

A Sheep First Aid Kit For Year Round Needs & The Lambing Season

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A BASICS CHECKLIST:

Oftentimes when you get a flock health needs emergency, veterinary services and local livestock supply stores are either too far from your homesite or closed for the weekend, and sheep farm and ranch specialties dealers are even farther away.

Good shepherds and shepherdesses should therefore have certain general care supplies on hand at all times to cover the most common problems that can result in adult sheep and lambs losses.

Below are lists of a few items to get you started. The first "Absolute Essentials" contains the items recommended as especially crucial. The second list are items that are good to have—sometimes could also be crucial, but not as commonly needed.

ABSOLUTE ESSENTIALS KIT:

Drugs, Chemicals & Nutrients:

- ✓ Procaine Penicillin and/or long-lasting Penicillin (BP-48®)
- ✓ Dextrose, 5% solution for weak lambs (or Karo syrup) - Lactose would be preferred though, if available.
- ✓ Iodine 7% tincture for lamb navel disinfectant; or 4 parts water mixed with 1 part Nolvasan®; or any standard topical antibiotic wound dressing spray; or (in a pinch) 1 part copper sulfate mixed with 9 parts water.
- ✓ Iodine scrub, antiseptic, dishwashing detergent (for difficult lambing deliveries)
- ✓ Propylene Glycol (for pregnancy disease or Ketosis)
- ✓ Uterine boluses (for assisted deliveries and retained placentas)
- ✓ Slaked lime for disinfecting pens (a.k.a. slack lime or hydrated lime). Powder sold in 50 Lb. Bags at building supply stores.
- ✓ Eye ointment antibiotic for lambs.
- ✓ Pepto-Bismo® liquid and lamb scour tablets; or Spectinomycin (a.k.a. Spectam®) oral drench for scours in pigs also works.
- ✓ Disinfectant (Betadine®, Nolvasan, or equivalent)
- ✓ Powdered colostrum (unused portion can be kept tightly in freezer)
- ✓ 5-grain aspirin
- ✓ Blue Kote® or Red Kote® aerosol wound topical treatment.
- ✓ Worming medicines

Essential Hardware:

- ✓ Lamb stomach-feeding tubes (14-16 inch catheter tube)
- ✓ Syringes: At least four each of 3cc, 6cc and 10cc or 12cc sizes; one size 50cc for multi-dose gun-type syringe; and two size 60cc for use with the lamb stomach-feeding tubes (a single size 140cc is way more convenient if available.)
- ✓ Hypodermic needles: One dozen each of 20 gauge x 1 inch; 18 ga. X 1 inch, 18 ga. X ½ inch, and 16 ga. X 1 ½ inch.
- ✓ Towels
- ✓ Bearing retainers (keep a few on hand just in cases ----- for holding in vaginal prolapses)

- ✓ Lambing snare
- ✓ Plastic OB sleeves (a roll or box of 50 or 100), the kind used for cattle artificial insemination.
- ✓ Burdizzo® emasculator, All-in-One, veterinary emasculatome, or if your choice, elastrator-style ring applicator (for castrating and docking)
- ✓ Clean buckets
- ✓ Shepherd's crook
- ✓ Ewe halter
- ✓ Heat lamps, clamp on style, if access to electricity is available; or hair dryer for warming chilled lambs.
- ✓ Heating pad with low-heat settings
- ✓ Nursing bottles and Pritchard® nipples

“NICE TO HAVE ON HAND” KIT

Drugs, Chemicals & Nutrients

- ✓ Vitamin A+D (injectable or water-soluble)
- ✓ Clostridium perfringens C & D antitoxin (for enterotoxemia in lambs if their ewes haven't been vaccinated on time.)
- ✓ Vitamin E & Selenium compound (Bo-Se for white muscle disease)
- ✓ Tetanus Antitoxin
- ✓ Koopertox or other foot rot treatment
- ✓ Frozen colostrum
- ✓ Milk replacer powder
- ✓ Sore mouth vaccine (only if problem exists on premises)
- ✓ Pine tar or wound sealing aerosol spray
- ✓ Sulmet® (sulfamethazine liquid) and/or Aureomycin tablets (for scours)
- ✓ Sulfa tablets (for pneumonia and coccidiosis)
- ✓ Bloat remedy
- ✓ Mastitis infusion tubes
- ✓ Sheep pour-on, dip, or dust for control of external parasites
- ✓ Keto-stix® (ketosis test strips)
- ✓ Blood stop powder (for docking and castrating by knife)
- ✓ Nutri-Drench® weak lamb reviver nutritional liquid

“NICE TO HAVE” HARDWARE

- ✓ Hand-hel milking device (EZ-Milker® ----- nearly a necessity in saving lambs, colostrum, time and frustration. Gently milks out sore udders
- ✓ Livestock thermometer (digital very good)
- ✓ Scalpel, blades & surgical scissors for navel and eyelids work
- ✓ Nylon rope ----- 2.5 feet (for difficult deliveries)
- ✓ Knife or knives
- ✓ Scourable crayons, marker paint and/or number brand set
- ✓ Balling gun (giving oblets or boluses)
- ✓ Pill forceps (giving oblets or boluses)
- ✓ Drenching dose syringe (2 and/or 4 oz.)
- ✓ Sheep shears or electric clippers
- ✓ Soap
- ✓ Ear tags, including USDA Scrapie ear tags
- ✓ Hoof trimmers
- ✓ Oxygen tanks with valve & tube
- ✓ Pocket flock book
- ✓ **Numerous other 'goodies'**