

# Ewe Nutrition for Lambing

Farm animals all have huge energy demands to get through Winter, But even more so in heavily expectant mothers. The consequences of getting the balance wrong can result in significant losses, but prevention is easy and starts with you!

## 8 Weeks Before Lambing

1

### Scanning

- Barren Ewe checks and Culling decisions
- Mark up Singles, Twins and Triples for separate management and feed requirements

2

### Body Condition Scoring

- $<2.5$  indicates the need to start supplemental feeding

[Improving ewe nutrition for Better Returns | AHDB](#)



## 6 Weeks Before Lambing

3

### Vaccination—Clostridial disease and Abortion

Contact Bredy Veterinary Centre

## 3 Weeks Before Lambing

4

### Metabolic Profiling of THIN, FAT and TWIN ewes

- Ewes have entered the 'High Risk' Period (Transition) so deficiencies start to be detectable.
- There is still time make corrections and maximise production.

3 weeks Pre- to 3 months Post-  
= The Transition Period

## Lambing



Tel: 01308 456771  
[bredyvets@bredyvets.co.uk](mailto:bredyvets@bredyvets.co.uk)  
[www.bredyvets.co.uk](http://www.bredyvets.co.uk)

# 1 SCANNING



Barren ewes:

- **Target** = <2%
- Examine these ewes to investigate why before treating or culling as appropriate.

Twins and Triplets:

- Mark up and keep a closer eye on Body condition as these may need extra attention and feed management.

# 2 CONDITION SCORING

AHDB



More Info

Why?

- Reduce incidence of **dis-ease**
- Improve **fertility**
- Increase lamb performance

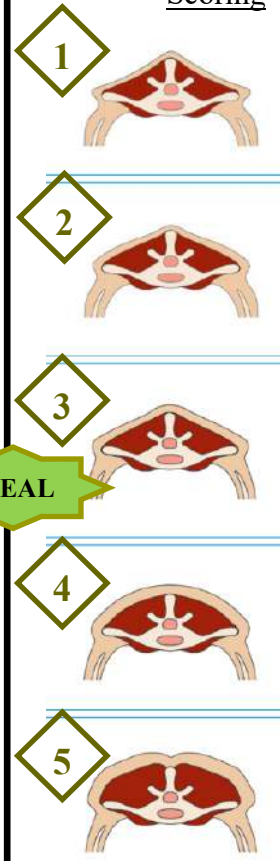
Fell the backbone beyond the last rib for sharpness of the spine, fat cover and muscle mass.

Depending on your system ewes should be no more than 3.0 at lambing.

Where to Feel?



## Body Condition Scoring



# 3 VACCINATION

Clostridial bacteria can cause **sudden death** in all ages of sheep but particularly in growing lambs.

They cause;

- Lamb dysentery
- Pulpy Kidney
- Braxy
- Botulism
- Blackleg/Struck
- Tetanus

Giving ewes a booster vaccine 4-6 weeks pre-lambing protects them as well as the lambs for their first 12 weeks of life.

This is also the time to vaccinate against **Abortive diseases** (Toxoplasma and Enzootic Abortion).



# 4 METABOLIC PROFILING

Thin, Fat and Twin bearing ewes.

Prevent Twin Lamb Disease and ensure good quality colostrum

Why?

- Blood samples 8-12 Ewes
- Your vet will discuss a specific plan with the results
- **Nutritional requirements** increased;
  - Preparation for lactation
  - 75% of lamb growth occurs in the last 6 weeks
- Feed intake decreases as lambs compress the stomach.
- Therefore, adequate energy density required from the diet.

What?

Together we will select the most appropriate tests specific to your flock, here are some examples of critical parameters that can be monitored;

- Beta-Hydroxybutyrate (B-OHB)
  - Marker of low energy stores—Twin Lamb disease risk
- Albumin and Urea
  - Indicators of protein loss or poor intake.
  - Protein is essential for Colostrum and milk production as well as the ewes immune system
- Trace Elements
  - E.g Magnesium, Calcium and Copper
  - Many vital functions and consequences (e.g. Staggers)
  - May need supplementing.