

Prime Lambs – Calendar of Operations

A Calendar of Operations is a month-by-month guide to managing a sustainable, productive and efficient farming enterprise with considerations to animal health and productivity. This tool will vary based on production systems, location, breeds, goals and management practices.

JANUARY

- ▶ Monitor pastures and manage grazing.
- ▶ Ensure water availability and quality.
- ▶ Monitor for blowfly activity and drench if necessary.



FEBRUARY

- ▶ Assess ewe body condition to prepare for joining.
- ▶ Manage external and internal parasites if necessary.
- ▶ Prepare pastures for winter feeding.



MARCH

- ▶ Join ewes with rams for mating.
- ▶ Monitor ewes for reproductive health and provide supplementary feed if necessary.
- ▶ Manage external and internal parasites.



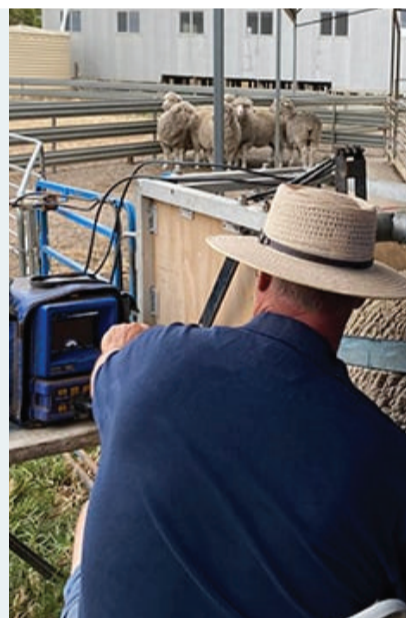
APRIL

- ▶ Remove rams after the joining period.
- ▶ Begin preparation for lambing by providing supplementary feed to pregnant ewes if necessary.



MAY

- ▶ Conduct pregnancy scanning to identify dry ewes.
- ▶ Manage feeding and pest control requirements.
- ▶ Separate dry ewes identified during scanning.



JUNE

- ▶ Crutch all ewes for lambing.
- ▶ Prepare lambing paddocks with adequate shelter.
- ▶ Monitor ewe grazing and pasture quality and quantity.



JULY

- ▶ Move ewes into lambing paddock.
- ▶ Monitor ewes for birthing difficulties.
- ▶ Manage predators and signs of disease or distress in lambs.



AUGUST

- ▶ Continue to monitor lambing (with minimal disturbance).
- ▶ Manage feeding requirements.



SEPTEMBER

- ▶ Mark, castrate, tail-dock and vaccinate lambs.
- ▶ Select replacement ewe lambs for future breeding.



OCTOBER

- ▶ Control external and internal parasites such as lice, flies and worms.
- ▶ Monitor lamb growth rates.



NOVEMBER

- ▶ Wean lambs at 12–14 weeks.
- ▶ Shear ewes and determine cull animals.
- ▶ Continue monitoring pasture quality and adjust grazing. Drench if necessary.



DECEMBER

- ▶ Consider long-acting fly control.
- ▶ Plan marketing or sale of finished lambs.
- ▶ Review the year's management practices.



Scan the QR code or visit goodmeat.com.au/education-resources to discover Foundation – Year 12 lessons and resources.

Australian Curriculum Content: AC9TDE8K01, AC9TDE8K04, AC9TDE10K01, AC9TDE10K04.

This 'Prime Lambs – Calendar of Operations' educational resource is provided under a Creative Commons Licence CC-BY-SA 4.0. For more information go to mla.com.au/creative-commons. © Meat & Livestock Australia.



Australian Good Meat
Education is
an initiative of
mla
MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA