

NASSA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Procedures for Registering Offspring of Artificial Insemination

I. Semen Importation

1. Semen imported from the UK must be collected from Shetland Sheep Society (SSS) or Shetland Flock Book Trust (SFB) registered rams. Each straw must be imprinted with the date of collection, the collecting company, and the registered name or ID number of the ram.

2. The importing party must submit all newly imported sire pedigrees to the NASSA Board before they will be sent to the Registry as NASSA recognized sires. To avoid the possibility of introducing the extension dominant gene (also known as Dominant Black) to the North American Shetland gene pool, NASSA will not approve solid colored black or moorit rams as AI sires (regardless of any white spotting not governed by Agouti locus genetics). Only rams that show a non-solid Agouti locus pattern will be considered for approval. Examples of such non-solid Agouti locus patterns include: white, katmoget, gulmoget, grey, light badgerface, sweep, and mouflon (imie). Exceptions to this policy may be made at the discretion of the board if there is convincing evidence that the ram is not a carrier of the extension dominant allele.

To ensure the extension gene is not introduced via imported semen, photos of the rams must also be submitted: one photo from each side (head, tail, left side, right side, belly). If possible, post-shearing photos and lamb photos should also be submitted. Photos should be clear and without shadows or bad angles. The pedigree and all photos should be compiled in one pdf file and emailed to the Executive Secretary by the importing party. All communication regarding the extension gene screening will be done with the importing party via the email used to submit the pdf.

NOTE: if the importing party would like to verify that the ram will pass the extension gene screening prior to transport to the collection center, they must submit the compiled pdf to the Executive Secretary in advance. Please allow 60 days for the Board to meet and conduct the screening.

3. The importing party must provide a letter from the owner of the ram certifying that the ram was taken to the collection center for semen collection for the importation.

4. The importing party must provide a letter from the collecting veterinarian at the collection center certifying that the ram was collected and the semen was shipped to the importing party.
5. The importing party must provide a copy of the Shetland Sheep Society (SSS) or Shetland Flock Book Trust (SFB) registration and pedigree of the ram.
6. It is not required that the importing party be a NASSA member.
7. If imported semen is sold by the importing party to a NASSA member for use in artificial insemination, the importing party shall provide the NASSA member with a letter certifying the sale, as well as copies of the items detailed in 3, 4, and 5 above.

II. North American Semen Collection

1. Semen collected in North America must be collected from NASSA registered rams. Each straw must be imprinted with the date of collection, the collecting company, and the NASSA registration number of the ram.
2. The collecting party must provide to the NASSA Registrar a letter from the owner of the ram certifying that the ram was taken to the collection center for semen collection.
3. The collecting party must provide to the NASSA Registrar a letter from the collecting veterinarian or technician at the collection center certifying that the ram was collected.
4. If semen collected in North America is sold by the collecting party to a NASSA member for use in artificial insemination, the selling party must provide the NASSA member with a letter certifying the sale, as well as copies of the items detailed in 1, 2, and 3 above.

III. Registration of AI offspring

1. Pedigrees of NASSA registered sheep conceived via artificial insemination shall carry the designation AI on the pedigree.

2. Any NASSA member registering offspring conceived via artificial insemination must provide a letter from the technician performing the AI certifying that each specific ewe was bred with semen from each specific ram, and on what date they were bred.

3. Any NASSA member registering offspring artificially bred from semen purchased from a third party must provide a letter to the NASSA Registrar from the seller of the semen certifying the sale.