lamb/litter.
- When the daughters of a ram with an FW of +0.5 bring many 3-litres this year, this does not immediately mean that the ram will increase even further in breeding value (but in accuracy). The daughters do exactly what the sire's breeding value already predicted: they clearly produce more lambs than average. So not every 3-lingual brings 'extra points' to a father (or mother!) with a positive breeding value.
- If the breeding value of a ram has large fluctuations in 2 successive calculations, ask whether all litters during the 1st calculation were already entered.
- A low accuracy (NKH) indicates that the uncertainty about the breeding value is still large. In other words, it could go either way. For more certainty, a NK of >90% is recommended. Most ram lambs start around 50%.
- Every year the average of the breeding value is set to 0. The base is the average of the animals born 5 years before the current year. Since the average litter size is still increasing slightly, older animals will continue to decrease slightly.

Finally.

We hope to have informed you sufficiently with this. If you still have questions, please call or email the secretariat or one of the other board members on www.texelsheep.nl. You can also always keep up to date with the latest developments under the heading North-East. We also advise you to do this regularly.

The board of NTS dept. North-East.