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# Sheep Production Calendar for Accelerated Lambing

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## SHEEP PRODUCTION CALENDAR FOR ACCELERATED LAMBING

Winter Aug. 10 to Sept. 15 Breeding Dates: Jan. 2 to Feb. 7 Lambing Dates:

Weaning Dates: Market Dates:

Mar. 2 to Mar. 15 May 2 to July 1

Fall

Apr. 10 to May 15

Sept. 2 to Oct. 7 Nov. 2 to Nov. 15

Jan. 2 to Mar. 1

Spring

Dec. 10 to Jan. 15

May 4 to June 9 July 4 to July 15

Sept. 14 to Nov. 1

## WINTER LAMBS

## JULY

- 1. Shear and fertility-test rams the first week, and keep in cool quarters.
- 2. Drench ewes and rams the first week.
  - 3. Paint brand number on all ewes
  - 4. Check all feet, trim carefully.
  - 5. Shear around docks of ewes.
- 6. Provide fresh water and good saltmineral mixture.
- 7. Cut hay for fall-winter feeding -square bales for storage, round bales for field utilization.
  - 8. Fertilize pastures for fall regrowth.

## **AUGUST**

- 1. Flush ewes all month,
- 2. Give rams additional grain from August 1.
- 3. Turn in vasectomized teaser ram with marking harness on August 1.
- 4. Turn in breeding rams with marking harness on August 10.
- 5. Use night and day rotation of rams or use at night only.
- 6. Change ram marking color on August 27.
  - 7. Keep records of breeding dates.
  - 8. Observe ewes for repeat breeders.
- 9. Provide fresh water and good saltmineral mixture.

- 10. Fertilize pastures for fall regrowth.
- 11. Round-bale forage regrowth for fallwinter utilization.

## SEPTEMBER

- Remove breeding rams on September 17.
  - 2. Stop feeding rams additional grain.
- 3. Check pasture growth; give ewes hay, if needed.
  - 4. Check condition of ewes.
- 5. Provide fresh water and good saltmineral mixture.
  - 6. Fill silo -- corn silage (if used).
- 7. Collect soil samples and forward for analysis.

#### **OCTOBER**

- 1. Check condition of ewes.
- 2. Check pasture growth; if short, feed legume hay.
  - 3. Drench all sheep.
  - 4. Provide good salt-mineral mixture.
- 5. Collect soil samples and forward for analysis.
  - 6. Purchase necessary corn.

#### NOVEMBER

1. Start feeding hay and/or silage, if needed.

- 2. Start feeding 1/2 pound shelled corn per ewe about November 15.
- 3. Provide plenty of fresh ice-free water and good salt-mineral mixture.
  - 4. Order lambing supplies.
  - 5. Prepare lambing facilities and pens.
  - 6. Purchase necessary corn.

#### **DECEMBER**

- 1. Trim crotch, udder and face of ewes in early December.
  - 2. Paint brand number on all ewes.
- 3. Feed 4 pounds of good legume hay or equivalent per ewe per day.
- 4. Start feeding 3/4 to 1 pound shelled corn per ewe per day in early December.
- 5. Add 0.20 pounds of protein supplement per ewe daily with low quality roughage or corn silage.
- 6. Provide plenty of fresh, ice-free water and good salt-mineral mixture.
- 7. Check breeding dates for time of lambing.
  - 8. Sort group of early-bred ewes.

## **JANUARY**

- 1. Provide dry, draft-free, well-bedded lambing pens.
  - 2. Help the lamb get its first meal.
- 3. Dip or spray navels of newborn lambs with iodine.
  - 4. Ear tag all lambs at birth.
- 5. Trim and treat feet of all ewes when taking from lambing pen.
- 6. Feed ewes with single lambs 4 to 6 pounds good quality hay or equivalent and 1 to 1 1/2 pounds shelled corn daily.
- 7. Feed ewes with twin lambs 4 to 6 pounds good quality hay or equivalent and 1 1/2 to 2 pounds shelled corn daily.
- 8. Dock and castrate lambs at 7 to 10 days of age.
- 9. Start lambs on creep feeder at 10 days of age. Consider vaccinating for enterotoxemia.
- 10. Group ewes and lambs by lambing date or by multiple or single births.

- 11. Provide good salt-mineral mixture and fresh, ice-free water.
  - 12. Complete birth date on form ISPTP-1.
- 13. Weather permitting, make spring application of fertilizer to pasture and hay fields.
- 14. Consider frost-seeding legumes in lactation pastures.

### FEBRUARY

- 1. Identify all non-lactating ewes.
- 2. If non-lactating ewes are saved, feed only hay.
  - 3. Continue creep-feeding lambs.
- 4. Continue feeding hay and grain to lactating ewes.
- 5. Provide fresh, ice-free water and good salt-mineral mixture.
- 6. Make spring application of fertilizer to pastures and hay fields.
- 7. In early February, frost seed legumes in lactation pastures.

## MARCH

- 1. Continue creep-feeding lambs.
- 2. Vaccinate all lambs for enterotoxemia before weaning.
- 3. Eliminate grain from ewes for 2 days and water for 1 day prior to weaning.
- 4. Restrict feed and water for 2 days after weaning to reduce milk flow.
  - 5. Wean all lambs by March 15.
- 6. Finish lambs, preferably in drylot or on clean pasture separate from ewes.
  - 7. Cull non-producing ewes.
- 8. Shear ewes, check, trim and treat feet and identify poor wool producers.
  - 9. Drench all sheep.
  - 10. Number ewes with paint brands.
- 11. Turn in vasectomized teaser ram with marking harness on March 25.
- 12. Weigh and complete form ISPTP-1 90-Day Record, for lambs between 80-100 days of age.
- 13. Provide fresh, ice-free water and good salt-mineral mixture.
  - 14. If not applied, make spring fertilizer

application to pastures and hay fields.

15. Lightly disk or harrow grass sod, and apply legume seeds to the lactation pastures.

### APRIL

- 1. Flush ewes by turning onto good early wheat pasture if available; otherwise feed 1/4 pound of shelled corn per ewe daily during breeding season.
- 2. Turn in breeding rams with marking harness on April 10, and remove the teaser ram.
- 3. Self-feed lambs on corn, hay and protein supplement, if needed, or on complete lamb finishing pellet.
- 4. Weigh and complete form ISPTP-1, 90-Day Record, for all lambs between 80 and 100 days of age. Forward for summarization.
- 5. Lambs weighing over 60 pounds should not go to pasture.
- 6. Identify replacement ewes and rams, and sale ewes and rams, on basis of 90-day adjusted weight record to be evaluated by 210-day weight record later.
- 7. Provide good salt-mineral mixture and fresh water.
- 8. If not applied, make spring fertilizer application to pastures and hay fields.

#### MAY

- 1. Continue to self-feed lambs in drylot or pasture.
  - 2. Remove breeding rams on May 15.
  - 3. Drench and dip all sheep.
  - 4. Rotate ewes to clean pasture.
- 5. Consider purchasing yearling replacement ewes.
- 6. Locate breeding rams -- select on basis of 90-day or 210-day weight record.
- 7. Provide fresh water and good saltmineral mixture.
- 8. Cut quality hay for fall-winter sheep and lamb feeding.
- 9. Give light application of fertilizer to fields following cutting.

## JUNE

- 1. Continue to self-feed lambs.
- 2. Market all lambs weighing 90 pounds or above by July 1.
  - 3. Purchase replacement ewes.
- 4. Purchase performance-tested purebred stud rams.
- 5. Cut hay for fall-winter feed -square bales for storage, round bales for field utilization.
- 6. Make light application of fertilizer following cutting.

## FALL LAMBS

## JULY

- 1. Drench all ewes, rams and remaining lambs.
- 2. Start feeding 1/4 pound of shelled corn per ewe daily on July 15.
- 3. Provide adequate shade for pregnant ewes.
- 4. Provide fresh water and good saltmineral mixture.
  - 5. Rotate pastures as needed.
- 6. Round bale pasture and hay field regrowth for fall pasture.

7. Fertilize pastures and hay fields for fall regrowth.

## AUGUST

- 1. Increase shelled corn to 3/4 to 1 pound per ewe daily, as needed.
- 2. Rotate pastures as needed; provide adequate shade.
- 3. Trim crotch and udder of all ewes, as needed.
- 4. Weigh and complete form ISPTP-1 at 210 days for January-born lambs between

200 and 220 days of age. Forward for summarization.

- 5. Provide fresh water and good saltmineral mixture.
  - 6. Order lambing supplies.
- 7. Prepare lambing pastures and/or sheds.
- 8. Round bale regrowth for late fall pasture.

## **SEPTEMBER**

- 1. Observe ewes at lambing; give assistance as needed.
- 2. Dip or spray navels of newborn lambs with iodine.
  - 3. Ear tag all lambs at birth.
- 4. Trim and treat feet of ewes, and move ewes and lambs to lactation pasture when lambs are 7 to 10 days old.
- 5. Group ewes and lambs by lambing date, or by single and multiple births.
- 6. Dock and castrate all lambs at 7 to 10 days of age.
- 7. Start lambs on creep feeder at 10 days of age. Consider vaccinating for entertoxemia.
- 8. Feed ewes according to forage availability.
- 9. Ewes with single lambs need 1 to 1 1/2 pounds of shelled corn daily.
- 10. Ewes with twin lambs need 1 1/2 to 2 pounds of shelled corn daily.
- 11. Provide fresh water and good saltmineral mixture.
  - 12. Complete birth data on form ISPTP-1.

## **OCTOBER**

- 1. Continue creep-feeding lambs.
- 2. Cull non-producing ewes.
- 3. Vaccinate all lambs for enterotoxemia before weaning.
- 4. Provide good, clean fall pasture for ewes and lambs -- wheat, bluegrass or fescue.
- 5. Feed good quality hay or silage, if needed to supplement pasture.
  - 6. Provide fresh, ice-free water and a

good salt-mineral mixture.

- 7. Purchase corn or forage, if needed.
- 8. Collect soil samples and forward for analysis.

## NOVEMBER

- 1. Continue creep feeding lambs.
- 2. Wean all lambs by November 15 and finish in drylot.
- 3. Eliminate grain from ewes for 2 days and water for 1 day prior to weaning.
- 4. Restrict feed and water to ewes following wearing to reduce milk flow.
  - 5. Drench all ewes and lambs.
  - 6. Number ewes with paint brands.
- 7. Turn in vasectomized teaser ram with marking harness on November 25.
- 8. Provide fresh, ice-free water and salt mineral mixture.
- 9. Feed ewes 3 to 4 pounds of good quality hay or equivalent or pasture round bales, if available.
- 10. Weigh and complete form ISPTP-1, 90-Day Record, for lambs between 80 and 100 days of age.

## **DECEMBER**

- 1. Self-feed fall lambs on corn, hay and protein supplement, if needed, or on complete finishing pellet.
- 2. Flush ewes with 1/2 to 3/4 pounds of shelled corn daily through breeding season.
- 3. Turn in breeding rams with marking harness on December 10, and remove teaser ram.
- 4. Feed ewes 3 to 4 pounds of good quality hay or equivalent or pasture round bales, if available.
- 5. Provide fresh, ice-free water and salt-mineral mixture.
- 6. Weigh and complete form ISPTP-1, 90-Day Record, for all lambs, and forward for summarization.
- 7. Identify replacement ewes and rams and sale lambs on basis of 90-day adjusted weight record to be evaluated by 210-day record later.

## **JANUARY**

- 1. Continue self-feeding fall lambs.
- 2. Remove breeding rams on January 15.
- 3. Market lambs of 100 pounds or more.
- ity hay or equivalent or pasture round bales, if available.
  - 5. Provide shelter for ewes as needed.
- 6. Provide fresh ice-free water and salt-mineral mixture.
- 7. Frost seed legumes in lactation pastures.
- 8. Apply spring fertilizer to pastures and hay fields.

#### FEBRUARY

- 1. Continue to self-feed fall lambs.
- 2. Market all lambs by March 1.
- 3. Feed ewes 4 to 6 pounds of good qual-4. Feed ewes 4 to 6 pounds of good qual- ity hay or equivalent or pasture round bales, if available.
  - 4. Provide shelter for ewes as needed.
  - 5. Provide fresh, ice-free water and salt-mineral mixture,
  - 6. Frost seed legumes in lactation pastures.
  - 7. Apply spring fertilizer to pastures and hay fields.

## SPRING LAMBS

## MARCH

- 1. Continue to feed ewes on good quality forages.
  - 2. Provide shelter for ewes as needed.
- 3. Provide fresh, ice-free water and salt-mineral mixture.
  - 4. Seed and fertilize pastures.
  - 5. Repair equipment and fences.
  - 6. Drench all ewes and rams.
  - 7. Order lambing supplies.

## APRIL

- 1. Turn ewes onto a new pasture of fescue or wheat, if available, or continue hay, if necessary.
- 2. Feed 3/4 to 1 pound of shelled corn per ewe daily.
- 3. Provide water and salt-mineral mixture.
- 4. Shear all ewes as weather moderates: trim feet.
- 5. Weigh and complete form ISPTP-1 at 210 days for September-born lambs between 200 and 220 days of age. Forward for summarization.
- 6. Purchase or select replacement ewes as needed.
  - 7. Prepare lambing pasture and/or

shelter area.

- 8. Number all ewes with paint brands.
- 9. Check breeding dates for time of lambing.
  - 10. Sort off froup of early-bred ewes.
  - 11. Seed and fertilize pastures as needed.

## MAY

- 1. Help lamb get its first meal.
- 2. Dip or spray navels of newborn lambs with iodine.
  - 3. Ear tag all lambs at birth.
- 4. Group ewes and lambs by lambing date, or single and multiple births.
- 5. Dock and castrate lambs at 7 to 10 days of age.
- 6. Start lambs on creep feeder at 10 days of age. Consider vaccinating for enterotoxemia.
- 7. Feed ewes with single lambs 1 to  $1 \frac{1}{2}$ pounds of shelled corn daily.
- 8. Feed ewes with twins  $1 \frac{1}{2}$  to 2 pounds of shelled corn daily.
- 9. Remove all open and non-lactating ewes and place on separate pasture with no grain.
- 10. Provide fresh water and salt-mineral mixture.
  - 11. Cull non-producing ewes.

- 12. Harvest excess forages from pasture; clip uneaten pasture aftermath.
  - 13. Rotate pastures as needed.
- 14. Cut quality hay for fall and winter feeding.
- 15. Locate replacement stud rams -- select on basis of 90-day or 210-day weight records.

## JUNE

- 1. Continue creep feeding of lambs.
- 2. Discontinue all feed to ewes except pastures.
- 3. Provide fresh water and salt-mineral mixture.
- 4. Provide shelter for ewes and lambs on pasture.
- 5. Purchase replacement performance-tested stud rams.
- 6. Weigh and complete form ISPTP-1, 90-Day Records for all lambs between 80 and 100 days of age.
- 7. Cut quality hay for fall-winter feeding.
- 8. Fertilize pastures and hay fields following grazing or harvesting.

## JULY

- 1. Continue creep feeding of spring lambs.
- 2. Wean all lambs by July 15 and put in drylot.
  - 3. Reduce feed to ewes at weaning time.

- 4. Weigh and complete form ISPTP-1, 90-Day Records, for all lambs, and forward for summarization.
- 5. Market all lambs weighing 90 pounds and above.
- 6. Drench all rams, ewes and lambs not marketed.
- 7. Trim feet of all ewes, shear around dock and paint brand.
  - 8. Provide shade for ewes on pasture.
- 9. Provide fresh water and salt-mineral mixture.
  - 10. Harvest hay for fall-winter feeding.
  - 11. Rotate pastures for ewes.
- 12. Apply fertilizer to pastures for fall regrowth.
- 13. Shear and fertility-test rams, and keep in cool quarters.

## AUGUST AND SUBSEQUENT MONTHS

- 1. Follow same procedure as previously listed for the production of winter lambs.
- 2. In December, weigh and complete form ISPTP-1 at 210-days for May-born lambs between 200 and 220 days of age. Forward for summarization.
- 3. Two flocks can be alternated in the accelerated lambing program to produce a lamb crop every 4 months. This will make better use of rams, facilities and labor and will produce a more even flow of lambs to market and a better distribution of income from the sheep enterprise.