**Sheep Farming Calendar of Operations**

Continue to dip sheep

**Winter**

**June- Aug**

**Spring**

**Sep-Nov**

**Autumn**

**Mar- May**

**Summer**

**Dec- Feb**

Docking/tailing

Drench ewes

Cull dry ewes

Increase feeding of ewes

Continue drafting prime lambs.

Main shear

Dag sheep

Wean & drench lambs

Draft early prime lambs

Crutch ewes

Flushing ewes

Rams joined with ewes- Tupping

Empty ewes culled

Scan ewes

Pre lamb drenching & vaccination

Lambing

Rams removed after 2-3 cycles

Pre lamb crutching or shearing

Buy rams

Sell remaining lambs - store

Sell wool

Shear lambs

***Exercise***

1. *When does lambing start and explain why it starts at this time of the year.*
2. *Explain why lambs are docked.*
3. *When are lambs docked?*
4. *List the times of the year when sheep are shorn*
5. *Give* ***three*** *reasons why a farmer may cull a ewe.*
6. *Explain why farmers*
   1. *drench lambs.*
   2. *vaccinate ewes.*
7. *What time of the year do farmers aim to flush ewes?*
8. *Explain why a farmer would try to flush ewes.*
9. *At what time of the year are ewes tupped?*
10. *State the gestation period for sheep.*
11. *What is dipping and when is dipping carried out?*

**Calendar of events on a sheep farm answers**

1. Lambing starts in late winter, early spring. This is when pasture growth rate is increasing to provide enough pasture to feed lactating ewes, so they produce lots of milk to feed lambs.
2. Lambs are docked to reduce problems with flystrike.
3. Lambs are docked in spring when they are 3-6 weeks old.
4. Sheep are shorn throughout the year, but the main shear is in early summer (December and January). Other times are pre lamb shear in late autumn, or early winter.
5. Three reasons a farmer would cull a ewe are

* she is not in lamb or has lost her lambs (dry ewe).
* she has had lambing problems.
* poor wool or growth rates.

1. (a)Farmers drench lambs to reduce internal parasites which slow down growth rate.

(b)Farmers vaccinate ewes in late pregnancy so that they pass on immunity to their lambs. This immunity passed through the colostrum protects the lambs from diseases for up to 12 weeks.

1. Farmers aim to flush ewes in late summer 3 weeks before tupping.
2. Farmers flush ewes so they are increasing in liveweight at tupping as this increases ovulation rate increasing the number of eggs released which increases lambing percentage.
3. Ewes are tupped in autumn as they are short day breeders. This means they will lamb in spring as pasture growth increases. They have more feed to so produce milk for lambs increasing survival rate and growth rate.
4. The gestation period of ewes is 147 days (5 months -5 days)
5. Dipping is a chemical applied to the skin/wool to prevent or kill external parasites such as flystrike and lice. Dipping is carried out when temperatures are warm generally from late spring to autumn.