

MANAGEMENT CALENDER FOR WOOL SHEEP IN THE SUMMER RAINFALL AREAS OF SOUTH AFRICA (JUNE & JULY)

**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 Lambs (Born in March/April)

- 1.1 Dose all lambs older than 12 weeks against tape worm and roundworms. Administer Vit A and minerals (either injectable or orally).
Dose lambs younger than 3 months against milk tape worm.

- 1.2 Vaccinate all lambs (especially ewe lambs) older than 12 weeks against diseases like blue tongue, rift valley fever, pulpy kidney and Pasteurella.

Vaccinate all replacement ewe lambs against enzootic abortion (if the disease is prevalent in your flock).

Where possible use combination vaccines.

Do not vaccinate before the lambs are at least 12 weeks old since they do not build up their own immunity while the antibodies of the colostrum is still present in lambs which then prevents the build-up of its own immunity.

- 1.3 Select replacement ewe lambs at weaning.

- 1.4 Creep feeding can be stopped as soon as the lambs are 3 months old. This is replaced with a good quality protein lick with sufficient bypass protein – this is especially important in the case of the replacement ewe lambs.

2 Ewes (mated in March/April)

- 2.1 Conduct a pregnancy test between 5 to 6 weeks after the rams were removed. Sell all dry ewes provided the pregnancy rate is above 90% for adult ewes and above 70% for replacement ewes. Use this money to buy in pregnant ewes, preferably 2-tooth ewes.
- 2.2 Vaccinate ewes against Pasteurella and pulpy kidney. Vaccination against blue udder, red gut and blood gut are optional.
- 2.3 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 is bottle jaw and diarrhoea in the case of conical fluke.
Dose with Vit A and minerals.
- 2.3 Monitor the condition of ewes on a weekly basis for the final 8 weeks of pregnancy. A thin underweight ewe will not have sufficient body reserves to produce sufficient amounts of milk to raise her lamb properly and its conception rate in the next season is also lower. If necessary start feeding 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 the last trimester of pregnancy they can easily loose condition without it being visible or noticed.
- 2.4 This is the best time of the year to treat against nasal worm.
- 2.5 Scan and monitor camps where lambing are going to take place for unwanted predators. Put precautionary measures in place by plugging 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 pamphlets of all vaccinations, dosing remedies and feeds to acquaint yourself with the responsible use thereof

4 Ewes with lambs

- 4.1 Dose with Vit A and minerals. Blindness is a typical symptom of a Vit A deficiency.

5 Rams

- 5.1 This is a good time to vaccinate rams against blue tongue as they are normally not busy mating.

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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%20en%20kalender.xls)

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