

www.northwestvetsupply.com



Now is a great time to
Vaccinate your ewes to
prepare them for lambing.
Give us a call to set up an
appointment either on the
farm or at the clinic.



Parkston
605-928-3025
Eric Knight
605-481-2887

"Vet Shack" in Mitchell
605-996-2442

Wagner
605-384-5561
Jeremy Kreeger
605-491-2863

Menno
605-387-2055
Craig Winckler
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"Vet Shack" in Yankton
605-665-4520
Tina Schrage
605-481-2931

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605-270-3112

Send us your email
address to receive our
monthly newsletters as
well as updates on
current promotions and
events!

LAMBING 20-20

As the beginning of 2020 starts, it's a good time to reflect on the previous year your sheep operation has had. Was 2019 a profitable year? A break-even year? Or a year of loss?

As we ponder our past year, we also want to think about what could help make our operation grow in the right direction to a profitable year in 2020. The markets have been in the sheep producer's favor the last few years, giving sheep producers a chance to capitalize on a profitable return.

Six key factors can help predict the direction we are heading:

1. Vaccination Program
2. Parasite Control
3. Nutrition
4. Ultrasound
5. Prepared Lambing Barn
6. Marketing

VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations are an important part to a sheep operation. A young lamb struggles to build immunity at birth. Pre-lambing vaccinations are given to increase antibodies in the colostrum. Doing so will ensure adequate passive immunity is passed on to the lambs at birth. Lambs are dependent upon this passive immunity until they can develop their own mature immune systems later in life. Colstridium vaccines (Covexin 8, Bar Vac CDT, Autogenous A,C,E) are the main focus at this time. Others vaccines that may be considered dependent on the situation are Pasturella (Autogenous Pas/Man/His or Once PMH), E. Coli, and Orf. We recommend giving these vaccines 2-4 weeks before lambing.

PARASITE CONTROL

Parasite control is a high priority to a successful flock. Sheep are more susceptible to parasites than other species especially during gestation. During gestation ewes are passing nutrients and antibodies on to their lambs to prepare them for birth and leaving an inadequate supply for themselves. Administering a deworming product to ewes can be done the same time as prelambing

vaccinations, 2-4 weeks before lambing. Valbazen should not be used in bred ewes, however, Safeguard, Ivermectin, and Cydectin are good options. To increase effectiveness of any parasite control program, rotational grazing strategies should be utilized if possible.

NUTRITION MANAGEMENT

Throughout the winter, good management of nutrition for pregnant ewes is essential to make sure they are in the right condition meet the demands of the growing lambs through to lambing and lactation. The correct balance of protein in the diet, both quantity and quality, is needed during late gestation for adequate udder development to take place. These requirements increase as lambs draw near to term and colostrum production starts.

We should also keep in mind other feeding practices that will help pregnancy maintenance. The use of Chlortetracycline (CTC) or aureomycin throughout gestation can prevent abortion caused by certain bacterial organisms, including Vibrio. VFD's are available to use CTC in sheep. Coccidiostats can be utilized in late gestation as well. Benefits included reduced risk of abortions caused by one group, Toxoplasma, while reducing shedding of others, such as Eimeria, into the environment. By reducing environmental shedding of the ewe in late gestation, one will reduce lamb exposure.

ULTRASOUND

Ultrasound is the last key component. Ultra-sounding ewes can eliminate non-productive females and also gives you a chance to examine your ewes through the chute. Mousing and bagging ewes at this time to determine age and to make sure the udder is free of lumps can also be a good tool in culling sheep. Open ewes, physical defect, hard udders and old age are all good candidates for culls. This insures your flock is young, productive and able to raise offspring.

PREPARED LAMBING BARN

A prepared lambing barn ensures that the lambs get off to a great start. Items to have on hand:

Day One Lamb

*Combination of antibiotic and essential vitamins with iron

Colostrum/Milk Replacer

*See feeding instructions on back

Treatment Drugs

*Antibiotics, dexamethasone, uterine boluses, lambing paralysis elixir

Other Items

*Bands, bander, tags, tagger, iodine, lamb feeding tube, thermometer, lamb nipples, vitamin E, scour treatments, tetanus vaccine

MARKETING

We are very fortunate in Southeast South Dakota to have a sheep friendly livestock market. Menno Livestock ranks high in numbers marketed and seller satisfaction. There are routinely four order buyers on the seats and many producers as well.

April through October these sales are held Tuesday evenings to avoid excessive heat and allows the producer to finish up chores before attending the sale. During the winter months, these sales are on Wednesday afternoons when packers are purchasing for late week harvest.

Menno Livestock markets:
*Bred ewes and goats (preg checked at the market)
*Open ewes and goats
*Slaughter ewes and goats,
*Lambs and kids
*Feeder lambs and goats
*Fat lambs and slaughter goats
At Menno Livestock Auction we work closely with our producers to get them the most dollars as possible for their sheep and goats. We do utilize direct buy marketing on large units of fat lambs if more convenient for the seller. Marketing your sheep close to home, in a small environment helps to eliminate stress, injury and shrink. Selling more quality pounds means more money in your pocket. If you would like Ken to make a farm visit please feel free to call us at the sale barn at 605-387-5180.

~Ken & Lynn Wintersteen~



NWV employee, Abby Schoenfish, is trained in ultra-sounding sheep and goats under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey Held, SDSU Sheep Extension specialist.



www.northwestvetsupply.com



Check out our website!
www.northwestvetsupply.com

Look us up on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/TheCattleTeam>

Ultrasound (Early Pregnancy Detection)

The markets have been good to sheep producers for the last couple of years now, and because of that Northwest Vet wants to help you make the most out of your flock! A big part of a successful sheep operation is culling those ewes that no longer benefit your flock. Ultrasound is a great way to eliminate ewes that are not producing or growing your flock in the right direction. Culling ewes that are not bred will save labor, barn space and most importantly, feed. After our challenging summer this year, feed is in short supply, so putting it into our open ewes is not feasible for most producers. With the ultrasound machine we use, we can determine pregnancy at 30 days gestation, but we prefer 45-90 days gestation to eliminate the stress on sort term ewes and so we don't miss any border line ewes that may or may not be quite 30 days along. We offer ultra-sounding in the clinic or we can travel to the farm with our portable chute and alley to make ultra-sounding easier on you as well as the ewes. Depending on the gestation of the ewes in which you are ultra-sounding, it would also be a good time to deworm ewes while they are in the chute since we know they are most susceptible to parasites during pregnancy. Let us help your flock reach its potential! Call in to any of our locations to set up an ultrasound appointment.

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Lamb Nutrition Management

If you need to supplement colostrum in baby lambs, use a quality calf colostrum replacer. These lambs only take small amounts, so use the best products that are available. Mix equal amounts colostrum powder and water. Feed 1oz per pound of body weight as needed. Follow with a high quality milk replacer. As these lambs start on feed, feed them your best. They take very little feed, so again feed them high quality. You may consider feeding Bovatec or Rumensin in your ration to improve feed efficiency and rate of gain. They will also help control coccidia in your lambs. Feed them right and they will do you right!