

Vaccination Regimes for Sheep and Lambs

5 in 1 vaccines protect against the following diseases:

- Tetanus
- Black leg
- Malignant oedema
- Black disease
- Pulpy kidney

In most cases the bacteria that cause these diseases live in soil and animals are only susceptible to infection after injury.

- eg, bruised birth canal after lambing
- eg, docking
- eg, bruising after yarding

Once there is bruised/dead tissues present the bacteria can invade and multiply. The bacteria produce toxins which often cause sudden death with few or no signs. Vaccination can prevent these deaths and is relatively cheap.

IF YOUR SHEEP HAVE NOT LAMBED YET AND HAVE NEVER BEEN VACCINATED

First Year	8 weeks prior to lambing	ewe given 5 in 1
	4 weeks prior to lambing	ewe given 5 in 1
	lambs 8 weeks of age	lambs given 5 in 1
	lambs 12 weeks of age	lambs given 5 in 1
Following Years	4 weeks prior to lambing	ewes and yearling lambs given 5 in 1
	lambs 8 weeks of age	lambs given 5 in 1
	lambs 12 weeks of age	lambs given 5 in 1

IF YOUR SHEEP HAVE LAMBED AND YOUR FLOCK HAS NEVER BEEN VACCINATED

First Year	at docking (less than 1-month lambs given Lamb Vaccine old preferably)	lambs given Lamb Vaccine
	lambs 8 weeks of age	lambs and ewes given 5 in 1
	lambs 12 weeks of age	lambs and ewe given 5 in 1
Following Years	4 weeks prior to lambing	yearling lambs and ewes given 5 in 1

	lambs 8 weeks of age	lambs given 5 in 1
	lambs 12 weeks of age	lambs given 5 in 1

IF YOUR SHEEP HAVE BEEN VACCINATED BEFORE

If all lambing ewes have been vaccinated at least once before, follow the instructions for FOLLOWING YEARS as above

Some reasons behind vaccination protocols

- * If animals have never been vaccinated before they need two injections of vaccine a month apart to produce strong immunity.
- * This immunity is strongest 7-10 days after vaccination and then decreases with time. Hence the need to give a booster yearly. If this yearly booster is given prior to lambing (the danger period) then immunity is high when it is most needed.
- * As 7-10 days is needed after vaccination to produce immunity, vaccinating at docking does not protect lambs from the threat of catching tetanus through their docking/castration wound.
- * Lambs from vaccinated ewes get immunity from these diseases in the colostrum or 'first milk'. They will be protected against tetanus at docking provided it is done in the first 1 1/2 months of life. This immunity wanes as the lamb gets older so it does need its own vaccination later on (8 and 12 weeks old).
- * Lambs from non-vaccinated ewes can be protected from tetanus at docking by using a product containing a tetanus anti-toxin (eg Lamb Vaccine). The anti-toxin only protects for about 2 weeks so again these lambs need to be vaccinated later on at 8 and 12 weeks of age.