

**MANAGEMENT CALENDER FOR WOOL SHEEP IN THE
SUMMER RAINFALL AREAS OF SOUTH AFRICA
(DECEMBER & JANUARY)**

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 between August and September)

- 1.1 Dose all lambs older than 12 weeks against tapeworm and round worms.
- 1.2 Vaccinate all lambs older than 12 weeks against diseases such as blue tongue, rift valley fever, pulpy kidney and pasteurella.
- 1.3 Wean all lambs and select replacement ewes.
- 1.4 Move the weaned lambs to good grazing and supplement with a good protein lick if necessary.
- 1.5 It is strongly recommended to dose against nasal worm as this parasite is very active during the summer months.

2 Ewes that were mated between October and November

- 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 Dose against internal parasites and nasal worm and supplement the ewes with minerals.

IMPORTANT: Do not vaccinate pregnant ewes with live vaccines, i.e. blue tongue and rift valley fever during pregnancy – it can cause abortions amongst others. Read the pamphlet of all vaccinations, dosing remedies and feeds to ensure that it is safe for pregnant ewes.

3 Rams

Start preparing the rams for mating at least 8 weeks before mating starts in March and April. All the management practices need to be concluded at least 8 weeks prior to mating as rams can become temporarily infertile if they are handled or are treated with live vaccines. It then takes 8 weeks for their semen volume to recover.

Management actions include the following:

- 3.1 Test the rams for fertility and venereal diseases.
- 3.2 Shear the rams and conduct all the necessary vaccinations, drenching and mineral supplementation.
- 3.3 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 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.
- 3.4 Dose the rams on a weekly basis with 20ml wheat germ for the last 4 weeks prior to mating. A dose of 10ml per week for the last 6 weeks prior to mating is recommended in Mpumalanga.
- 3.5 It is strongly recommended to dose against nasal worm as this parasite is very active during the summer months.
- 3.6 Trim the rams' hooves if necessary to enable them to walk and mount the ewes easily.

4 Ewes to be mated in March

All management practices need to be concluded 6 weeks prior to lambing.

- 4.1 Crutch the ewes to be mated as that makes the mating process for the ram easier.
- 4.2 Vaccinate ewes against enzootic abortion, pasteurella, pulpy kidney and blue tongue.
- 4.3 Treat against round worm and nasal worm and provide mineral supplementation.

5 Replacement ewes

- 5.1 Vaccinate the older replacement ewes to be mated for the first time in autumn against enzootic abortion, pasteurella, pulpy kidney, blue tongue, rift valley fever, etc.
- 5.2 Vaccinate the younger replacement ewes (born during the past spring) against blue tongue. Ensure that A, B and C are done separately and 6 weeks apart. Vaccinate against pulpy kidney.
- 5.3 It is strongly recommended to dose against nasal worm as this parasite is very active during the summer months.

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

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

http://www.nwga.co.za/downloads/skaapbestuursproram_en_kalender.xls

Should you require more information, please contact your nearest

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