



**Better Returns
Programme**

Ram MOT

how to check your rams

Toes

Check his locomotion, arthritis and feet

Teeth

Check for under or over shot teeth, gaps and molar abscesses

Testicles

Measure and check firmness (flexed bicep) with no lumps or bumps

Tone

Aim for body condition between 3.5-4.0 (spine well covered)

Treat

Vaccinations (Clostridia, Pasteurella, Louping Ill),
Parasites, Lameness, Shearing?

**Consult your vet for a
thorough examination.**



Don't wait till scanning to find out if the ram has worked!

Ensure you do a ram MOT **ten weeks** before tupping, this should give you time to correct problems if they arise.

Remember...

...poor fertility is a consequence of testicular degeneration - soft testicles and poor quality semen.

Testicular degeneration is often seen in rams during July and August after over-heating in hot weather. The scrotum is rich in sweat glands that cool the testicles if it is able to hang in the breeze. However, sheep will pant and lie down when they are hot to transfer heat away from their bodies through their abdomen. By doing this, rams are lying on their testicles and 'cooking' them. To help avoid this you should ensure rams are shorn, have adequate shade, plenty of water and are not over-fat.

...rams need to be fed a high protein diet 10 weeks before tupping.

If body condition is low or testicle tone or size is poor, 500g (~1 lb) of 18% CP feed per day can improve semen quality and quantity. Check magnesium and calcium levels to avoid urinary calculi.

...ideally purchase rams well in advance of the breeding season.

To ensure they are fit and ready to work and acclimatised to your system. It will take 3 weeks for their rumen to adjust to a new diet.