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## Poster: Prime Lambs – Calendar of Operations

- January – Ensure water and feed availability
- February – Assess body condition to prepare for joining
- March – Join ewes and rams
- April – Remove rams after joining
- May – Conduct pregnancy scanning
- June – Crutching ewes for lambing
- July – Move ewes to lambing paddock
- August – Monitor lambing
- September – Mark, castrate, tail-dock and vaccinate lambs
- October – Monitor lambs' growth rates
- November – Wean lambs at 12–14 weeks
- December – Consider long-acting fly control

1. Lambing typically occurs in late winter or early spring when pastures begin to grow, providing high-quality feed for lactating ewes and their lambs. The timing ensures optimal survival and growth rates.  
Weaning lambs occurs at around 12–14 weeks to reduce competition with their mothers for pasture and allow ewes to recover for future breeding. This usually coincides with improved pasture availability to support lamb growth.  
Shearing is performed before the hot and wet seasons to prevent flystrike and heat stress. Timing aligns with fleece regrowth for insulation in colder months.
2. Higher rainfall can lead to more productive pastures, which may reduce the need for supplementary feeding and a decrease in labour for producers associated with this operation. Wetter conditions may increase the prevalence of internal parasites like worms and external ones like flies, necessitating more frequent health monitoring and treatments.
3. Lambing paddocks may need additional predator-proofing, such as securing fencing and providing shelter for lambs. Producers may need to intensify surveillance during lambing to manage predation risks and ensure the safety of vulnerable lambs.
4. Tetanus; Pulpy Kidney (Enterotoxaemia); Black Disease; Blackleg; Malignant Oedema.
5. It ensures livestock traceability throughout their lifecycle, which is vital for managing disease outbreaks. The NLIS maintains food safety by providing livestock movement and health records and supports export markets by meeting strict biosecurity and quality assurance standards. The system helps build consumer trust and safeguards Australia's reputation as a producer of high-quality, safe meat products.



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## ANSWERS

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## References

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