



A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO THE BELTEX SHEEP BREEDING YEAR



MONTH BY MONTH

January

Keep ewes as close to score 3 as possible, allowing better quality forage where necessary.
Six weeks prior to lambing give ewes' pre lambing booster of seven in one.

February

Give access to best forage and winter supplies.
Give access to feed bucket of protein, energy and minerals.
Mid Month – Close observation for early lambing signs. Make out a lambing programme from tugging notes, using individual number marks and raddle colour.
End of Month – Start lambing. Check regularly for beginning signs and observe progress.
Once lambed give ewes access to concentrate feed.

March

Lambing - Tag new born lambs with smallest management ID tags.
Purchase Beltex Video and start experimenting with your own preparation techniques.

April

Vaccinate lambs with seven in one.
Treat ewes for worms to reduce burden.
Turn out to grass, maintaining concentrate feeding to ewes.
Give lambs access to quality creep feed in hoppers.

May

Treat feet. Drench lambs for worms.
Shear ewes, check udders, identify ewes with problems with a view to culling.
Remember Lamb Registrations.
Visit some summer shows and watch Beltex classes. Look at how the sheep are presented and handled to improve your own techniques.

June

Wean lambs and give access to best forage. Increase concentrates up to 1kg per head per day.
Remove id tags and replace with society tags.
Watch closely for good healing and treat wounds where necessary.
Treat all sheep with an ectoparasiticide.
Tattoo lambs before showing at events.

July

Select lambs with potential for breeding and increase concentrate feed.

Segregate from lambs to be taken through to yearlings and reduce their feed to ½kg per head, per day throughout the rest of the year.

August

Start of breeding season – pedigree shows and sales.

Pick out best lambs for pedigree sales and show best lambs when possible.

Mid August – Breeding ewes should be given a gradual rise in nutrition, treated for worms, given a booster of minerals and vitamins and the feet trimmed and treated.

September

Rams should be taught to feed from the bucket.

They should get a complete overhaul, with all the above treatments and a seven in one vaccination.

Mid September – Ram and ewes feet treated again. Flock replacements given a pre-tupping drench of chelated vitamins and minerals. Seven in one vaccination.

The ewes should be clearly number marked and moved onto fresh pasture.

End of September – Ram should be turned out and raddled starting with yellow raddle, changing every 16 days through red, green, purple, blue then black. Use marking fluid for best results.

Give access to pre tupping feed buckets throughout tupping. Take careful notes of ewes freshly raddled and record for future use.

October

Ewes should be kept quiet and not disturbed or excited whilst the ram is working.

November

Flock replacements should be given a seven in one booster, treated for fluke and worms, as well as sheep scab and mites – injectables are now the preferred type of treatment.

December

Remove ram from ewes and remove raddle or markers.

Mid Month – a scanning contractor should scan for pregnancy results. Treat feet again!

Allow ewes to loose body condition to score 3.

Maintain supply of mineral buckets and ensure that intake is at recommended level.

Daily feeding increase to 1kg daily.