



# **Cleon's Corner**

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## **Lambing Time Checklist**

**Make your list and check it twice!!**



1. Ewe numbers with lambing dates and fetal counts, (post this in the lambing shed.)
2. Shear 2-3 weeks prior to lambing.
3. Worm, external parasite treatment, and vaccinations at shearing time.
4. Body condition (BC) - Score all ewes 4-6 weeks prior to lambing, and adjust energy (groceries) accordingly. Overfat ewes are as big a problem as extremely thin ewes. If you have not done BC scoring, refer to the American Sheep Industry (ASI) Production Handbook.
5. Get the facilities ready prior to shearing.
  - A. Make certain the lambing shed is cleaned well in advance to lambing.
  - B. Make adequate stalls, (jugs - jails or whatever you want to call them). If the breeding season was short, you may want 1 stall for every 5-7 ewes.

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- C. Lambing jugs should be at least 4 foot square, with good visibility so that you can observe the inmates.
- D. High phosphate fertilizer sprinkled on the floor of the lambing jugs following cleaning will prevent the ammonia build up in the shed.
- 6. Equipment and supplies.
  - A. A good coffee pot or thermos.
  - B. A supply of frozen colostrum, preferably from one of your ewes. Freeze it by placing 4 ounces in a zip lock bag, and freeze it flat for easier thawing. Do not microwave or place in boiling water.
  - C. Feeding tube and syringe funnel.
  - D. Bucket for water (OB work).
  - E. Disinfectant-detergent-lubricant for OB work.
  - F. Plastic OB sleeves.
  - G. Exam gloves.
  - H. Syringes and needles.
  - I. Antibiotics. (Keep records!)
- 7. Record keeping system in barn - record at a minimum every 24 hours the following information.
  - A. Number of ewes lambbed.
  - B. Ewe death loss.
  - C. Live lambs born.
  - D. Still born lambs.

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