

RULES OF REGISTRY

The Valais Blacknose Sheep Society maintains permanent records of registrations and transfers of Valais Blacknose sheep. Database records are maintained for Foundation Ewes, Recorded Stock, and Registered Stock.

Only Active VBSS members in good standing may record, register or transfer sheep with the Society.

Each breeder must permanently identify each animal by ear tag or tattoo system and the VBSS strongly encourages a double ID system since ear tags can often be lost.

DEFINITIONS

1. **Breeder:** The recorded owner of the dam at the time she was bred is the breeder of the lamb produced by this breeding.
2. **Owner:** The lamb owner is the recorded owner of the dam at the time she lambs.
3. **Registration/Recording Number:** Each sheep entered into the database of the VBSS will be assigned a number. This number is assigned by the Registrar and is unique to each sheep.
4. **Farm (Flock) Name:** The farm name, or flock name is, as it implies the name of your farm or flock.
5. **Prefix:** A shortened unique version of the farm name or "PREFIX" is used by the owner of the ewe to register lamb(s) born in the subject flock. This unique prefix will appear on the papers of the lamb and along with the ear tag number will identify the animal. Examples would be as follows: Farm Name – "Old MacDonald's Farm", Prefix - MacDonald. An example of the sheep's ID would be "MacDonald 123". A list of registered prefixes is maintained by the VBSS. If animals are left unnamed on applications, the Registrar will automatically assign a name based on the farm name and VBSS number.

PROCEDURES

Imported Semen 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. (QQ, QR, and RR are acceptable, but must be known.). A DNA sample must also be submitted to establish sire lineage.

Foundation Ewes

All ewes being used to produce F-1s (50%) Valais Blacknose progeny using insemination via laparoscopic artificial insemination with purebred Valais Blacknose semen must be entered into the VBSS database as Foundation ewes. Recognizing that breeders have made their own choices regarding Foundation ewe breeds to institute their upgrading programs using purebred Valais Blacknose semen, there are no restrictions placed on the breed type of the Foundation Ewe by the VBSS. Known pedigree information or breed type should be noted and entered into the database. Genotype, if known, should also be noted. The ewe will be issued a Foundation Ewe Certificate containing her lineage information and her registration in any other breed Registry. The required VBSS form is provided on the website and is also available from the Registrar.

Artificial Insemination

All animals that are the product of the AI procedure must have a signed Certificate of Breeding signed by the AI technician at the time of performing the AI procedure. The technician's signature on the Certificate of Breeding certifies that the tattoo/ear tags match those indicated on the application and the dates of service as noted are appropriate.

If lambs are born as a result of Artificial Insemination, indicate "AI" in the "Type of Birth" column on the application form. All other information required by the VBSS must be supplied on the application for the lambs to be entered into the database. The symbol "AI" will be reflected on the issued papers.

Embryo Transplant

Applications for lambs born as a result of embryo transplant may be submitted just as if the lambs were natural born. If a lamb was born as a result of embryo transplant indicate "ET" in the "Type of Birth" column on the application form.

The owner of the donor ewe will be listed as the breeder on the certificate of registration issued for lambs born as a result of embryo transplant.

If the breeder does not own the ram used to fertilize the egg(s) of the donor ewe, a Certificate of Breeding must be completed, signed and dated by the owner of the ram. In the instance of imported embryos, documentation of sale and importation documents will suffice.

If embryo(s) are sold, ownership of the embryo(s) must be transferred from the owner of the donor ewe to the purchaser of the embryo(s) using the Embryo Ownership Transfer Form. In the instance of imported embryos, documentation of sale and importation documents will suffice to establish transfer of ownership.

When requesting VBSS registration for an imported embryo lamb, a three-generation pedigree and proof of registration with the appropriate breeders' association in the country of origin must be provided for the donor sire and dam used to create the embryo(s).

All other information required by the VBSS must be supplied on the application for the lambs to be entered into the database. All sheep entered into the VBSS database as Registered Stock must submit a DNA verification of Parental Match and Codon status.

The symbol "ET" will be reflected on the issued papers.

Lamb Progeny

Before any lamb is entered into the database, the application is checked through the existing records to ensure that the information submitted is correct. Incomplete, incorrect, and illegible applications may be returned. Application of sheep for entry into the database should be presented to the Registrar on the forms provided. Applications and related forms are available for download on the VBSS website as well as the Registrar's website. The appropriate fee should be sent with the application's request.

Any Valais Blacknose sheep recorded or registered in a recognized sheep society or association may be considered for inclusion in the VBSS database. The sheep must be able to trace in unbroken lines, through both sire and dam, to registration in a recognized Valais Blacknose Association or Registry. Only sheep meeting the recorded or registered guidelines of the VBSS may be included. Forward a copy (front and back) of the official registration certificate in said society or association to the Registrar of the VBSS, along with an application, appropriate supporting documentation and registration fee indicated on the current fee list. All sheep entered into the VBSS database as Registered Stock must submit a DNA sample for parentage verification.

No Valais Blacknose sheep born in the US older than 24 months of age and not entered into a Registry or database elsewhere may be registered/recorded with the VBSS. No animal shall be accepted for inclusion into the database after it is two years old unless, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, the case merits special consideration. Registration fees will be doubled on animals not submitted before they

reach 18 months of age.

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.

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%.

All sheep entered into the VBSS database as Registered Stock must submit a DNA sample for parentage verification.

CONSIDERATIONS

When a ewe is bred to a ram (both being registered in another association), and that "bred ewe" is sold before she lambs, that ewe may be registered in the VBSS and when the lambs are born, they may be recorded/ registered in the VBSS, without the ram being registered in the VBSS provided the sire meets the requirements for recording/registry in the database. A completed Certificate of Breeding must accompany the application for offspring resulting from said breeding. Pedigree information for the ram shall be included with the application showing at least three generations of parentage.

When the ram used to service a ewe(s) in the VBSS database, is registered with another association other than VBSS but is not owned by the breeder, the resulting lambs may be registered in the VBSS without the ram being in the database provided he meets all other requirements for registration/recording. A completed Certificate of Breeding must accompany the application of Registry/Recording for the offspring resulting from said breeding. Pedigree information for the ram shall be included with the application showing at least 3 generations of parentage.

TRANSFERS

Any member selling, donating, giving away, or otherwise passing ownership of a Valais sheep shall, within 30 days after payment in full or other official transfer of the ownership, issue to the new owner a transfer. This transfer is initiated by completing all the information requested on the back of the certificate including the purchaser's name, member number (if known), address, city, state, zip code, and day, month and year of the sale. The owner of the animal as documented in VBSS records, must provide a written signature authorizing the transfer. The certificate, with completed transfer information, is then forwarded by the seller to the Registrar of the VBSS for recording of the transfer and the new owner. Complaints lodged against breeders from improperly completed transfers of sheep may be grounds for investigation of members according to the bylaws of the VBSS.

Certificate of Breeding

When a ewe is sold as a “bred ewe”, that is, after she is bred but before the lambs are born, the seller of the ewe shall supply the owner with a Certificate of Breeding listing the month of breeding, and the farm name, ear tag number, and Registry number of the ram used for this breeding.

Bill of Sale

The use and submission of a properly completed Bill of Sale is strongly encouraged by the VBSS. The VBSS has provided a basic example of a Bill of Sale which can be used and submitted with the request for transfer of ownership.