



# Sheep

## Farm Audit Checklist



# Farm Audit Checklist for Sheep

Version 1 – 2020



## Contact

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# Introduction

This Farm Audit Checklist for sheep provides a summary of the relevant SPCA Certified standards and is intended to help members assess their farm and prepare for an audit.

It is not exhaustive and not intended as a replacement for the standards, which should be read and understood before this checklist is used.

In addition, while completing this checklist and addressing any problems it raises, will increase the likelihood of a successful audit, it is not a guarantee of success.

Please do not send this document to SPCA Certified. It is provided purely for your own reference.

**IMPORTANT:** If you are a dairy sheep farmer, please use the separate 'Farm Audit Checklist for Dairy Sheep'.

<b>Date of assessment:</b>		<b>Flock ages:</b>	
<b>Overall comments:</b>			

<b>Reference Standard</b>	<b>Summarised standard</b>	<b>Check (Y/N)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
	<b>Good Nutrition</b>		
	<b>Feed</b>		
<b>N1 N2, N5 &amp; N7</b>	Sheep have unrestricted and non-competitive access to good quality feed of sufficient quantity. A written plan is provided for emergency situations, e.g. drought.		
<b>N3 &amp; N4</b>	New feed is introduced gradually and without competition.		

<b>N6</b>	A trace element monitoring and supplementation programme is in place.		
<b>N8 &amp; N9</b>	Body condition score is regularly assessed and recorded.		
	<b>Water</b>		
<b>N10 – N13</b>	Clean drinking water is freely available and accessible for sheep of all ages.		
<b>N15 &amp; N16</b>	Troughs and the area around them are clean and not allowed to become excessively muddy or flooded.		
<b>N17 – N19</b>	Water quality is tested and recorded.		
<b>N20</b>	An emergency water supply is in place.		

	<b>Lambs</b>		
<b>N21</b>	Adequate colostrum/substitute is fed to all newborn lambs as soon as possible after birth.		
<b>N22 – N24</b>	All lambs receive adequate colostrum, milk or replacer until weaning. No milk fed contains medication/antibiotics.		
<b>N25 &amp; N26</b>	Fostering is done as soon as possible and according to a management plan.		
<b>N27</b>	Tube feeding is done or supervised by trained staff.		
<b>N28</b>	Equipment for feeding lambs is cleaned and disinfected regularly.		
<b>N29</b>	Lambs are given fibrous feed/pellets from three days of age.		
<b>N30</b>	All penned lambs with unhealed navels are navel sprayed.		

Reference Standard	Summarised standard	Check (Y/N)	Comments
	<b>Good Environment</b>		
	<b>Site plans</b>		
<b>E1</b>	A detailed site plan is in place.		
	<b>Fencing</b>		
<b>E2 – E5</b>	Fencing is safe and regularly inspected. No electrified barbed wire is used.		
	<b>Shade and shelter</b>		
<b>E6 – E10</b>	Suitable shelter and shade is provided and accessible for all sheep, especially those close to lambing or with newborn lambs.		
	<b>Housing</b>		
<b>E11</b>	All incidences of housing, where it occurs, are documented.		

	<b>Transport</b>		
<b>E12 &amp; E13</b>	Sheep are assessed for fitness for transport and no unfit sheep are transported.		
<b>E14 – E16</b>	Sheep are rested before moving and are kept in comfortable, low stress, holding/loading facilities.		
<b>E17 &amp; E18</b>	Sheep have free access to water and are kept off green feed for 4-8 hours before transport.		
<b>E19 – E21</b>	Shade and shelter are provided, unfamiliar animals are not mixed and stationary periods are minimised.		
<b>E22 – E28</b>	Vehicles/equipment is appropriate, sheep are loaded at their own pace and transport does not exceed eight hours.		
<b>E29 &amp; E32</b>	Transport during extreme weather is avoided and detailed transport records are kept.		



<b>E33</b>	A detailed contingency plan is in place.		
	<b>Emergency preparedness</b>		
<b>E34</b>	An emergency preparedness plan is in place and regularly reviewed.		

<b>Reference Standard</b>	<b>Summarised standard</b>	<b>Check (Y/N)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
	<b>Good Health</b>		
	<b>Animal health plan</b>		
<b>H1 &amp; H2</b>	A detailed animal health plan is in place and regularly reviewed.		
<b>H3</b>	A euthanasia plan is in place.		

<b>H4</b>	Compromised animals are monitored at least twice each day.		
	<b>Ram management</b>		
<b>H5 – H7</b>	Rams are in good condition, vet checked eight weeks before mating and monitored for lameness.		
	<b>Breeding</b>		
<b>H8 – H10</b>	A welfare friendly breeding programme is in place, is regularly monitored and does not use either pedigree sheep with known birthing problems, or horned breeds.		
<b>H12</b>	Only natural breeding or laparoscopic AI are used for mating.		
	<b>Pharmaceutical use</b>		
<b>H13 – H17</b>	Staff are trained, antibiotics are used only on veterinary advice and up to date records are kept. Off-label use is accompanied by a vet declaration.		

	<b>Surgical husbandry procedures</b>		
<b>H18 &amp; H19</b>	Procedures are done by veterinarians or trained personnel, who can recognise signs of pain and distress in sheep.		
<b>H20</b>	Procedures are not performed on animals less than 24 hours old.		
<b>H21 – H23</b>	Animals are humanely restrained/sedated, equipment is suitable for the task and pain relief is given according to veterinary advice.		
<b>H24 &amp; H25</b>	Detailed records are kept and animals are inspected twice during the 24 hours post-surgery.		
	<b>Horn removal</b>		
<b>H26</b>	Horned breeds are not used.		
<b>H27</b>	Horns, where they occur, are removed by disbudding, not dehorning.		

	<b>Castration</b>		
<b>H28 &amp; H29</b>	Lambs going to slaughter before sexual maturity are not castrated. All other castration is done between 24 hours and four weeks of age.		
<b>H30 &amp; H31</b>	Surgical castration is not performed and pre/post pain relief is used for all other methods.		
	<b>Tail docking</b>		
<b>H32 – H34</b>	Docking is only done with SPCA Certified approval and pain relief, on lambs before they are six weeks old.		
<b>H35</b>	Tail stumps are long enough to cover the vulva (same length in males).		
	<b>Shearing (including dagging and crutching)</b>		
<b>H36 &amp; H37</b>	Sheep are shorn at least annually by competent personnel.		
<b>H38 &amp; H39</b>	Sheep are off feed for not more than 24 hours and off water for not more than 12 hours.		

<b>H40</b>	Shearing cuts are treated immediately.		
<b>H41 &amp; H42</b>	Sheep are not shorn in very cold or wet weather and are given food, water and shelter immediately after shearing at all other times.		
<b>H43 &amp; H44</b>	Winter shearing is only done with SPCA Certified approval and no shearing is done within the last six weeks of pregnancy.		
	<b>Flystrike</b>		
<b>H45</b>	A flystrike reduction strategy is in place.		
	<b>Lameness</b>		
<b>H46 &amp; H47</b>	Flock lameness is managed below 5 % and lame animals are treated as soon as possible.		
	<b>Inspection of animals</b>		
<b>H48 &amp; H49</b>	Sheep are regularly inspected by competent staff and compromised animals are appropriately treated.		

<b>H50 – H52</b>	Pre lambing inspections are done daily, with multiple birthing ewes being prioritised and brought closer to the farm.		
<b>H53</b>	Inspections are done daily during times of extreme weather.		
	<b>Animal identification</b>		
<b>H54</b>	Animal identification is done by a veterinarian or trained and competent individuals.		
<b>H55 &amp; H57</b>	Ear marking and notching are not done and a maximum of two tags are placed in each ear.		
	<b>Euthanasia and mortality</b>		
<b>H60</b>	All deaths and euthanasia are recorded in the animal health plan.		
<b>H61</b>	Veterinary advice is sought where there are questions about euthanasia.		

<b>H62 - H64</b>	Euthanasia is done by competent people, using appropriate equipment and in a way that does not cause additional pain or distress to the animal.		
<b>H65, H66 &amp; H68</b>	Sheep are rendered insensible and euthanased using an appropriate method and staff stay with the animal until death is confirmed.		
<b>H69</b>	Dead animals are disposed of in accordance with Council regulations.		
	<b>Biosecurity</b>		
<b>H70 &amp; H71</b>	A biosecurity plan is in place and all sheep coming onto the farm are quarantined.		
<b>H72</b>	The use of lethal pest control is reviewed at least annually.		

Reference Standard	Summarised standard	Check (Y/N)	Comments
	<b>Appropriate Behaviour</b>		
	<b>Sourcing of sheep</b>		
<b>B1</b>	Sheep are kept in stable social groupings throughout their lives.		
	<b>Weaning</b>		
<b>B2 – B5</b>	Lambs are kept with their mothers and weaned gradually, once they have reached 3 months of age, into an area with good pasture and shade/ shelter.		
<b>B6</b>	Low-stress weaning methods are used when sheep are artificially reared.		
	<b>Handling and moving sheep</b>		
<b>B7 &amp; B8</b>	Facilities for handling/moving sheep are safe and low stress handling methods are used.		



<b>B9 – B12</b>	Sheep are not dragged or held on their sides/back and are moved only as fast as the slowest animal.		
<b>B13 &amp; B14</b>	Sheep are not mixed or separated unnecessarily and dogs are kept under control at all times.		
	<b>Behavioural enrichment</b>		
<b>B15</b>	Lambs kept indoors, or in pens, are given suitable environmental enrichment.		
	<b>Managers, stock-keepers and other staff</b>		
<b>B16 – B18</b>	All staff comply with the SPCA Certified standards and policies are in place to report concerns and manage animal welfare breaches.		
<b>B19</b>	All staff are offered animal welfare/husbandry training.		
<b>B20 &amp; B21</b>	Staff have a good working knowledge of sheep husbandry/welfare and can seek professional help if they have knowledge gaps.		

<b>B22</b>	Staff are not allowed to perform tasks unsupervised until they are fully trained and competent.		
<b>B23</b>	There are enough staff to look after the sheep humanely.		

## END OF ASSESSMENT



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