

**CALENDER FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF WOOLLED SHEEP  
IN THE SUMMER RAIN AREAS OF SOUTH AFRICA  
(OCTOBER & NOVEMBER)**

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



**1 Lambs (born in August and September)**

- 1.1 Dose against milk tapeworm. Use a substance that contains Albendazole as active ingredient. Wait until lambs are at least 3 months old before before administrating tapeworm remedy or wait until segments of tapeworm are visible in the dung.
- 1.2 Dose with Vitamin A & E as well as minerals. These are essential for the lambs, especially if they have never grazed green pastures before.
- 1.3 Do not vaccinate the lambs now against Blue Tongue, Pulpey Kidney or Pasteurella if the ewes were vaccinated for those diseases. Wait until they are at least 12 weeks old, otherwise they do not build up their own immunity since the antibodies of the colostrum is still present, which then prevents the build-up of its own immunity.
- 1.4 From now on, the ewes' milk will start decreasing quickly and the lambs will have to fend for themselves. It is also too late now to start with creep feeding. The best practice now would be to relocate ewes and lambs to fresh grazing in order for lambs to get quality feeding. If not, growth will come to a stand still. Their mothers are their greatest competition for forage (feed). Should the feed become scarce, you could consider weaning the lambs early, provided that they comply with certain minimum standards. They need to weigh approximately 22kg and be at least 60 days old. These early weaned lambs would require a good production lick containing a high quantity of bypass proteien.

**2 Ewes that will be mated in October / November**

- 2.1 Ewes need to grow in condition in order to ovulate. Flush them by moving them to spare veld 14 days prior to mating or provide them with chocolate maize with 4% fish-

meal. Feed the ewes 150g per day for 14 days prior to the rams mating and up until 21 days thereafter.

- 2.2 Teaser rams work well at this time of the year to get ewes in oestrus. Tease the ewes for 9 days only and then introduce the rams. The most fertile ewes will ovulate within 9 days of teaser rams being introduced. Fourteen days is too long, because by then, the most fertile ewes will already be off heat.
- 2.3 Crutch the ewes to be mated if they have long wool (growth of more than 6 months) as the rams struggle to penetrate the ewes with long wool.
- 2.4 Six weeks before mating, vaccinate your ewes against enzootic abortion (should you suspect that lambs could be lost to this). Typical signs of a possible problem in your flock is a loss of lambs between scanning and marking as well as lambs that are weak at birth and die shortly thereafter.
- 2.5 Six weeks before mating, vaccinate your ewes against pulpy kidney and pasteurella with a combination vaccine.
- 2.6 If necessary, dose your ewes with a broad spectrum worm remedy. Take dung samples to confirm the necessity of dosing.
- 2.7 If the ewes have not been exposed to green pastures for a while, then they will react well to supplementation with vitamin A and minerals (injectable or orally). Blindness is a symptom of vitamin A deficiency.

### **3 Lactating Ewes (born in August / September)**

- 3.1 Wet and dry the ewes. Those ewes with dirty teats need to be marked, because they do not have lambs with them. As soon as they are again without lambs during a wet and dry, they need to be culled. These ewes lamb, but they do not raise lambs. Faulty teats or ulcers in the udders can also contribute towards reasons why they do not have lambs.
- 3.2 Vaccinate the ewes with live vaccines such as Blue Tongue, Rift Valley Fever etc.

### **4 Rams**

- 4.1 All management practices for rams need to be concluded 8 week prior to mating (**it therefore should already have been finished**) – we nevertheless include a list of practices. Rams can become temporarily infertile if they are handled, or are treated

with a live vaccine. It then takes 8 weeks before their semen volumes are replenished.

It includes the following actions:

- 4.1.1 Test the rams for fertility and venereal disease.
- 4.1.2 Shear the rams and do all the necessary vaccinations (such as pasteurella and pulpy kidney), dosing (especially against internal parasites, ticks and nose worm) and supplements of Vitamien A & E and minerals.
- 4.2 Ensure that all rams are in peak condition before mating. Flushing 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 proteien could also work 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.
- 4.3 Dose each ram once a week with 20ml wheat germ for the last 4 weeks prior to mating. It is suggested that 10ml per week 6 weeks prior to mating applies in Mpumalanga.
- 4.4 As soon as you remove the rams after mating, start vaccinating with live vaccines such as blue tongue, rift valley etc. Conclude all these actions at least eight (8) weeks before the next mating.

**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 AQUANT 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**