



# SHEEP SHEET

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## DESCRIPTION:

Sheep flock located in the Rocky Mountain Region. Sheep are wintered on desert ranges and spend summer on mountain ranges. The sheep are herded and trailed to and from seasonal ranges by way of the homesite or headquarters where they are kept for breeding and lambing seasons of the operation.

## PROGRAM BY MONTH:

### September - preparation for breeding

#### Rams

- Overall body condition
- Increased exercise
- Scrotal palpation for REO (*Ram Epididymitis Organism*)
- Cull all infected rams
- ELIZA Test (blood test) for *Brucella ovis*
- Check and treat if necessary for sheath rot, pizzle rot or sheath posthitis
- Spray, pour-on, dip, dust, etc. for external parasites

#### Ewes

- Over all body condition
- Unhealthy or poor health status ewes should be taken to headquarters
- If a problem in your specific; ewes may need to be vaccinated for Vibrio Fetus, Enzootic Abortion Ewe (EAE), and Leptospirosis (Lepto)

#### Replacements

- Isolation for 20 days

## Developing a Flock Health Program Part 1- an introductory example

### Sheepdex H-6

- Check for Contagious Foot Rot, Ulcerative Dermatitis (Lip & Leg), Bluetongue and skin problems, i.e. photosensitivity.
- Consider vaccination for Vibrio, Enzootic Abortion Ewe (EAE), and Contagious Ecthyma (Soremouth)

### October - Rams at breeding

#### Rams

- Electro-ejaculate for semen (sperm cells also) test (prior to breeding, too late to remedy)
- Final physical examination, looking for any last minute problems



### February - Preparation for lambing

#### Ewes

- Pre-lamb shear all ewes
- Spray, dip, dust, pour-on, injection, and/or drench for external and internal parasite control
- Vaccinate with booster for Enterotoxemia Type C & D, (pulpy kidney, overeating disease) or Caseous D-T (*Caseous lymphadenitis* (cheesy gland), *Clostridium perfringens* Type D (Enterotoxemia, overeating disease), and *Clostridium tetani* (tetanus).
- Lambing facilities cleaned, repaired, and set-up as needed

## March/April - Lambing

### Ewes

- Check for mastitis and other mammary gland problems
- Help ewes with dystocia (difficult births)
- General cleaning and sanitation of lambing facilities



### Lambs

- Dip and saturate navel cord with Iodine (7% Tincture of Iodine, not 1% Tame Iodine)
- Make sure all lambs suckle and get colostrum milk intake within 12-13 hours after birth.
- If lambs are too weak to suckle, utilize a weak lamb tube feeder, esophageal tube or probe.
- Make sure all lambs 'mother-up' with their mothers.
- Monitor scours problems and if necessary treat.
- Dock the tails of all lambs, with one of the following methods:
  - 1) Knife
  - 2) Burdizzo
  - 3) All-in-One
  - 4) Emasculator
  - 5) Elastrator
  - 6) Hot Iron
  - 7) Electric Dockers
- Castrate either all of the ram lambs, or if some rams need to be kept back, make the first go-around of keep or cull when the lambs are docked, vaccinated, ear tagged/marked, etc.



## May - Preparation for trailing or hauling to summer range or pasture

### Ewes

- Consider vaccination of all ewes for Enterotoxemia Type C & D and Bluetongue, especially if they did not receive a booster before lambing.
- Evaluate ewes and if necessary drench or dose for internal parasites
- Spray, pour on, dust, dip, jett for external parasites (if not treated right after shearing)

## June - Re-vaccinate lambs for Enterotoxemia Type C & D) (Overeating Disease)

## July/August - ELIZA test for Brucella ovis

**NOTE:** It is highly recommended that producers who have technical animal health questions, concerns or need assistance with the development of a flock health program, contact their local large animal veterinary practitioner.

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For more information write:

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