

Information on Teaser Rams

- **What are teaser rams?**

Teaser rams are rams that have been surgically vasectomised. Previously, teaser rams were 'created' by treating wethers with testosterone which was only effective for a few weeks. This option is no longer available as the drug used has restrictions in place.

- **How to use your teaser rams**

Ewes come into season as the daylength shortens – as we approach Autumn. When ewes are newly exposed to rams out of season (from mid October) they can start to cycle. This ram exposure is known as the 'ram effect.' This is where teaser rams can be very useful – they can bring the ewes into season and shorten the joining period. When joining out of season it is recommended to join for 7 weeks to allow for the 'ram effect' and 2 subsequent cycles. However, teaser rams can be joined with the ewes for 2 weeks and then be removed. The selected rams can then be introduced to the already cycling ewes for a minimum of 2 cycles (5 weeks). Hence, the lambing season will be for 5 weeks without the trickle of lambs at the beginning/end of a season. To make the most out of your ram effect and joining out of season, ewes should be kept 1km away from all rams/billy goats for 4 weeks prior to teaser ram introduction.

Teaser rams can also be used to optimise your maiden ewe joinings. Maiden ewes can benefit from having a 2 week exposure to teaser rams before being introduced to the ram team to help them reach puberty and cycle.

When using your teaser rams for the above purposes, they need to be joined at 1%. Have a chat to us about the percentage that rams should then be joined at as this will depend on season (rams are seasonal too and have larger testicles towards autumn), age and breed.

- **Best age to make teaser rams**

It is ideal to make teaser rams at approximately 6-8 months of age. The surgery involves removing a small section of the sperm pathway (spermatic cord) and in large, obese rams this can lead to complications.

- **Preparation for surgery**

- Surgery can be done on farm in the shearing shed.
- The vet will need an assistant provided by you to help hold the rams – see the picture on the next page.
- Rams need to be off food and held in the shearing shed from the afternoon/evening prior to the surgery (can still have access to water overnight).

- **What is involved on the day**

- Rams will be sedated with Acepromazine (drug used at shearing time).
- They will be restrained as seen in the below photo.
- Surgery will be performed.
- The skin will be closed with staples – these will not need to be removed.
- They will receive a once off antibiotic and pain relief injection.
- Please provide a fly preventative treatment such as Clik.
- Rams will need to recover in the shearing shed overnight and have food and water made available.
- Rams can be used 6 weeks after surgery.

- **Cost**

Depending on the size and number of rams being vasectomised, the cost is \$60-\$80 a ram + medication and disposables.

- **Complications**

Complications are possible with any procedure performed involving sedation and surgery but we take utmost care to try and avoid these. By choosing young fit rams (6-8 months of age) and having the day set up as explained prior, will also help reduce complications and make the process run smoothly.



Image of Frankie performing procedure