

BUYING RAMS?

Good rams provide remarkable value over their lifetime. They are an investment. More than 80% of the flock's genetics are contributed by the ram. That's an exciting opportunity to improve your flock's performance.

Here's four steps to follow when choosing rams:



STEP 1: What are your goals?

- What do you want to achieve on your farm?
- With your objectives clear, what performance will you need from your flock?
- Finally, which key traits need to be prioritised to help you achieve your goals?



STEP 2: Choose a ram breeder.

Now you know which traits are most important to your goal, **go to nprove.nz**. Within minutes, you can have a list of breeders with genetics that meet your specific objectives.



STEP 3: Choose your ram.

In a nutshell, breeding values (BVs) and indexes indicate the merit of a ram as a parent. Talk to your breeder about using these tools to understand what the rams on offer can do for you.



STEP 4: Making the most of your ram.

Once you get your ram home, settle him into his new setting with care, so he is in the best condition to serve you well. Sperm production takes 6-7 weeks, so make sure to check over your ram team 2-3 months prior to mating. Remember, if he's not fit to perform his task, he can't pass on all that genetic potential you've invested in.



For more information, visit **beeflambnz.com** and type "sheep genetics" into the search box.



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fit for your purpose.

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