



Steps to selecting full curl rams

- Seek advice from experienced, successful sheep hunters and/or professional guides before your hunt.
- Study live sheep, sheep photos, sheep horns and mounted sheep, especially at various angles.
- Pick up a sheep horn sticker from Environment Yukon and place it on the rear stock of your rifle or on your bow.
- Use the finest quality optics that you can afford (binoculars and spotting scope with tripod)
- View sheep squarely from the side. Viewing sheep from below makes the horns look longer than they are.
- Do not depend on using annuli (growth rings on the horns) to determine legality. False annuli can and do occur on sheep horns.
- Calm yourself before deciding whether the ram in your sight is legal or not. Adrenaline and the excitement of the hunt may impair your judgement.
- Compare what you see to the sheep horn sticker. Use it as a final reference in the field.
- Don't shoot if the ram is too close to call. Wait to find one that is definitely legal. It is better to be safe than sorry.

It is best to harvest the oldest rams possible.

For more information contact:

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Turn in Poachers/ Polluters 1-800-661-0525

In partnership with



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Cover photo - Stephen J. Krasemann

HUNT WISELY SELECTING LEGAL SHEEP



A healthy mountain sheep population requires genetic diversity. Directing harvest to older males ensures that as many rams as possible have the opportunity to reach full curl and participate in breeding.

The *Wildlife Act* makes it clear that only rams that are full curl or 8 years old or older can be legally harvested. Yet every year licensed hunters mistakenly harvest rams that are undersize and underage.

Whether the ram you harvest is legal or not, you must report your kill and submit the biological samples required by your licence or permit. If your ram is undersize and underage, you will have to turn in the meat, horns and hide as well. You will also be asked to explain the circumstances leading to the unlawful kill.

Reporting is the right thing to do. If you fail to report a kill, you could face legal charges. Conservation Officers know that mistakes can happen and will take your incident report into account when determining if a penalty should be applied.

Don't be fooled by these myths:

- Broomed rams are old and therefore legal. *False*
- The biggest ram in the band is an old ram. *False*
- Rams with flared horns are full curl. *False*

IF YOU'RE NOT SURE, DON'T SHOOT.
IT IS BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY.
DON'T SHOOT

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What is a full curl?

When viewed from the side, with horn bases aligned, a full curl male has at least one horn that extends beyond a line running from the centre of the nostril to the lowermost edge of the eye. Check the horns carefully. Sheep horns viewed from below can appear larger than they really are.



Protected

Female mountain sheep and young are protected from hunting. Male sheep with horns less than full curl are protected - unless they are 8 years of age or older as determined by growth rings on the horns.

Some hunters have shot under-curl sheep with the mistaken belief they were older than 8 years. This can lead to serious consequences including charges under the *Wildlife Act*.

If you are not absolutely sure it's a full curl ram, DON'T SHOOT.

Selecting Legal Sheep

Study each photo and check your response: Is the sheep legal to harvest, not legal, or do you need a better view? See Answers.



1. Legal Not legal Need a better view



5. Legal Not legal Need a better view



2. Legal Not legal Need a better view



6. Legal Not legal Need a better view



3. Legal Not legal Need a better view



7. Legal Not legal Need a better view



4. Legal Not legal Need a better view



8. Legal Not legal Need a better view

ANSWERS

1. Flared horns are not necessarily legal. - **Need a better view**

2. Difficult to judge horns from front. - **Need a better view**

3. Full curl. - **Legal**. Wait until undersize rams are not in the line of fire.

4. Viewing from below makes horns look larger. - **Need a better view**

5. Full curl ram. - **Legal**

6. Broomed horns are not necessarily legal. - **Need a better view**

7. Horns are not full curl. - **Not legal**

8. Ram is too far away to judge without optics. - **Need a better view**