

## VACCINATIONS

### Over eating

A good 7 or 8 way *Clostridium* vaccine with a booster. If this has been done as a lamb they will only need a booster.

### Abortions

A Campylobacter & Chlamydia vaccination. If using a combination vaccine give one shot two weeks prior to breeding and one midgestation. Annual boosters are optimal.

### Sore Mouth

If you have sheep moving in and out of your operation (shows & fairs) vaccinate ewes prior to lambing and lambs at an early age.

### Foot rot

Vaccinate only if it is a problem in your flock.

### Parasite Control

Give a de-wormer at the start of the flushing period and at shearing. Treat for external parasites at shearing time (Ectrin or Expar).

### **Flushing** to increase twinning

Increasing the **Body Condition Score (BCS)**

Increase quality & plain of **nutrition** for 2 weeks prior to breeding

For best results start with BCS 2 or 3.

There is no effect if the ewe is in BCS 4 or 5.

## BODY CONDITION SCORES



**Synchronize** heat cycles by placing a teaser ram with the ewes during the flushing period. The “Novel Ram Effect” – Place a ram in the pen next to the ewes. This works only if there has been no ram within sight sound or smell for 30 days.

**De-worm** (give a de-worming drench or shot) at the start of the flushing period

## THE BREEDING PERIOD

**Maximum** of 35 days (2 heat cycles)

1 highly fertile mature ram per 75-100 ewes

1 highly fertile ram lamb per 35 ewes

Use a marking harness and change colors after 17 days

## THE GESTATION PERIOD (145-148 DAYS)

Pregnancy Diagnosis 35 days after removal of the ram/s

Mid gestation separate twin-bearing ewes from singles and feed according to their requirements.

Keep BCS at 3-4

Vaccinate for Chlamydia mid gestation

Shear 3-4 weeks prior to lambing

Vaccinate with Clostridium vaccine at shearing time

Give Selenium/Vit. E to prevent “White Muscle Disease”

De-worm & apply a pour-on at shearing time

Increase nutritional intake according to requirements\*

## LAMBING TIME

### **BE PREPARED**

If you are lambing during cold weather and in confinement you will need:

- Clean dry shed without any drafts but well ventilated
- Plenty of good dry straw for bedding
- 4'X4' pens to place ewe and lambs for the first 24-48 hours. 1 pen/6-8 ewes
- A warming box or hair drier to warm chilled lambs. Beware – Do Not Overheat
- Be extremely cautious with heat lamps!
- A source of hot water
- A disinfectant such as Betadine
- Plastic palpation sleeves to assist with lambing
- Clean bucket

The medicine cabinet:

- Feeding tube and syringe for giving colostrum
- Frozen Colostrum (freeze 4oz. flat in a zip-lock)
- Iodine for dipping navels
- Penicillin
- Disposable syringes and needles
- Oxytocin for milk let-down
- Exam gloves

Nutradrench (a quick energy supplement good for both ewe and lambs)

## PARTURITION (GIVING BIRTH)

**Stage 1:** The ewe becomes nervous, separates from the rest of the group, lays down and gets up frequently, often turns around to check and see if her baby is on the ground. This may take 2-3 hours.

**Stage 2** is the delivery phase. The ewe will lie down and strain trying to deliver the lamb. This phase should be completed in 30 minutes, if not assistance should be given.

**Stage 3** is expulsion of the afterbirth. This usually happens within 30 minutes. If afterbirth is retained give an antibiotic but do not forcefully remove.

**Above all -BE PATIENT**



## CARE OF THE NEW-BORNE

- Dip navel in iodine
- Check the udder and strip out a squirt of colostrums
- Check the udder for heat/pain/swelling the first indicators of mastitis\*\*
- Place ewe and lamb/s in a clean dry pen
- Allow the mother to bond with her lambs
- If lambs have not nursed within 2 hours milk the ewe and feed lambs with the feeding tube

Dock, Castrate and Identify lambs when removing them from the small pens to larger

**Colorado  
State**  
University  
Cooperative  
Extension

Dr. Cleon V. Kimberling  
Extension Veterinarian  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO 80523  
970-491-4514

Geri Parsons, CVT  
Cooperative Extension  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO 80523  
970-491-1248

\*See ewe nutrition flyer

\*\*See mastitis flyer

## REPRODUCTION IN THE EWE



### SELECTION

Pick your Priorities

Write down your Goals

All traits have a heritability factor

Meat & Wool characters are highly heritable

Reproductive traits are moderate to low

**Prepare the ewe  
for the breeding season**