Most livestock vaccine and health management protocols revolve around the animal’s stage of production. For sheep and goats, it is recommended to vaccinate prior to lambing, weaning, and breeding. The purpose of this publication is to offer a guide in establishing a health management schedule. Every operation is unique, and it is therefore imperative that producers consult with their veterinarian before establishing a specific vaccination and health protocol.

Table 1 provides information on vaccine timing, recommended and optional vaccines, and covered diseases.

**THINGS TO CONSIDER**

- Read all labels carefully before administering vaccines or other treatments.
- For optimal parasite control, a fecal egg count should be done to assess level of infestation, and may determine potential anthelmintic resistance. Your veterinarian can assist you with this process.
- When treating for parasites, it is now recommended that you remain consistent with your de-worming protocol. The key is to get the appropriate dose per animal. Animals that are under-dosed have an increased risk of becoming anthelmintic-resistant.
- In arid regions, worming may only be required once a year.

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¹Respectively, Extension Livestock Specialist, Department of Extension Animal Sciences and Natural Resources; Superintendent, Corona Range and Livestock Research Center; and Extension Veterinarian, Department of Extension Animal Sciences and Natural Resources, New Mexico State University.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage of production</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Recommended vaccines/health management</th>
<th>Diseases covered</th>
<th>Optional vaccines*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Pregnant sheep and goats | 2–4 weeks prior to lambing or kidding | • *Clostridium perfringens* types C and D and tetanus. Will need to use cattle vaccines labeled safe for sheep and goats.  
• Topical external parasite control (permethrin) | *Clostridium perfringens* types C and D and tetanus | 

Keds and lice in sheep |

Kid goats | At lambing or kidding | • Topical and drench wormers to dams | Prevents internal parasite infestation | SE/vitamin E can help prevent white muscle disease |

New lambs | Lambs 2 weeks of age | • Dock tails and castrate | | 300 I.U. tetanus antitoxin, if dam was not vaccinated during gestation |

| | 30 days after lambing or kidding. Booster at 45 days (2 weeks later). | • *Clostridium perfringens* types C and D antitoxin | Enterotoxemia | Ovine ethyma for soremouth |

Ewes and does | 60–30 days pre-breeding | • *Campylobacter fetus jejuni* bacterin  
• *Chlamydia psittaci ewe vaccine*  
• Clostridial 8-way (once)  
• Caseous lymphadenitis (CL) | Vibriosis (late-term abortions)  
Chlamydia (late-term abortions; vaccine can be used in both sheep and goats)  
Eight clostridial strain bacterial diseases  
CL, a contagious bacterial disease that causes skin lesions and abscesses | |

Bucks and rams | 30–60 days pre-breeding | • Clostridial 8-way  
• Anthelmintic (de-wormer) | Eight clostridial strain bacterial diseases  
Prevents parasite infestation | |

*Optional vaccines may be recommended by your personal veterinarian.*
**Figure 1.** An example animal health protocol with corresponding schedule in a farm flock situation.

**Figure 2.** An example animal health protocol with corresponding schedule for sheep and goats on range.
• For external parasites like keds and ticks, topical permethrin-based products work well.
  ○ **Caution:** Avoid applying to dairy goats. Zeta-cypermethrin products can be used as an alternative.
  ○ Depending on weather and level of infestation, a second dose may be needed two weeks later to sufficiently treat the animals.

• Ewe lambs and doelings will require an additional dose (total of three) of both Campylobacter and Chlamydia vaccines to ensure full protection prior to their first breeding season.

• Older sheep and goats who have been properly vaccinated as young animals should only require annual vaccines covering the clostridial (i.e., 8-way) and anti-abortive vaccines (i.e., Vibrio).

• Clostridial vaccines can be highly reactive at the vaccination site. To reduce blemishes, use clean, high-gauge needles (18 g) and subcutaneous administration techniques.


**LIST OF TABLE PHOTO CREDITS**

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Photo of ewes: © Arbutus | Flickr

**REFERENCES**


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