



DNA marker technology to increase carcass weight and muscle yield in sheep

What is MyoMax?

MyoMax is a DNA marker test that determines whether an animal carries 0, 1 or 2 copies of the favorable variant of *growth differentiation factor gene* (GDF8).

The MyoMax test will report whether an animal is:

- MyoMaxGOLD[®] (2 copies of the favorable MyoMax marker)
- MyoMax[®] (1 copy of the favorable MyoMax marker)
- Non-Carrier (0 copies of the favorable MyoMax marker)

The MyoMax markers are prevalent in Texels and their crosses or composites. The MyoMax markers have been actively introgressed into other terminal and maternal breeds such as the Romney, Perendale and Australian White.

What are the advantages of MyoMax?

Sheep that carry the MyoMax markers have increased muscling in the leg and loin, less carcass fat and improved carcass weight compared to sheep that do not carry the MyoMax markers.

Rams that have been tested MyoMaxGOLD[®] will always pass one copy of the MyoMax marker to their progeny. Their progeny will have increased carcass dress %, increased carcass muscle and decreased fat % compared with progeny from Non-Carrier rams run under the same conditions¹.

No negative impact on other traits such as growth or survival is associated with the MyoMax markers.

How do I test my rams for MyoMax?

Testing is performed on blood spot samples collected on cards supplied by Zoetis.

1. Collect a small amount of blood onto collector
2. Label with animal ID
3. Send sample to Zoetis and results will be returned in 4-6 weeks

For more information please contact Zoetis Genetics Customer Service 1300 768 555.

1. Johnson, P.L. et al. (2009) *Investigations into the GDF8 g+6723G-A polymorphism in New Zealand Texel sheep*. Journal of Animal Science; 87: 1856