

## **DNA TESTING POLICY STATEMENT**

*In response to the will of the majority of our membership, the Valais Blacknose Sheep Society Board will not require DNA testing of all Foundation Ewes or of all sheep submitted for entry into the Recorded Stock category of the VBSS database. However, The Board does retain the right to request random DNA testing of individual Recorded Stock applications for the purpose of verifying parentage, costs of which will be borne by the applicant.*

*Those breeders who have completed DNA testing of their sheep and submitted their testing results with their applications will have evidence of testing noted on their issued Certificates.*

### **Policy for Recorded Stock:**

Recorded Stock.

All progeny of Foundation ewes (F-1 or 50%) shall be entered into the VBSS database as Recorded Stock. All progeny of F-2 or 75% shall also be entered into the database as Recorded Stock. All progeny with a blood percentage less than 87.5% will be entered into the database as Recorded Stock. No distinction on eligibility for inclusion into the Recorded Stock category shall be made as to sex of progeny.

**Note 7/24/2022 BOD Revision to Rules of Registry/Recorded Stock added this requirement:**

**As of 7/25/2022, all ewes being presented for Recorded Stock papers that have a blood percentage of 75% or above must be DNA tested as their progeny will have to be parentage verified to become Registered Stock.**

However, no animals of Valais Blacknose descent with a blood percentage of less than 50% shall be considered for inclusion in the database as Recorded Stock. Such animals may be used as Foundation Ewes and their Valais Blacknose blood % shall be noted on the Foundation Ewe Certificate, if such information is provided and verified by the Recorded Stock Certificate of the sire used. This Valais blood % shall not be extended forward when computing future progeny % values. These Foundation ewes shall still be assigned a 0% blood value however, it should be noted that their progeny are likely to display improved Valais Blacknose phenotypic qualities.

*As to the subject of DNA testing of Registered Stock, our Rules of Registry state that all sheep entered must submit a DNA sample for parent verification. This will continue to be VBSS policy.*

### **Policy for Registered Stock:**

Registered Stock.

In order for an animal to be considered for inclusion in the database as Registered Stock it must be a third generation (F-3) attained thru the consistent use of purebred VBS semen or have a minimum accumulated blood percentage of 87.5%. All sheep entered into the VBSS database as Registered Stock must submit a DNA sample for parentage verification.

### **Policy for AI Sires:**

AI Sires.

Purebred sires whose semen is imported for use in US breeding programs will be registered with VBSS at no charge. These rams will have the suffix "AI." When requesting VBSS registration for an AI ram, a three-generation pedigree, proof of registration with the appropriate breeders' association in the ram's country of origin, and the ram's Codon 171 DNA need to be submitted to the Registrar. (QQ, QR, and RR are acceptable, but must be known.). A DNA sample must also be submitted to establish progeny lineage.

*The VBSS has adopted Flock 54 as their official testing lab. Links to Flock 54 are provided on the VBSS website.*