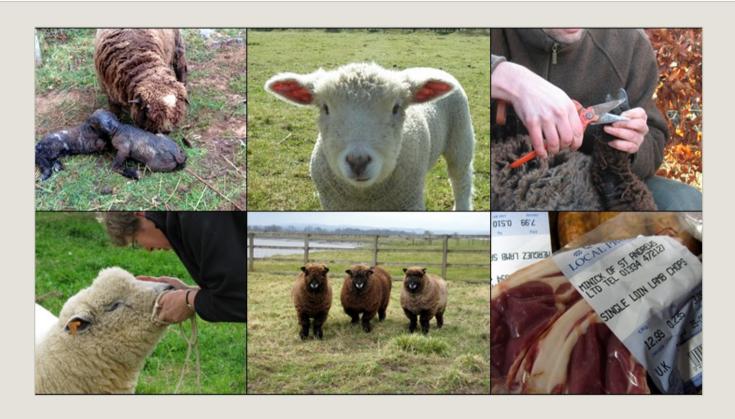
Introduction to sheep keeping





Rosemary Champion 2021

Programme (morning)



9:30-10:30 Session 1

Introductions and programme for the day

Management systems

Sheep breeds

Sourcing sheep

Legislation and record keeping

Slaughter and selling meat

10:30-11:00 Refreshments

11.00-12.30 Session 2

- Health planning and routine welfare tasks

The Shepherd's Year

Programme (afternoon)



12:30-1:30 Lunch

1:30 -3pm Session 3

- Fencing and grassland management

Housing and handling

Feeding sheep

Equipment

3pm-3:15 Refreshments

3:15-4:30 Session 3

- Dosing and vaccinating

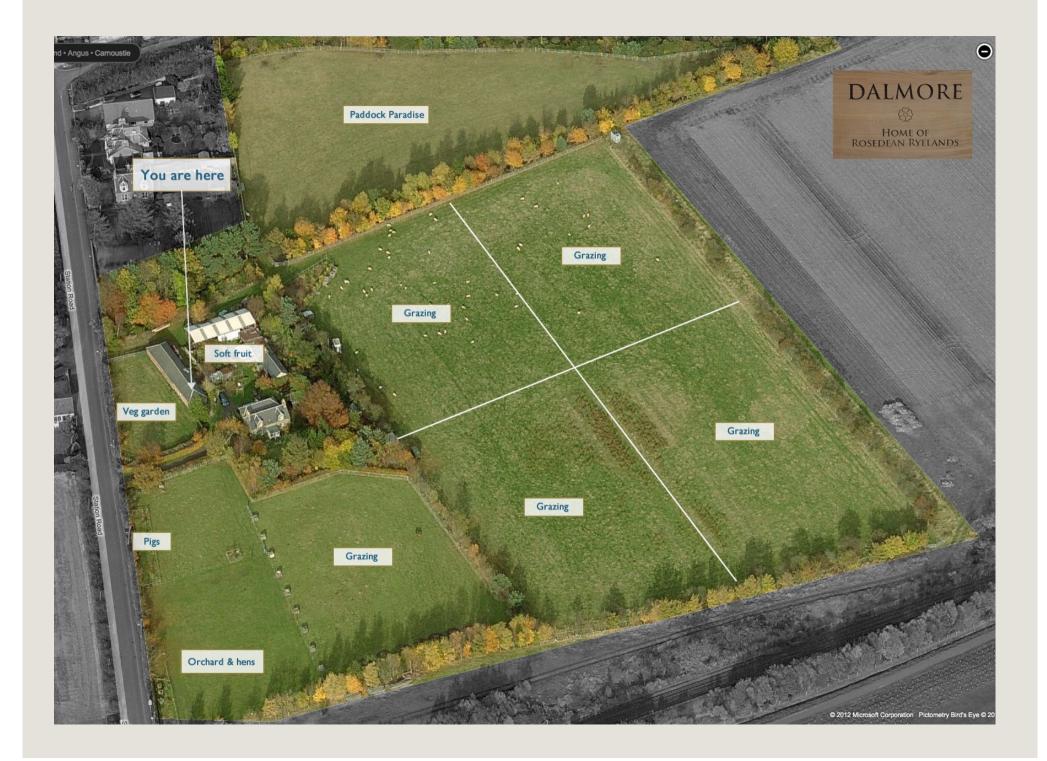
- Foot trimming

- Condition scoring

- Teeth

- Udders and testicles (not on the same sheep)

4:30-5:00 Q&A



Sheep terms

- Ewe lamb: female sheep up to one year old
- Tup or ram lamb: uncastrated male sheep up to one year old
- Wether: castrated male sheep
- Gimmer: female sheep in second year
- Ewe: female sheep that has lambed (2 years old and over)
- Ram or tup: uncastrated male sheep over one year old.
- Shearling, one shear, two shear etc: a way of aging a sheep by the number of times it's been shorn
- Two tooth, four tooth, full mouth, broken mouth: a way of aging sheep by its teeth.

Why keep sheep?



- For meat
- For fleece
- As grass managers
- To show
- To produce pedigree stock

Management systems



- "Short stay"
 - Store lambs (Over winter)
 - Ewe lambs (12 months)
 - Ewes with lambs at foot or in-lamb ewes (Summer)
 - Orphan / cade lambs (Summer)
- Permanent
 - Pet flock
 - Breeding flock

Breeding flock - commercial





Breeding flock - Pedigree





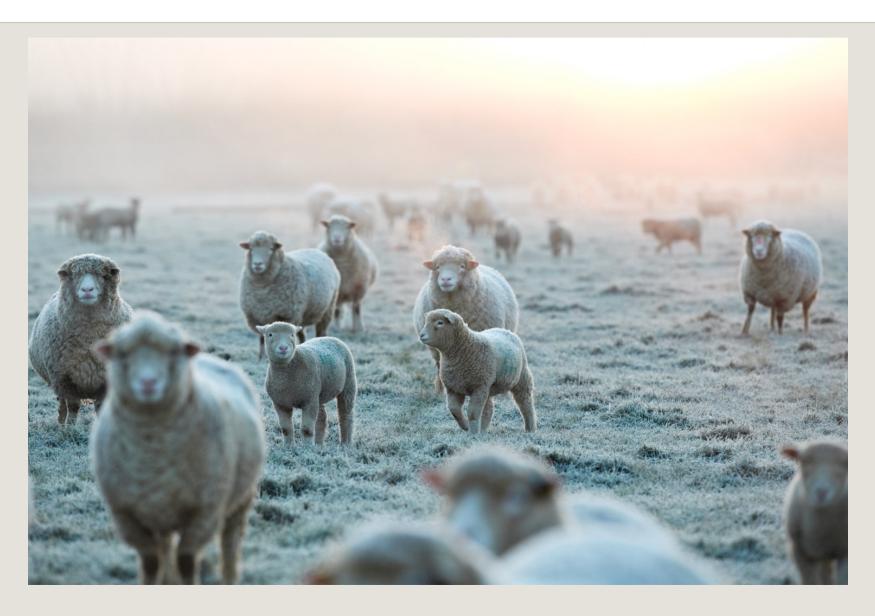
Breeding flock



- "Normal" pattern: Bonfire night / April Fool's Day
- Early or out of season breeding

Out of season breeding – Poll Dorset





Sheep breeds



- Hill & Upland
- British Longwool
- British Lowland
- Northern Short Tail
- Other breeds

The sheep industry

- Hill breeds or primitive breeds are either bred pure to produce female replacements or wethers for sale as store lambs in the autumn OR (older ewes) crossed to the Longwools to produce commercial ewes – the Mules.
- Mules put to a Down or continental tup (terminal sire) to produce fat lambs for the meat trade.

Hill & Upland - Blackface





Hill & Upland - Cheviot





Hill & Upland – Kerry Hill





Hill & Upland – Welsh Mountain





British Longwool – Blue faced Leicester





British Longwool – Wensleydale





British Longwool – Lincoln Longwool





British Longwool – Border Leicester





British Lowland – Ryeland





British Lowland – Coloured Ryeland





British Lowland – Shropshire





British Lowland – Suffolk





Northern Short Tail - Shetland





Northern Short Tail - Soay





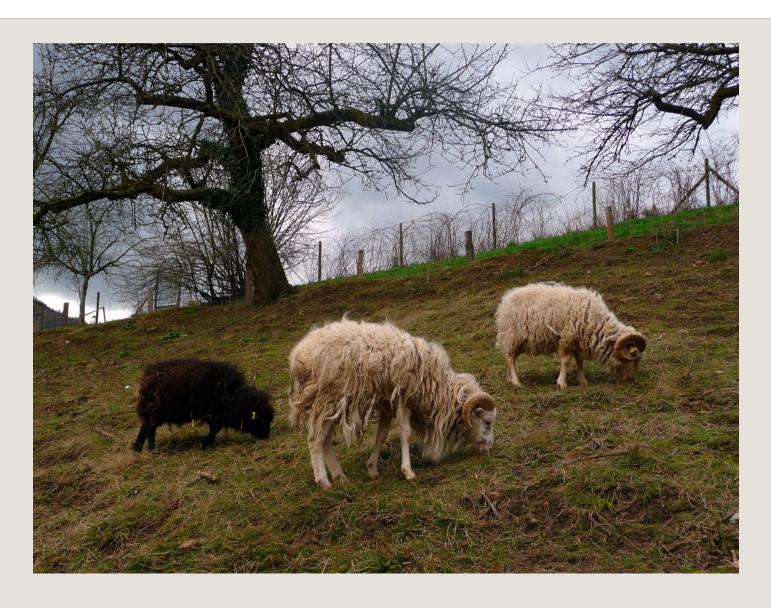
Northern Short Tail - Icelandic





Northern Short Tail - Ouessant





Other breeds - Portland





Other breeds - Texel





Other breeds - Charollais





Other breeds – Wiltshire Horn





Other breeds – Castlemilk Moorit





So which one?!



- Purpose
- Land available
- Management system
- Personal preference

Sourcing sheep



- Breeders / Breed Societies
- Social media / internet
- Livestock markets
- Livestock agents

How many can I have?





Legislation & record keeping



- CPH number
- Identification: flock number, tagging, temporary marking, breed society
- Movement: Flock register, movement licence, standstill
- Medicines: storage, administration, recording, disposal
- Transport
- Vets, abattoirs, butchers & knackers

Sheep facts



- Temperature 38.3C 39.9C
- Heart rate 70-80 beats per minute
- Respiration 16 34 breaths per minute
- Life span 6-16 years
- Oestrus 14-19 days (seasonal polyoestrus)
- Puberty 5-8 months (60% adult bodyweight)
- 1 ram per 30-35 ewes over 60 days
- Gestation 147 days on average

Internal parasites

- https://www.noahcompendium.co.uk/
- Liver fluke
- Worms
- Nematodirus
- Coccidiosis
- Testing, resistance, use the right product at the right time, correct dosing

External parasites

- Sheep scab (mite) notifiable. Dipping or injectible product.
- Lice, bots, keds, ticks
- Fly strike
- Shearing and fleece processing
- Prevention v treatment, effective period, withdrawal periods.
- Pack size, dose, cost and use by date

External parasite treatments(excluding Sheep Scab)

- For example only other products are available
- https://www.noahcompendium.co.uk/
- <u>Crovect</u> For the treatment and control of headflies, tick infestation with a persistent efficacy of 10 weeks (the majority of ticks killed within 3 hours), and biting lice in sheep. Also for the prevention and treatment of blowfly strike on sheep. Withdrawal 8 days.
- <u>Clik</u> Up to 16 weeks control of blowfly. This means that one application is all that is required on most farms. Contains Dicyclanil, a potent insect growth regulator. Applied as a preventative, it must be used before the anticipated fly challenge. Not designed to cure existing strike. Withdrawal 40 days.
- <u>Clik Extra</u> Insect growth regulator pour-on for season long prevention of blowfly strike on sheep and lambs. With unique fleecebind technology which binds tightly to the grease in wool to give full body cover, correctly applied protection will last for 19 weeks. Withdrawal 40 days
- <u>Clikzin</u> Insect growth regulator. Pour on for the prevention of blowfly strike in sheep and lambs. Provides 8 weeks protection. 7 day meat withhold period.
- Zoetis Spotinor For the treatment and prevention of infestations by ticks, lice, keds and established blowfly strike (usually *Lucilia spp*). Withdrawal 35 days

Vaccinations

- Toxoplasmosis
- Enzootic abortion (Chlamydia)
- Clostridial diseases(Tetanus, pulpy kidney, blackleg)
- Pasteurella pneumonia
- Footrot
- Orf
- Subcutanous injection

Antibiotics

- Resistance
- Withdrawal
- Use by and wastage
- Apart from AB spray, intramuscular injection

Feet and lameness

- Footrot
- Trimming

The Sheep Year: September



- Preparation for tupping: toxoplasmosis and Enzootic Abortion vaccines
- Buying new stock teeth, feet, udder
- Selling surplus stock
- Condition scoring
- Lambs to slaughter

The Sheep Year: October



- Lambs to slaughter
- Preparation for tupping: Toxo and EA vaccinations, fluke drench, flushing and teasing, crutching and dagging
- Don't forget the tup

The Sheep Year: November



 Tupping: marking and recording, length of tupping period

The Sheep Year: December



- Tupping
- Fluke drench

The Sheep Year: January



- Scanning 45 100 days
- Fluke drench if not done in December
- Culling empty ewes

The Sheep Year: February



- Feeding
- Booster vaccination for gimmers, ewes and tups against clostridial disease

The Sheep Year: March



- Feeding
- Preparing the lambing box and accommodation

The lambing box

- Calcium borogluconate with added glucose, 60ml syringe and 16 gauge needles (Subcutaneous)
- Twin lamb drench
- Prolapse harness (spoon type) or prolapse harness
- Lamb stimulant e.g. Kickstart
- lodine 10% and dipping cup
- Stomach tube / 50ml catheter syringes
- Bottles and teats, sterilising tablets or solution e.g. Milton
- Colostrum / colostrum substitute (this will suffice until you can get additional milk replacer powder, if required)
- Warming box, infrared lamp or fan heater

The lambing box (continued)

- Anti bacterial hand-wash, paper towels or kitchen roll, old towels, disinfectant
- Shoulder length disposable gloves
- Lubricating fluid
- Lambing ropes
- Feed and water buckets
- Rubber rings and applicator
- Thermometer
- Spring balance and lamb sling if you plan to record weights
- Torch and spare batteries
- Record sheet / notebook and pen
- Marking spray
- Fluke drench, worm drench, antibiotic spray, dagging shears and foot shears

The Sheep Year: April



- Lambing; three stages 1st 3-6 hours, 2nd 1 hour, 3rd expulsion of afterbirth
- Too early v too late
- Navel, colostrum, mothering up, tailing / castration, fluke, worm, feet, dagging.

The Sheep Year: May



- Lambing
- Vaccinate lambs for clostridial disease after three weeks of age (2nd dose 4-6 weeks later)
- Post lambing clean up
- Nematodirus battus: National Animal Disease Information Service (NADIS)

The Sheep Year: June



- Shearing and fleece
- Fly control: take into account whether prevention or treatment or both; length of effective period; withdrawal period.
- Worm test or worm lambs weights and withdrawal periods. White drench for Nematodirus.

The Sheep Year: July



- Fluke
- Fly control

The Sheep Year: August



- Weaning at 12-16 week
- Mastitis
- Fly control

Equipment



- Fencing
- Shelter
- Trailer
- Troughs / trugs / buckets feed and water
- Hurdles handling
- Crook
- Foot shears
- Dagging shears
- Shears / clippers
- Veterinary kit

Fencing



- Electric
- Conventional

Slaughter & selling meat





Housing sheep





Feeding and grassland management





Feeding - Concentrates



- Bag or bucket
- Tupping
- Lambing
- Creep feeding

Feeding - Forage



- Grass
- Hay
- Haylage
- Silage
- Straw
- Other forage crops –forage rape, stubble turnips
- Don't forget water!

Feeding – Vitamins & minerals



- Lick
- Bolus
- Drench

Any questions?



• Time permitting!