

## **DNA TESTING POLICY STATEMENT**

February 2020.

*In response to the will of the majority of our membership, the Valais Blacknose Sheep Society Board will not require DNA testing of all Foundation Ewes or of sheep submitted for entry into the Recorded Stock category of the VBSS database. The use of DNA genotyping with parent verification is encouraged but remains optional in these two database categories. However, The Board does retain the right to request random DNA testing of individual Recorded Stock applications for the purpose of verifying parentage, costs of which will be borne by the applicant.*

*Those breeders who have completed DNA testing of their sheep and submitted their testing results with their applications for Foundation Ewe or for Recorded Stock will have evidence of testing noted on their issued Certificates.*

### **Existing Policy for Recorded Stock:**

*Excerpt from the Rules of Registry regarding eligible animals:*

Recorded Stock.

All progeny of Foundation ewes (F-1 or 50%) shall be entered into the VBSS database as Recorded Stock. All progeny of F-2 or 75% shall also be entered into the database as Recorded Stock. No distinction on eligibility for inclusion into the Recorded Stock category shall be made as to sex of progeny.

However, no animals of Valais Blacknose descent with a blood percentage of less than 50% shall be considered for inclusion in the database as Recorded Stock. Such animals may be used as Foundation Ewes and their Valais Blacknose blood % shall be noted on the Foundation Ewe Certificate, if such information is provided and verified by the Recorded Stock Certificate of the sire used. This Valais blood % shall not be extended forward when computing future progeny % values. These Foundation ewes shall still be assigned a 0% blood value however, it should be noted that their progeny are likely to display improved Valais Blacknose phenotypic qualities.

*As to the subject of DNA testing of Registered Stock, our Rules of Registry state that all sheep entered must submit a DNA sample for parent verification. This will continue to be VBSS policy.*

### **Existing Policy for Registered Stock:**

*Excerpt from the Rules of Registry regarding eligible animals:*

Registered Stock.

In order for an animal to be considered for inclusion in the database as Registered Stock it must be a third generation (F-3) attained thru the consistent use of purebred VBS semen or have an accumulated blood percentage of 87.5%.

Prior to the inclusion of any Valais Blacknose sheep in the VBSS database as Registered Stock the animal submitted for inclusion must be evaluated by a VBSS Selection Subcommittee. The Selection Subcommittee will be appointed by the board and will include a minimum of 4 persons. The Registrar will research the pedigree of animals submitted for evaluation and provide information and recommendations to the Committee. Members of the Committee may not determine acceptability of animals they have bred, owned or transferred. Owners of animals submitted to the Selection Subcommittee must provide all necessary information required for evaluation. Animals must be of good "Valais Blacknose Type", meet minimum blood percentage and exhibit phenotypic characteristics familiar to the adopted VBSS "Standard of Type." All sheep entered in the VBSS database as Registered Stock must submit a DNA sample for parentage verification.

### **Existing Policy for AI Sires:**

*Excerpt from the Rules of Registry regarding eligible animals:*

AI Sires.

Purebred sires whose semen is imported for use in US breeding programs will be registered with VBSS at no charge. These rams will have the suffix "AI." When requesting VBSS registration for an AI ram, a three-generation pedigree, proof of registration with the appropriate breeders' association in the ram's country of origin, and the ram's Codon 171 DNA need to be submitted to the Registrar. (QQ, QR, and RR are acceptable, but must be known.). A DNA sample must also be submitted to establish progeny lineage.

*VBSS breeders are encouraged to use Flock 54 for their DNA testing needs as the overall cost is lower and more data such as codon 171 (Scrapies resistance) is provided within the testing package.*

*Flock 54 submission instructions are provided within the DNA Q and A document as a service to our members and can also be found on the Flock 54 website.*

*If members wish to expedite the processing of their registration applications to the Registrar they may use the Flock 54 waiver form which allows Flock 54 to share the DNA test results with a third party, our Registrar, GLM Registry Services.*

*We recognize that some breeders prefer to use UC Davis for their DNA testing and that is also an acceptable testing facility alternative. Our Registrar has processed results from both facilities and will continue to do so.*