

VBSS Board of Directors Revision to the Temporary Exception Ruling.

2/12/22

Note that our originally adopted Upgrading Guidelines reads as follows:

*STRUCTURE OF UPGRADING SYSTEM.*

*Beginning in September 2019, all subsequent Valais Blacknose progeny produced using the upgrading system, must be of a higher blood percentage than the ewes blood percentage and meet all other requirements for inclusion in the database.*

Being sensitive to the needs and wishes of its members as to the continuance of their breeding programs, the Board previously enacted a temporary exception to the Upgrading Guidelines regarding the use of F-1 VBSS Recorded Stock rams on F-1 VBSS ewes and F-2 VBSS Recorded Stock rams on F-2 VBSS Recorded Stock ewes. This exception has been in effect from 2018 onward and reads as follows:

**TEMPORARY EXCEPTION TO THE UPGRADING GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF F-1 and F-2**

**RAMS**

***First cross (F-1) VBSS Recorded Stock rams may be used in the VBSS upgrading program on F-1 VBSS ewes to produce F-1 offspring. Second cross (F-2) VBSS Recorded Stock rams may be used in the VBSS upgrading program on F-2 VBSS Recorded Stock ewes to produce F-2 offspring. The progeny of these matings will not be of a higher percentage than the dam's percentage but will be equal to the dam's. They will be eligible for entry into the VBSS database as Recorded Stock.***

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The VBSS database is reviewed by the Board annually and a decision is made at that time to extend or revoke the exception rule. Its decision is based on database growth, the availability of breeding stock, and the needs of the VBSS members. The database report this year indicated that breeders are making good progress. As of 2/22 there were 264 ewes and 120 rams at the F1(50%) level and 81 ewes and 49 rams at the F2(75%) level. These numbers do not reflect the 2022 lamb crop which will result in a substantial increase in both those levels, once these are entered into the database.

Therefore, at this time, the Board feels that these database numbers provide members with sufficient breeding options and the exception allowing the use of F1 rams on F1 ewes can be removed in a timely fashion.

**As of 2024, the VBSS will no longer accept applications for F1 animals sired by F1 rams.** This means that F1 (50%) rams can be used for breeding F1 ewes in the VBSS upgrading program through the 2022 breeding season and the resulting offspring being presented in 2023 will be allowed to be considered for

entry in the database. F1 rams cannot be used for breeding F1 ewes in the VBSS upgrading program in the 2023 breeding season as the resulting offspring that would be born in 2024 will no longer be accepted for entry into the database.

This staggered timeline policy will also affect the exception ruling allowing the use of F2 rams on F2 ewes however the changes will take effect a year later:

**As of 2025, the VBSS will no longer accept applications for F2 animals sired by F2 rams.** This means that F2 (75%) rams can be used for breeding F2 ewes in the VBSS upgrading program through the 2023 breeding season and the resulting offspring being presented in 2024 will be allowed to be considered for entry in the database. F2 rams cannot be used for breeding F2 ewes in the VBSS upgrading program in the 2024 breeding season as the resulting offspring that would be born in 2025 will no longer be accepted for entry into the database.

We hope that this timeline gives all members the opportunity to structure their future breeding programs without significant disruption.

Remember, the use of percentage rams in the VBSS Upgrading Program will continue to be acceptable and encouraged however they need to be used to raise the overall percentage of their progeny.

In summary, the Temporary Exception ruling that is presently in place will be concluded at the close of 2024 and thereafter all lambs presented for inclusion in the VBSS database will have to be of a higher percentage than the dam, as originally written in our Upgrading Guidelines.

**REVISED TEMPORARY EXCEPTION TO THE UPGRADING GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF  
F-1 and F-2 RAMS AS OF 2/22/22**

*First cross (F-1 or 50%) VBSS Recorded Stock rams may be used in the VBSS upgrading program on F-1 VBSS ewes to produce F-1 offspring through 2022. Resulting lamb's applications will be accepted through 2023 however, as of 2024 such F1 offspring produced by this mating method will no longer be eligible for entry into the VBSS database as Recorded Stock. Therefore, the castration of F1 rams born in 2023 is recommended.*

*Second cross (F-2 or 75%) VBSS Recorded Stock rams may be used in the VBSS upgrading program on F-2 VBSS Recorded Stock ewes to produce F-2 offspring through 2023. Resulting lamb's applications will be accepted through 2024 however, as of 2025 such F2 offspring produced by this mating method will no longer be eligible for entry into the VBSS database as Recorded Stock.*

*This revised Temporary Exception Ruling will no longer be in effect after the close of 2024.*

*As of 2025 all Valais Blacknose progeny produced using the upgrading system, must be of a higher blood percentage than the ewes blood percentage and meet all other requirements for inclusion in the database.*

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