

SAMPLE FLOCK HEALTH PLAN FOR A LATE MARCH LAMBING FLOCK

The purpose of a Flock Health Plan is to create a planned, managed approach to flock health so that preventative treatments are given at the most appropriate time of the year, and the shepherd is forewarned of specific seasonal health risks to his or her flock throughout the year.

Treatments and risks will vary between different parts of the country, and your own vet will be able to advise timings and measures appropriate to your flock.

The following chart is a template for a typical Flock Health Plan, designed for a lowland flock in the South of England, lambing in late March.

Text in **blue** indicates measures that may be taken for specific on-farm conditions; again, your own vet will advise if they are appropriate for your flock. Similarly, there may be additional management practices and treatments that your vet will recommend for your particular circumstances, for example, blood testing for scrapie-monitored or accredited flocks.

| | MANAGEMENT | VACCINATIONS | PARASITES & TREATMENTS | DISEASE |
|-----------|--|---|---|---|
| JANUARY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placental growth Monitor ewes' body condition – don't allow ewes to become overfat | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluke – chronic stage Scab – If identified, use endectocide injection or plunge dip | During late stage pregnancy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abortion (Enzo or Toxo) |
| FEBRUARY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Body Condition Score (BCS) ewes & feed concentrates at stepped-up rate from 6 wks prior to lambing Blood test ewes to indicate nutritional status (protein, energy, trace elements) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ewes: pre-lambing booster for Clostridial diseases & Pasturella (Heptavac-P) E.Coli Erysipiel If administering more than one vaccine, allow recommended times between vaccines | | |
| MARCH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foetal growth LAMBING Record lamb birth weights and 'ease of lambing' scores | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nematidirus Battus Drench ewes at turnout | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EWES (metabolic diseases): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hypocalcaemia Hypomagnesaemia Pregnancy Toxaemia LAMBS (neonatal diseases): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watery mouth Joint / navel ill |
| APRIL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCS ewes & feed at stepped-down rate Record lamb 6 week weights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lambs: 1st vaccination Don't forget annual booster vaccination for ram(s) and ewe replacements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flystrike (maggots) – dip or pour-on treatment, repeat at recommended periods for product until threat passed | |
| MAY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood test ewes if abortion problems suspected Shearing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lambs: 2nd vaccination Bluetongue – whole flock | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEC lambs – worm if indicated Continue flystrike protection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clostridial diseases |
| JUNE | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ostertagia circumcincta | |
| JULY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wean lambs | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEC lambs – worm if indicated Haemonchus Contortus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCN (CerebroCortical Necrosis) – following dietary change |
| AUGUST | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footcare – treat individually / footbath | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluke – acute stage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red gut Pasturella |
| SEPTEMBER | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCS ewes (3.5 for lowland ewes) MOT rams Use 'teaser' or sponge ewes to synchronise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ewes abortion vaccination (Toxo & Enzo) – 4-6 weeks prior to tupping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEC lambs – worm if indicated Trichostrongylus vitrinus | |
| OCTOBER | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-month tups join ewes | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scab | |
| NOVEMBER | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After 2 or 3 cycles (34/51 days) remove tups Implantation | | | |
| DECEMBER | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implantation Pregnancy scan ewes (between 40 – 90 days) | | | |