

Introduction to sheep keeping



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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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fencing and grassland management- Housing and handling- Feeding sheep- Equipment
3pm-3:15	Refreshments
3:15-4:30	Session 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dosing and vaccinating- Foot trimming- Condition scoring- Teeth- Udders and testicles (not on the same sheep)
4:30-5:00	Q&A



DALMORE

 HOME OF
 ROSEDEAN RYELANDS

You are here

Paddock Paradise

Grazing

Grazing

Soft fruit

Veg garden

Grazing

Grazing

Pigs

Grazing

Orchard & hens

Station Road

Station Road

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



the
accidental
smallholder



Hill & Upland - Cheviot



Hill & Upland – Kerry Hill



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Hill & Upland – Welsh Mountain



British Longwool – Blue faced Leicester



the
accidental
smallholder



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/>
- Crovect 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.
- Clik Up 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.
- Clik Extra 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
- Clikzin 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
- Subcutaneous 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 tuppung: 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 tuppings: Toxo and EA vaccinations, fluke drench, flushing and teasing, crutching and dagging
- Don't forget the tup

The Sheep Year: November



- Topping: marking and recording, length of topping period

The Sheep Year: December



- Topping
- 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
- Iodine 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
- Topping
- 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!