

2026 Texas Stockman's Sale

Rules and Sifting Guidelines

The reason behind the rules and sifting guidelines is to ensure the transfer of healthy, viable livestock to their new owners.

Eligibility

- **Rams and ewes** will need to be at least 6 months of age at the time of the sale. Rams need to have a minimum weight of 100 lbs and ewes need to have a minimum weight of 80 lbs. Sheep cannot be older than 24 months of age at the time of the sale. Teeth will be checked by the sifting committee and sheep should not have more than 4 permanent bottom incisors, but it is acceptable if their I₃ incisors (3-year-old teeth) have erupted. Sheep with 6 full permanent teeth will not be allowed.
- **Rams** will need to have a minimum scrotal circumference of 26 cm for lambs (under 1 year of age) and a minimum of 30 cm for yearlings and 2-year olds.
- **Billies and nannies** will need to be at least 6 months of age at the time of the sale. Billies should have a minimum weight of 75 lbs and nannies should have a minimum weight of 60 lbs. Billies cannot be older than 24 months of age at the time of the sale. Teeth will be checked by the sifting committee and goats should not have more than 4 permanent bottom incisors, but it is acceptable if their I₃ incisors (3-year-old teeth) have erupted. Goats with 6 full permanent teeth will not be allowed.
- **Billies** will need to have a minimum scrotal circumference of 22 cm for billy kids (under 1 year of age) and a minimum of 26 cm for yearlings and 2-year olds.
- All livestock must have an official scrapie tag in their ear at the time of unloading.
- All **rams** will need to have a negative ELISA test for *Brucella ovis* **within 30 days** prior to the sale date. Documentation **WITH COPIES of ALL B.**

OVIS TESTING will be required prior to unloading of rams. **IF ANY RAM IN THE TEST GROUP IS POSITIVE, NONE WILL BE SOLD.**

- The pregnancy status of all females must be known at the time of sale. If females have been exposed to males- it is expected that the consignor has had the females ultrasounded to determine pregnancy status. It is acceptable if ewes and nannies have lambed previously to the sale, but their offspring must be weaned prior to the time of sale. Females may be sifted if there is any indication of udders being unsound (including excessive teat size).
- It is not a requirement that animals be shorn at all, but if they are shorn, it is expected that this be done at **minimum 14 days** prior to the sale and with 13 tooth or 9 tooth combs. For hair sheep- if the committee believes the animal is shorn in a manner (slick with fine or surgical blades) in an attempt to conceal excessive fleece growth/poor shedding ability, the animal may be sifted.
- It is expected that sellers will provide a guarantee of their consignments. If a buyer in good faith deems an animal unsuitable or sterile, the consignor will replace or refund at comparable value.
- Upon purchase, the livestock become property of the buyer. However, in the event the buyer is not physically present at the sale, sellers will be responsible for maintaining possession of the lot until pickup can be arranged. It will be strongly suggested that online buyers arrange pickup of their purchase within 7 days unless otherwise arranged between buyer & seller.

Timeline

- All livestock will need to be in their designated pens by 12:00 pm noon on Friday so that the Health Sifting Committee can start inspections on time.

- All consignors will be responsible for the feed, water, and bedding in the pens. Shavings will be available on site for purchase. Other types of bedding are allowed but will need to be supplied by the consignor.

Sifting Guidelines

**To ensure that healthy, viable livestock are sold, sifting will take place the day prior to the sale. All livestock will be examined for clinical signs of disease that could be detrimental to the long-term health and fertility. Final decision to sift will be at the discretion of the lead veterinarian. Sifted animals will be removed from the sale and if the reasoning for the sift is contagious disease, these animals will not be allowed to stay on site.*

- Livestock will be examined, and testicles palpated for abnormalities, swelling and other signs of potential injury or infection. Testicles will also be measured by the sifting committee.
 - Notably: a fertility test will not be required. Due to the “off-season” timing of this sale, reduced fertility at this time of year could be a result of normal seasonal reproductive patterns.
- Animals with contagious diseases will be sifted. Other livestock in the same consignment may also be sifted at the discretion of the veterinarian if there is a significant risk of disease transmission.
 - Examples include but are not limited to:
 - Clinical signs of pneumonia/respiratory infection
 - Abscesses indicative of Caseous lymphadenitis
 - Active infections of the eye
 - Pizzle/sheath rot
 - Foot rot
 - Excessive diarrhea
 - Active soremouth
 - Severe external (lice, keds) or internal parasite infections (bottle jaw, severe anemia).

- *It is strongly recommended that all livestock be dewormed and treated for external parasites within 30 days prior to the sale.*
- Non-transmissible reasons for sifting:
 - Livestock with over- or undershot jaws will be sifted.
 - Livestock with rectal or vaginal prolapse will be sifted.
 - Livestock in poor body condition (less than 2.5) will be sifted.
 - Livestock in excessively fat condition (4.5 or greater) will be sifted.