



- Become familiar with common sheep diseases in your area
- Know which sheep diseases are reportable to your state veterinarian(s)
- Know how to properly trim hooves
- Know how to draw blood from an animal
- Know how to take a fecal sample
- Understand what is involved in a fecal egg count (FEC)
- Be aware of the national scrapie program and its requirements

**Birthing**

- Recognize when a ewe is about to give birth
- Recognize a normal birth
- Recognize abnormal birthing (dystocia)
- Properly stomach tube a newborn lamb
- Disinfect newborn's naval cord
- Be able to extract milk from a ewe for colostrum
- Be able to properly store and handle colostrum
- Know how to deliver a lamb
- Be aware of zoonotic diseases of sheep (contagious to humans)
- Be able to identify gender of lambs
- Develop a newborn lamb protocol (ID, castration, other health issues)
- Recognize different castration tools for ram lambs
- Be able to castrate a ram lamb
- Be able to properly dock a lamb's tail (if applicable)
- Attach an ear tag to an animal
- Assemble materials for a lambing kit
- Be able to recognize and treat a retained placenta
- Be able to recognize and treat a vaginal prolapse
- Appreciate what guard animals can do in protecting sheep
- Be familiar with common sheep predators in the region
- Be familiar with strategies in preventing and controlling sheep predators in the region
- Know how to effectively perform basic first aid on a sheep/lamb
- Know how and when to contact a veterinarian for assistance/advice

**Sheep Nutrition**

- Understand how digestion works in a ruminant
- Balance a feed ration for feeder lambs
- Train a lamb to drink from a bottle (when applicable)
- Balance a feed ration for a pregnant ewe
- Balance a ration for a replacement ewe
- Know the advantages and disadvantages of feeding by-



<input type="checkbox"/> Become familiar with the benefits and drawbacks of crossbreeding	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Understand heritability of various traits	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Understand hybrid vigor	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Know how to read a sire proof for selecting rams (EPD's)	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Understand the reproductive tract of a ram	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Know why, how and when rams are evaluated for use in breeding	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Understand the reproductive tract of a ewe	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Understand the basics of artificial insemination (AI) as they may apply to sheep	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Become familiar with and be able to identify common purebred sheep breeds	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Become familiar with reproductive tract diseases common to sheep and how they are spread, how they can be prevented	1	2	3	1	2	3
<b>Sheep Facilities and other Farm Facilities</b>						
<input type="checkbox"/> Design, adapt and/or select facilities that can be cleaned and disinfected efficiently	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Know principles, design and components of a working chute/facility	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Know how to calculate adequate space for sheep	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Understand the needs of animals for protection from the elements	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Understand space requirements for sheep at different ages / growth stages	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Understand the need for proper barn ventilation for different seasons and conditions	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Know how to select proper bedding materials for sheep	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Know how to build, design or select a feed bunk	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Know how to build, design or select a hay feeding system	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Know how to select or build or use a windbreak	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Know how to design an adequate handling facility for catching and treating individual animals	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Become familiar with different watering systems and how they work	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Know how to design a basic manure management system	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Recognize the value of animal manure	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Know basic composting techniques	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Become familiar with proper grain storage on the farm	1	2	3	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Become familiar with proper hay or forage storage on the farm	1	2	3	1	2	3
<b>Fencing, Forages and Pastures</b>						
<input type="checkbox"/> Understand the basics of rotational grazing	1	2	3	1	2	3

□ Understand the principles of seeding and maintaining forages	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Be familiar with nutrient management plans in your state (when applicable)	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Be able to evaluate a pasture for forage quantity and quality	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Recognize the pros and cons of different grazing systems	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Become familiar with different watering systems for sheep on pasture	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Know advantages and disadvantages of electric fencing	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Know advantages and disadvantages of non-electric fencing	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Know how to drive a corner fence post	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Know how to select and hang a gate	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Know how to layout a pasture for flexibility	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Recognize different pasture forages	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Recognize plants poisonous to sheep in your state	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Be able to recognize and control (if needed) those plants that are toxic to sheep	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Know how to take a forage sample (hay or silage) for testing	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Know how to interpret the results of a forage sample	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Know how to take a soil sample for a field or pasture	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Know how to interpret the results of a soil sample	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Identify forage stages of maturity, implications of forage maturity for quality	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Know how to efficiently pasture sheep for optimum performance (sheep and pasture)	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Know how to select proper fencing for sheep	1	2	3	1	2	3
<b>Sale of Sheep and Sheep Products</b>						
□ Become familiar with the US sheep industry infrastructure	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Become familiar with food safety and food-related regulations in your state and US as they apply to sheep products (dairy and meat)	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Know how to determine when an animal is ready for market	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Know the grades of sheep (both quality grades and yield grades)	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Become familiar with the value of an animal at different growth stages and conditions	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Know how to develop a marketing plan for your own sheep operation	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Understand the importance of value-added sheep products	1	2	3	1	2	3
□ Know the cuts of meat and from what part of the ovine carcass they come	1	2	3	1	2	3

- Identify marketing options (sales, private treaty, cooperative marketing, and direct marketing)
- Know how to determine if a carcass is a lamb or yearling by the break joint in the front leg

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**Wool**

- Be able to properly prepare sheep for the shearer
- Be able to prepare an area for efficient shearing
- Be able to effectively skirt a fleece
- Be able to recognize wool quality
- Be able to evaluate a fleece for quality
- Know how to properly store wool to maintain quality
- Be familiar with wool terms
- Understand how and why sheep are shorn
- Know how to manage your animals to protect the quality of the wool
- Be aware of biosecurity measures at the time of shearing

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**Financial Management**

- Know how to figure break-even point for a specific enterprise
- Become familiar with sheep-based enterprise budgets and how to use them
- Develop or select an effective financial record keeping system
- Know how to keep useful financial records (computer or paper)
- Become familiar with income tax Schedule F and how to complete it correctly
- Know how to analyze financial records to make wise business decisions
- Become familiar with different sheep enterprise types
- Know where to obtain low interest loans or grants

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**Social Human Interactions**

- Know who your neighbors are and how to be a good neighbor
- Be aware and follow local code enforcement regulations
- Know how to be a positive influence in your community as a farmer
- Know how to protect yourself and your workers from zoonotic disease
- Develop a working relationship with a local veterinarian
- Work effectively with local feed and equipment dealers so as to maintain agriculture infrastructure
- Know how to attract and keep effective farm workers

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1	2	3	1	2	3

**Other**

- Know how to implement an ID system
- Know about the mandatory sheep/goat identification program
- Be able to track performance of individual lambs and ewes
- Identify and express the goals of your sheep operation
- Know how to set criteria for culling individual sheep from your flock
- Become familiar with sheep terms
- Become familiar with agencies and resources (public and private) for sheep producers in the US and your state

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1	2	3	1	2	3