

Standard Operating Procedures

Texas A&M University-Kingsville Sheep Unit

I. TAMUK sheep unit overview.

The TAMUK Sheep Unit is a teaching, research and production operation. Our breeding herd consists of an average of 100 White Dorper ewes, two rams. Lambs and culled animals are sold preferably through surrounding livestock auctions although sometimes animals are sold by private treaty.

II. Biosecurity.

Visitors entering the sheep unit must report to the main office. There are no exceptions to this rule, even for brief visits. Individuals who have worked with farm animals at other locations must have taken a shower before entering the unit.

III. Herd management.

1.-Identification

All animals have individually numbered ear tags applied and all ear tag numbers are kept in the inventory log in the Farm Manager's office.

B. Vaccination

1. - All animals receive a shot of Bar Vac C and D Toxoid, once a year. Young lambs are given a booster 21 days later.
2. – Males are vaccinated for Tetanus at banding and then give Bar Vac C and D Toxoid 21 days later.

C. Parasite Control: De-worm with one of the following every 3 months:

1. - De-worm with Safeguard
2. - De-worm with Cytectin
3. - De-worm with Ivomec
4. - De-worm with Valbazen

D. Feeding Procedure:

All the animals are provided hay when not grazing and are also supplemented with grain or pellets.

G. Hoof Management

Hooves are trimmed as needed and should be done 2-4 times a year depending on rainfall and condition of hooves.

H. Castration of Kids

Kids are banded at around 21 days of age and then given a tetanus shot immediately after banding.

IV. Breeding.

Rams are let out to naturally breed with ewes.

V. Treating sick sheep.

Treatment of sick animals is performed with the assistance and advice of the TAMUK Farm Attending Veterinarian. Records for treated animals are maintained in a treatment log in the Farm Managers office.

VI. Sale of animals' policy.

1. - The Farm manager determines which animals are to be sold.
2. - The preferred way to sale animals is to take them to one of the surrounding livestock auctions.
3. - According to the TAMUK business office policy animals sold by private treaty can be paid for with cash, personal check or money order made payable to "TAMUK".

VI. Purchase of animals.

Animal purchases are at discretion of the Farm manager following the rules dictated by the TAMUK procurement office.

X. Animal Carcass Disposal

1. All deceased animals are transported and discarded into a death pit following USDA and TAMUK IACUC rules.