

Sheep and Goat Vaccine and Health Management Schedule

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Most livestock vaccine and health management protocols revolve around the animal's stage of production. For sheep and goats, it is recommended to vaccinate prior to lambing, weaning, and breeding. The purpose of this publication is to offer a guide in establishing a health management schedule. Every operation is unique, and it is therefore imperative that producers consult with their veterinarian before establishing a specific vaccination and health protocol.

Table 1 provides information on vaccine timing, recommended and optional vaccines, and covered diseases.



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THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Read all labels carefully before administering vaccines or other treatments.
- For optimal parasite control, a fecal egg count should be done to assess level of infestation, and may determine potential anthelmintic resistance. Your veterinarian can assist you with this process.
- When treating for parasites, it is now recommended that you remain consistent with your de-worming protocol. The key is to get the appropriate dose per animal. Animals that are under-dosed have an increased risk of becoming anthelmintic-resistant.
- In arid regions, worming may only be required once a year.

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Table 1. Recommended Vaccine and Health Management Schedule for Sheep and Goats

Stage of production	Timing	Recommended vaccines/ health management	Diseases covered	Optional vaccines*
Pregnant sheep and goats 	2–4 weeks prior to lambing or kidding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> types C and D and tetanus. Will need to use cattle vaccines labeled safe for sheep and goats. Topical external parasite control (permethrin) 	<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> types C and D and tetanus Keds and lice in sheep	
Kid goats 	At lambing or kidding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topical and drench wormers to dams 	Prevents internal parasite infestation	SE/vitamin E can help prevent white muscle disease
New lambs 	Lambs 2 weeks of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dock tails and castrate 		300 I.U. tetanus antitoxin, if dam was not vaccinated during gestation
	30 days after lambing or kidding. Booster at 45 days (2 weeks later).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> types C and D antitoxin 	Enterotoxemia	Ovine ecthyma for soremouth
Ewes and does 	60–30 days pre-breeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Campylobacter fetus-jejuni</i> bacterin <i>Chlamydia psittaci</i> ewe vaccine Clostridial 8-way (once) Caseous lymphadenitis (CL) 	Vibriosis (late-term abortions) Chlamydia (late-term abortions; vaccine can be used in both sheep and goats) Eight clostridial strain bacterial diseases CL, a contagious bacterial disease that causes skin lesions and abscesses	
Bucks and rams 	30–60 days pre-breeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clostridial 8-way Anthelmintic (de-wormer) 	Eight clostridial strain bacterial diseases Prevents parasite infestation	

*Optional vaccines may be recommended by your personal veterinarian.

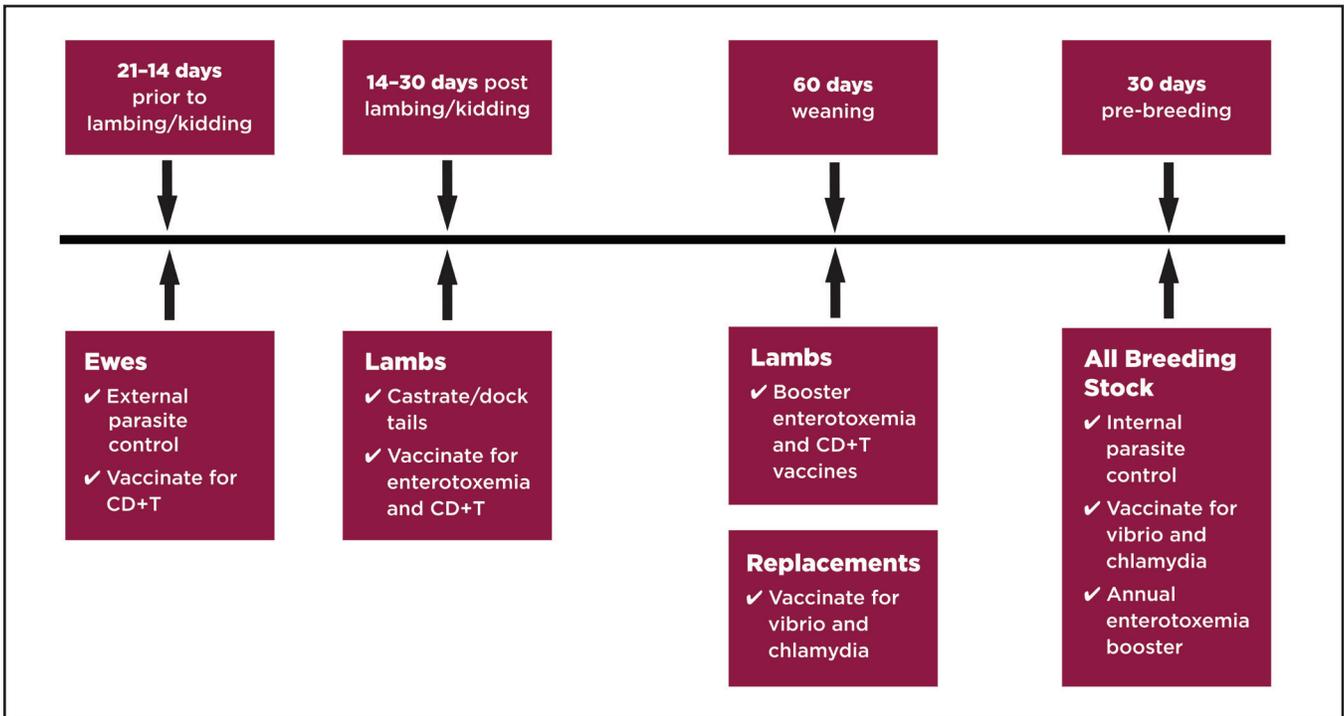


Figure 1. An example animal health protocol with corresponding schedule in a farm flock situation.

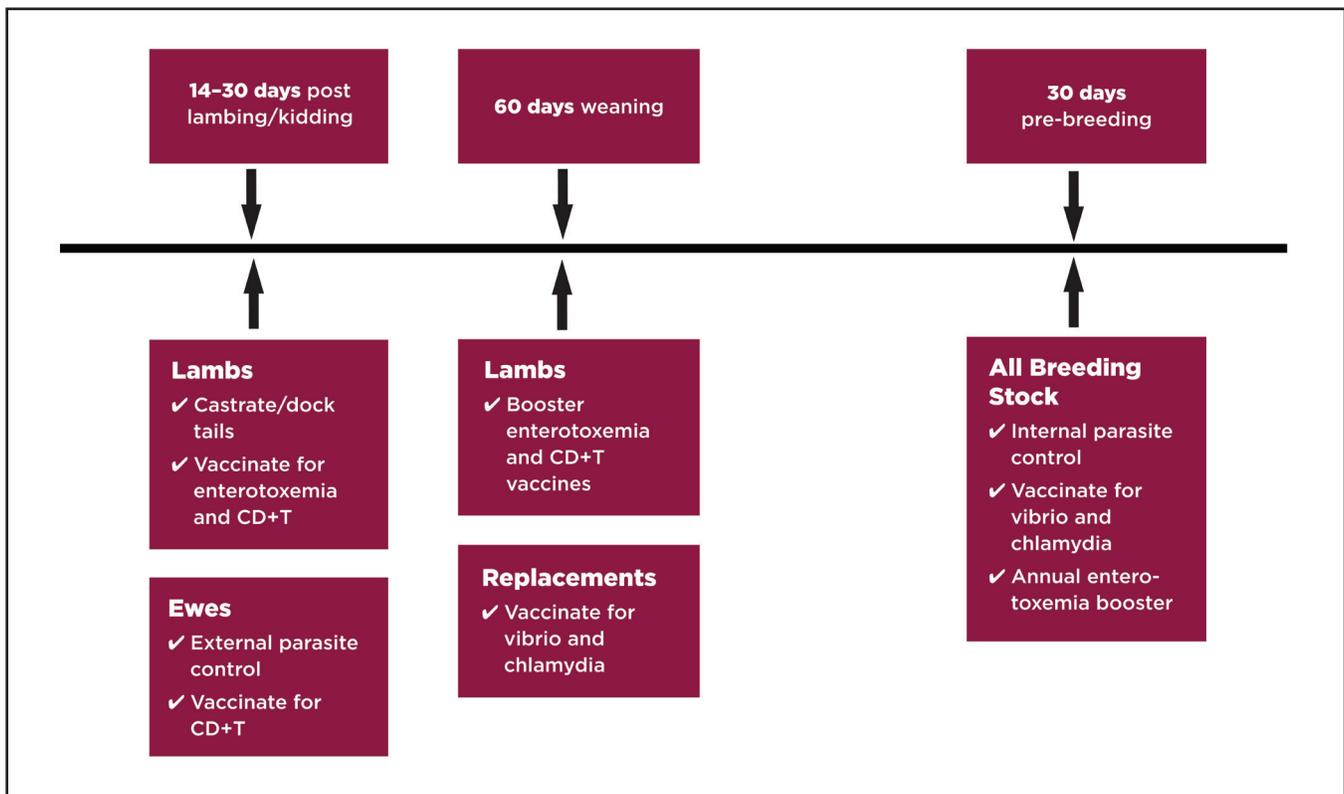


Figure 2. An example animal health protocol with corresponding schedule for sheep and goats on range.

- For external parasites like keds and ticks, topical permethrin-based products work well.
 - **Caution:** Avoid applying to dairy goats. Zeta-cypermethrin products can be used as an alternative.
 - Depending on weather and level of infestation, a second dose may be needed two weeks later to sufficiently treat the animals.
- Ewe lambs and doelings will require an additional dose (total of three) of both *Campylobacter* and *Chlamydia* vaccines to ensure full protection prior to their first breeding season.
- Older sheep and goats who have been properly vaccinated as young animals should only require annual vaccines covering the clostridial (i.e., 8-way) and anti-abortive vaccines (i.e., Vibrio).
- Clostridial vaccines can be highly reactive at the vaccination site. To reduce blemishes, use clean, high-gauge needles (18 g) and subcutaneous administration techniques.

To learn more about parasite management, refer to NMSU Extension Guide B-112, *Guide for Control of External Parasites of Sheep and Goats* (https://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_b/B112.pdf).

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