



Bull and Ram Fertility Testing Service



College Road,
Cullompton,
Devon,
EX15 1TG.

Phone: 01884 32228

Email: valefarmvets@btconnect.com

www.valevetgroup.com



The Laurels,
Tiverton,
Devon,
EX16 4LF.

Phone: 01884 253355

E-mail: valelab@btinternet.com

www.valevetgroup.com



**Both Bull and Ram
fertility tests can be
easily performed on
farm**



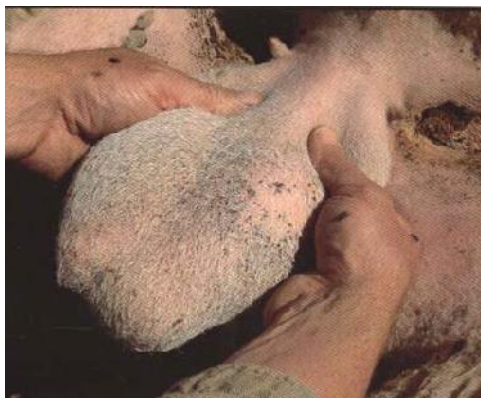
Ram Fertility

The ram as they say is “half your flock” so you need to make sure that he is able to hit peak performance at the right time. Ram semen has a production time of about 7 weeks, so you should start preparations for his big-day 10 weeks before he’s needed.

- Scrotal wool should be removed to prevent over-heating
- Ensure all rams have access to shade and water, especially during hot days
- Ensure he is around body condition score 3.5, on a rising plain of nutrition - but take care not to make him fat!
- Examine his testicles, epididymi and spermatic cord. Any lumps/bumps then contact us.
- Examine the prepuce for any sores or ulcers, treat his feet if required and check for brisket sores. Check his teeth and mouth closely if he is in poor condition.
- Shearing, worming treatments, vitamin/mineral drenches, external parasites (lice, scab etc.) and booster vaccinations should all be up to date.

In addition to these simple checks we offer a ram fertility testing service to establish appropriate semen production.

The genital organs are examined and the semen examined with a microscope after electroejaculation. This should be performed at least 8 weeks before he’s needed so that problems can be rectified if possible.



The service is available to pedigree and commercial herds and flocks alike.



Bull Fertility

We offer a comprehensive ‘bull breeding soundness evaluation’ service which includes:

- Physical examination of the bull
- Analysis of a semen sample (by electroejaculation)
- Assessment of mating ability (if required)
- Advice on bull management and nutrition.

A bull’s “Breeding Soundness” can fall into 1 of the following 3 categories:

- Fertile** – Appropriate scrotal size for breed and age, good semen concentration and motility, >60% individual sperm progressive motility, <30% abnormal sperm count, no physical abnormalities that would impair breeding performance.
- Sub-fertile** – able to achieve pregnancies but not at the volume or rate as a fertile bull – often referred to as inefficient breeders
- Infertile or sterile** – such bulls are very rare

A sub-fertile bull can have a serious impact on your herd’s reproductive performance resulting in significant economic losses. Around 20% of bulls are sub-fertile usually due to poor libido, physical defects or substandard semen quality leading to increased calving intervals and a prolonged calving pattern.

Bull examinations can be used to identify the most fertile bulls in the herd and use them to best advantage. The annual stud check, for breeding soundness, should occur at least 4-6 weeks before mating and, in new bulls, infectious disease status should also be clarified (BVD virus, Johnes, *Campylobacter*, IBR, *Leptospiriosis*).

Your gold standard and aim must be to test all bulls on the farm every year or before each mating period. Often just single “problem” bulls, new purchases and insurance claims are tested. Aim for testing at least 4-6 weeks pre-mating to allow time for a retest or time to find a replacement if required.