



BETTER RETURNS

Ram MOT

Assess your rams

Toes

Check locomotion, legs and feet

Teeth

Check for under or overshot jaw, gaps and molar abscesses

Testicles

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

Tone

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


Treat

Check vaccinations are up-to-date
(clostridia, pasteurella),
parasites, lameness, shearing?

**Consult your vet for a
thorough examination**



BEEF & LAMB



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

Ensure you do a ram MOT **10 weeks** before tupping, this should give you time to correct any problems.

Remember...

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

Testicular degeneration often occurs during hot weather in summer. The scrotum is rich in sweat glands that cool the testicles when exposed to the breeze. However, when sheep are hot, they lie down to transfer heat away from their bodies through their abdomen, but while lying on their testicles they can 'cook' them. Ensure rams are shorn, not overfat and have plenty of shade and water to help avoid this.

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 (1lb) of 18% CP feed per day can improve semen quality and quantity. Check magnesium and calcium levels to avoid urinary calculi.

Purchase rams well in advance of the breeding season.

This allows them to acclimatise to your system, making sure they are fit and ready to work. It will take three weeks for their rumen to adjust to a new diet.