



SHEEP SHEET

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A vaccine is not a steel barrier that keeps an infection completely away from an animal. When the animal is exposed, the infection can enter. The portals of disease entry are generally the following:

- Mouth and oral cavity
- Umbilicus (navel)
- Anal opening (anus)
- Docking wounds
- Castration wounds
- Shearing cuts
- Nasal openings
- Eyes and orbital space
- Hoof injuries
- Injection sites
- Horn buds
- Fistulas
- Ear notches and/or tags
- Other injuries and trauma

It is the vaccine's job to keep a specific disease(s) from occurring. The vaccine is designed to help the animal develop a certain level of resistance to a targeted disease.

Although a vaccine is at work to provide an animal with immunity from a disease, there are several factors that affect the level of protection. Even with vaccinations, the sheep immune system can be overwhelmed by other challenges, allowing it to be affected by the disease.

Sound management, along with vaccinations, is necessary to help sheep fight off disease. Here are some tips to getting the most protection from your vaccine.

1. Careful diagnosis of the diseases affecting your sheep is important to provide effective protection. Vaccines are made to fight specific problems, so you need to administer the correct product for each disease.

Vaccines & Immunity

Sheepdex H-7

2. Keep track of the time in which diseases occur. By knowing the timing of a disease, it is easier to plan a vaccination schedule that will give the most immunity close to the expected time of stress.
3. When illness does occur, consider all of the stress factors present at that time. Eliminating problems in management can have as great an impact as the vaccine itself.
4. Do not vaccinate sheep immediately after they come off trucks, hauling, or during periods of heat stress. Wait 24 hours after shipping, and avoid the intense heat of the day.
5. Do not administer vaccines to a ewe two days before and five days after lambing. Stress and the lack of micro nutrients after lambing inhibit the animal's response to vaccine.
6. To avoid harmful reactions in your sheep, refrain from giving more than two gram-negative vaccines at one time, and wait a full week before giving another gram-negative vaccine.

For more information on the administration of appropriate vaccines and diseases in your region, contact your local large animal practitioner. He or she will be more than glad to assist you with the development and implementation of a health management plan or strategy.



For more information write:

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