



➔ by Dr Louis du Pisani

**Every second month the production advisory service of the NWGA publishes a list of management practices that are deemed important to help the producer manage his or her flock. The following practices should have been finalised in the summer rainfall areas by February/March.**



### ➔ **Pregnant ewes (mated in October and November)**

These actions must be concluded at least four weeks before the start of the lambing season.

- Newborn lambs will suckle on anything with an oblong or round shape that resembles the form of the ewe's teat, such as pieces of lox hanging near the udder. Ensure that the udder and udder area is clear of hanging pieces of lox by either crutching or shearing the ewes before the start of lambing.
- Vaccinate ewes against *Pasteurella*-related diseases and pulpy kidney. Vaccination against blue udder, red gut and blood gut are optional, depending on whether these problems occur in your area.
- Dose or inject ewes with a broad-spectrum roundworm remedy (particularly wireworm) and nasal worm.
- Inject or dose with vitamin A and minerals.
- Monitor the condition of ewes regularly (weekly to fortnightly) during the last eight weeks of pregnancy. Thin and underweight ewes produce low volumes of milk, which leads to weak and underweight lambs. Start feeding as soon as the ewes lose body condition. Note the condition of ewes carrying twins and two-tooth ewes. Although these ewes may appear to be in a good condition, their expanding abdomens make it difficult to assess their condition visually.

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## ➔ Ewes to be mated

- Move the ewes to be mated to fresh pasture at least 14 days before the mating season starts. This will provide a natural stimulus for the ewes to cycle (teasing).
- If necessary, crutch the ewes to remove all wool that can be in the way during the mating process.



## ➔ Rams

All actions must be concluded eight weeks before mating to avoid temporary sterility in the rams.

- Shear the rams and do all the necessary vaccinations, drench them and provide mineral supplementations for autumn mating.
- Ensure that all rams are in peak condition before mating. Flush them with oats or a good-quality protein lick for best results. Do not use maize or chocolate maize for flushing, as this could lead to the accumulation of fat around the testicles, which could affect ram fertility. Ensure there is sufficient feeding space. It is a good sign if the skin around the hind and front legs starts to turn purple. This is a sign of good levels of testosterone.
- Test for fertility and venereal disease.
- Dose the rams with 20 ml of wheatgerm oil per week for the last four weeks before mating.
- Make sure rams are fit.
- Dose or vaccinate with a broad-spectrum remedy against roundworms (particularly wire-worm) and nasal worm. It is important for their noses to be free from nasal worm, as this will affect their sense of smell.
- Ensure that rams and ewes are tick free.

### ➔ Teaser rams (optional this time of the year)

- Tease the ewes nine days before mating. Remove teaser rams by late afternoon or day nine and replace with the breeding rams.

### ➔ Predators

- Monitor the lamb camps for predators. Close holes underneath fences and implement a well-planned control programme. Do not postpone this until the ewes start lambing, as the ewes will then require your full attention.



## IMPORTANT

- Read the pamphlets of all animal health products carefully to ensure that they are safe to use with pregnant ewes.
- Do not vaccinate pregnant ewes with live vaccines, for example vaccines against blue-tongue and Rift Valley fever, which can cause abortions, among other things.
- Read the pamphlet of all vaccinations, dosing remedies and feeds so you know how to use them responsibly.
- Contact your local veterinarian if you are unsure about any of the animal health recommendations.

The NWGA offers a production advisory service to all wool producers on contract with Cape Wools SA (CWSA), funded by the Wool Trust. Should you require more information, please contact your nearest NWGA office. 



Skandeer hierdie QR-kode vir die Afrikaanse bestuurskalender.

