

Identifying a legal ram

Figure 1 - Full-curl ram

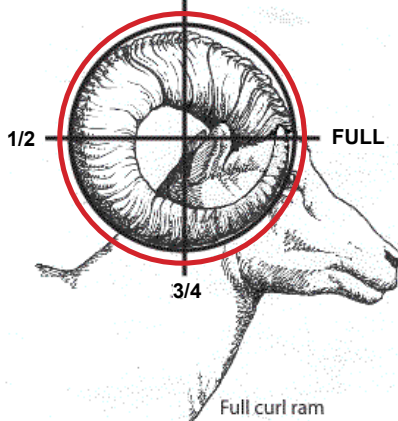
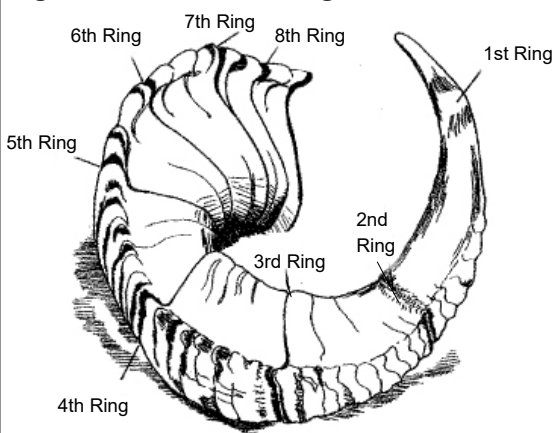


Figure 2 - Ram with both horns broken



Figure 3 - Annual horn rings



Attention all Sheep Hunters!

Beginning July 1, 2026, a person must have successfully completed a department-approved hunter orientation course before hunting sheep in any general season harvest ticket hunt from Aug 10-Sept 20, where the bag limit is one ram with full-curl horn or larger. Course materials will be posted at hunt.alaska.gov when they become available.

A legal ram under a full-curl regulation is:

- A full-curl ram, whose tip of at least one horn has grown through 360° of a circle described by the outer surface of the horn, as viewed from the side (**Figure 1**).
- A ram with the tips of both horns broken which means the lamb tip is completely absent. Horn tips that are chipped or cracked are not considered broken if any portion of the lamb tip is present (**Figure 2**).

Lamb tip characteristics:

- » a length of less than four inches;
- » the inside surface of the lamb tip is distinctly concave when compared to the remainder of the horn;
- » the lamb tip is the section of a horn grown during the first six months of a sheep's life and is the section of horn distal of the first annulus, which is the swelling of the horn that forms during the first winter of life.

- A ram at least 8 years old as determined by counting annual horn rings and segments (**Figure 3**). If a ram's horns are not legal based on degree of curl or broken tips, you are responsible for counting at least 8 true annuli before attempting to take the ram. It is difficult and ill-advised to age a ram in the field by only counting horn rings because of false annuli and narrow horn segments on older rams.

For more tips on judging legal sheep visit: hunt.alaska.gov

A legal ram under an any ram hunt is:

Any ram. It can be difficult to tell the difference between ewes and young rams.

Ram horn sealing requirements:

Horns from rams harvested in areas where sealing is required must be **permanently** sealed prior to exporting from Alaska; it is illegal to transport sheep horns outside the state before sealing.

The horns, along with the harvest or permit report, must be presented to an ADF&G representative for sealing within 30 days of the date of kill, or sooner if permit or harvest ticket requires. Horns must be attached to the skull plate for sealing purposes. If the hunter is unable to present horns in person for sealing, another individual must provide the hunter's completed harvest report with horns at the time of sealing.

NOTE: Sheep sealing is available at most ADF&G offices Monday through Friday, except holidays. Sheep sealing is not available anywhere in Arctic or Western Alaska, so plan accordingly.

In areas where sheep horns must be sealed, they may not be altered prior to sealing.

From Aug 1-Sept 20, aircraft may only be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep. A person may not use or employ an aircraft to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season. This prohibition does not prohibit any flight maneuvers necessary to make an informed and safe landing in the field.

More information on sheep, including the '**Dall Sheep Hunting Full-Curl Identification Guide**', is available at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=sheephunting.resources>