

# MANAGEMENT CALENDER FOR WOOL SHEEP IN THE SUMMER RAINFALL AREAS OF SOUTH AFRICA (AUGUST & SEPTEMBER)

PRESENTED BY THE  
PRODUCTION ADVISORY SERVICES OF THE  
NATIONAL WOOLGROWERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA (NWGA)



---

The Production Advisory Service of the NWGA publish a list of management practices every second month that are deemed important to assist in the management of your flock.

- 1 Pregnant ewes (mated in March and April)  
(These actions need to be concluded 4 weeks prior to lambing)
  - 1.1 Crutch or shear ewes. New born lambs will suckle on anything that are oblong or round in form, even lox. Ensure therefore that the udder is without any lox pieces.
  - 1.2 Vaccinate ewes against pasteurella and pulpy kidney. Vaccination against blue udder, red gut and blood gut are optional depending on whether these deceases are prevalent on your farm.
  - 1.3 Be on the look-out for liver fluke and conical fluke infestations as both parasites can cause major production losses in winter. These parasites are particularly prevalent in ground water dams. Typical symptoms of liver fluke are bottle jaw and diarrhoea in the case of conical fluke.
  - 1.4 Inject or dose with Vitamin A (especially if they have not had green forage for a few months) and minerals.

- 1.5 Monitor the condition of ewes on a weekly basis for the final 8 weeks of pregnancy. A thin underweight ewe will (1) have an under developed udder and (2) will not have sufficient body reserves to produce sufficient amounts of milk to raise her lamb properly. If necessary start with a feeding programme timeously and ensure that these ewes do not loose condition. Condition-score the ewes on a weekly basis and provide feed or lick as soon as their condition start deteriorating. Take particular note of the condition of ewes carrying twins as well as the two-tooth ewes. Although they may appear to be in a good condition as their abdomens expand rapidly during the last trimester of pregnancy they can easily loose condition without it being visible or noticed.
- 1.6 Ensure that these ewes lamb with sufficient amounts of good quality forage available, preferably on rested veld or planted pasture.

**Important:** Read the pamphlets of all animal health products carefully to ensure that it is safe to use with pregnant ewes.

## 2 Ewes to be mated in October & November

- 2.1 Move the ewes to fresh camps at least 14 days prior to mating as a natural stimulus to go into oestrus (teasing). Rested veld is a very good option. Another simple way to tease ewes are to shear them.
- 2.2 If necessary, crutch the ewes as this facilitates better penetration by the rams during mating.
- 2.3 Inject or dose with Vitamin A (especially if they have not had green forage for a few months) and minerals.
- 2.4 Inoculate the ewes against enzootic abortion (if this disease is prevalent in your flock) at least six weeks before mating starts.
- 2.5 Ensure that the ewes are tick free.
- 2.6 Be on the look-out for liver fluke and conical fluke infestations.

## 3 Rams (All actions to be concluded approximately **8 weeks prior to mating** to avoid temporary sterility.

- 3.1 Shear the rams and conduct all the necessary vaccinations, drenching and mineral supplementation for autumn mating. Ensure that all rams are in peak condition before mating. Flush them with oats or a good quality protein lick as this gives good results. Beware of using maize or chocolate maize only as it could lead to the accumulation of fat in and around the scrotum, which could affect the fertility of the rams. Ensure that there is sufficient feeding space when providing feed. It is a good sign if the skin between the hind and front legs starts to turn into a purple colour. This is a sign of good levels of testosterone and mating readiness.
- 3.2 Test all rams for fertility, as well as genital and venereal diseases.
- 3.3 Dose the rams with 20 ml wheat germ per week for the last 4 weeks before mating. This will improve semen quality and quantity.
- 3.4 Ensure that all rams are in peak condition before mating. Flush them with oats or a good quality lick gives good results. Beware of using only maize or chocolate maize, because it could lead to the accumulation of fat around the testis, which could affect the fertility of the rams. A lick high in protein also works well. Ensure that there are sufficient feeding space when providing feed. Rams need to be purple between their hind and front legs before they are put with the ewes for mating.
- 3.5 Dose or vaccinate with a broad spectrum remedy against roundworms (particularly hairworm) and nasal worm. It is important that a ram's smelling is not deterred as he identifies the ewes in heat through smelling her pheromones.
- 3.6 Ensure that rams and ewes are free from TICKS.

#### 4 Teaser rams (important this time of the year)

- 4.1 Tease the ewes 9 days prior to mating. Remove teaser rams by late afternoon of day 9 and replace with rams.

#### 5 Predators

- 5.1 Monitor camps (and adjacent areas) where lambing ought to take place, for unwanted predators. Put precautionary measures in place by stacking holes underneath fences. Do not postpone this until ewes start lambing, because the ewes will require your full attention.

**IMPORTANT: CONTACT YOUR LOCAL VETERINARIAN IF YOU ARE DOUBTFUL OF ANY OF THE ANIMAL HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS!**

**DO NOT VACCINATE PREGNANT EWES WITH LIVE VACCINES SUCH AS BLUE TONGUE AND RIFT VALLEY FEVER – IT CAN CAUSE ABORTIONS.**

**READ THE PAMFLETS OF ALL VACCINATIONS, DOSING REMEDIES AND FEEDS TO ACQUAINT YOURSELF WITH THE RESPONSIBLE USE THEREOF**

<http://www.nwga.co.za/downloads/generiese-bestuurskalender.html>

[http://www.nwga.co.za/downloads/skaapbestuursproram\\_en\\_kalender.xls](http://www.nwga.co.za/downloads/skaapbestuursproram_en_kalender.xls)

**Should you require more information, please contact your nearest**

**NWGA office**

**Carnarvon – Gawie van Wyk - 083 270 3161**

**Middelburg (EC) – Juan Venter - 079 693 1953**

**Bloemfontein – Jan Louis Venter - 083 650 1131**

**Harrismith – Bom Louw - 082 652 2243**

**Ermelo – Jacques Jansen van Vuuren – 083 2355 467**

**Caledon – Jannie Fourie - 082 564 1105**