

Shepherding Calendar Stud Farm

September

Muster all flock ewes (including Romneys). Check through and cull any ewes not suitable for breeding coming season.

Ear tag all last year's purchases.

Inspect retained ewes – feet, teeth, udders, etc

Sell cull ewes

October

Continue to graze Tye until Tye flock goes out to keep (moved to pasture at Cowfold) at least two weeks prior to rams going into the flock.

Romney flock moved to West Chiltington Paddocks 2 weeks prior to November 5th & flush ewes

Check feet prior to move & foot bath.

Footvax all ewes against foot rot.

Move to winter keep & flush ewes.

Purchase any replacement ewes needed

Purchase any replacement/extra rams required

November

Rams put to Tye flock November 5th ratio of one ram to 50 ewes.

Put in Romney rams November 5th to Romney flock.

Put in Southdown rams November 19th to Romney flock

Monitor both ewes & rams all through tuppings & over-wintering.

Purchase 2 new Texel ram lambs.

December

In first week, move Southdown ram from Romney flocks & put in with ewe lambs in Pig field

January

Bring Tye flock back from keep onto forage root crops.

Continue to check for foot-rot monthly.

Supplementary feed hay if required

Scan all flocks.

When forage crop exhausted, return flocks to Tye for grazing

February

6 weeks prior to lambing (due start April 1st), vaccinate all ewes with Heptavax P

Give ewe lambs a second vaccination of Heptavax P

Start concentrate feeding as required about 5 weeks prior to lambing.

March

In 3rd week of supplementary feeding, blood test ewes to monitor feeding regime

Put out mineral buckets & keep topped up throughout spring especially on a new ley. Bring Romney flock to Charity Field grass (Stud Farm) to lamb & graze rest of year.

April

All ewes start lambing on Tye. Twins & triplets brought in lambing barn to monitor after lambing

Monitor ewes' milk levels, check colostrum levels. Lambs of any ewes with insufficient milk bottle-fed or one lamb removed & put with foster mother. 2 days after birth, lambs castrated (if males) tails docked, ear-tagged & marked with aerosol to identify mother & lambs. Record details on Shearwell data system. All ewes checked over & dosed if necessary for any underlying problems. Singles moved to separate paddock. Multiples to new ley. No supplementary feed to ewes once turned out.

May

All ewes & lambs graze on Tye or on farm fields until 1st week of June when all sheep taken off leys & back onto Tye. Leys set aside for hay making. Sell all barren ewes.

June

Shear all ewes by end of May beginning June to minimise fly strike. Take pooh samples from lambs. Middle of June inspect all lambs. Give first worm dose as directed by vets after results of pooh samples. Treat all lambs with anti-fly liquid to minimise maggot fly attacks. Further pooh samples and worm if necessary.

July

Treat all ewes with anti-fly liquid once they have sufficient wool cover after shearing. Check feet monthly for foot-rot, scald, etc. Treat any lame ewes or lambs marking affected leg with red "T". Weigh & mark any lambs ready for sale.

August

Before harvest, wean lambs taking pooh samples before & after weaning. Move lambs to new ley now regrown after hay making. Move ewes to suitable paddock away from lambs. Complete all the above processes for Romney flock at East Chiltonington.

September

Remaining lambs on ley sold as store lambs. Ewes moved back onto Tye where sorted to remove ewes unsuitable for breeding next season.