

SPCA CERTIFIED Self-Assessment Checklist Sheep

SELF-ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST: SHEEP

* Note: Numbers appearing in brackets represent corresponding section in the Standard

Feed: Adults & Lambs (2.1, 2.3)	Response	Comments
Type of feeder		
Feeder space (cm per animal)		
Frequency of feeding		
Assess and comment on feed quality,		
noting concerns/history regarding		
contamination or infestation.		
Provision of fibre for rumination	Y	
Avian or mammalian protein in feed	Y	
Antibiotics or medications in feed	Y	
Feed records, labels and ingredient lists available, including feed supplements	Y	append feed ingredient / supplements list(s)
Is feed withheld at any point? If yes,	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
describe when and why.		
Feed equipment checked daily	Y	
Lambs have access to roughage from one week old	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
Lambs weaned by age or weight? - List		
the weight / age used.		
Water (2.2)	Response	Comments
Fresh, clean water available	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
List all water sources (e.g. bowls, troughs,		
body of water, etc.)		
Water equipment / supply checked daily	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
Number of waterers and/or length of		
trough space (metres or feet). Create		
table for multiple sites / barns / fields.		

Water withdrawn at shearing or during other practices? If yes, list which and for	Y
how long.	
One-day emergency water supply available	Y
Water supply contains additives /	Y / N append copy of water additives list
supplements	
Water quality test results available	Y ☐ / N ☐ ☐ append copy of water tests
Trailer quanty toot rooms aramao.c	
Water contamination concerns. List, if	Y
any.	
Lambs given access to fresh water from	Y
birth	
Environment (3.0)	Response Comments
General (3.1)	Response Comments
Housing provides comfort, health and	Y
hygiene. List risk areas, if any.	
Type of flooring in barn and yards	
(concrete, earth, etc.)	
Floor surfaces have stable footing	Y
Farmer has fully slatted floors in pens	Y
Access to well-maintained bedded areas	Y
sufficient for all sheep is available	/ N
Tie stalls are used	Y
Stanchions and/or foster pens used. If	Y
yes, for how long?	1 / IN
All sheep are housed within sight and	Y 🗌 / N 📗
sound of other sheep	1 / IN
Maternity Housing / Lambing Pens (3.3)	
Lambing pens are different from hospital) Υ□/Ν□
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	I / IN
pens Total number of lambing pens available	
Total number of lambing pens available	V
Lambing pens fully bedded, dry, clean	Y
How often are lambing pens re-bedded?	

Lambing pens have feed and water	Y
source	
Lamb Housing Post-Weaning (3.4)	
Lambs are tethered to pens / housing	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
Well-maintained, dry bedding available to	Y
all lambs in the group	
Animal density in bedded areas (m ² or ft ²	
per animal) – Create a table for multiple	
facilities or update previous table if	
already provided.	
Ram Housing (3.5)	
Animal density in bedded areas (m ² or ft ²	
per animal) – Create a table for multiple	
facilities.	
Rams housed within sight and sound of	Y
other sheep.	
Other	
Animal density in bedded areas (m² or ft²	
per animal) – Create a table for multiple facilities.	
Indoor Lighting and Air Quality (3.6, 3.8)	☐ N/A – no indoor housing
Lighting allows sheep a normal period of	Y / N
daylight hours	
Lighting allows for assessment of flock	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
and environment in any location during	
daytime hours	
Natural lighting (i.e. sunlight) used indoors	Y / N
Lighting sources available for use during	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
night time inspections when needed	
Air quality meets 3.8a requirements (2012	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
Sheep Standard). If unpleasant, describe	
why (e.g. dust, odour, etc.).	
Ammonia measurements taken monthly	Y
Ammonia records available	Y
Indoor housing is drafty	Y 🗌 / N 🗌

Sanitation & Waste Management (3.9)	Response	Comments
Bedding, water and feed containers kept	Y \square / \square	
clean		
Hospital pens, maternity areas and	Y N N	
nursery pens are clean and are re-bedded		
between occupants / groups		
How are dead animals and afterbirths		
disposed of?		
Can sheep or other animals / birds (e.g.	Y	
	ĭ []/IN []	
carnivores) access dead animals?		
Describe how waste (manure, dirty		
bedding) is disposed of		
Wastes disposed of according to	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
government regulations or		
recommendations		
Outdoor Access (3.10)	Response	Comments
•	.cope.ice	
All sheen have access to nasture for at	$\vee \square / \square \square$	
All sheep have access to pasture for at least 150 days/year	Y	
least 150 days/year		
least 150 days/year List areas of risk to sheep health or safety	Y □ / N □	
least 150 days/year List areas of risk to sheep health or safety on pasture, if any.	n/a 🗌	
least 150 days/year List areas of risk to sheep health or safety on pasture, if any. Pasture allows access to clean drinking		
least 150 days/year List areas of risk to sheep health or safety on pasture, if any. Pasture allows access to clean drinking water for all sheep	n/a	
least 150 days/year List areas of risk to sheep health or safety on pasture, if any. Pasture allows access to clean drinking water for all sheep Snow is used as the sole source of water	n/a 🗌	
least 150 days/year List areas of risk to sheep health or safety on pasture, if any. Pasture allows access to clean drinking water for all sheep Snow is used as the sole source of water on pasture in winter	n/a	
least 150 days/year List areas of risk to sheep health or safety on pasture, if any. Pasture allows access to clean drinking water for all sheep Snow is used as the sole source of water on pasture in winter Sheep are required to walk long distances	n/a	
List areas of risk to sheep health or safety on pasture, if any. Pasture allows access to clean drinking water for all sheep Snow is used as the sole source of water on pasture in winter Sheep are required to walk long distances (> 1.6 km) to reach water sources (if yes,	n/a	
List areas of risk to sheep health or safety on pasture, if any. Pasture allows access to clean drinking water for all sheep Snow is used as the sole source of water on pasture in winter Sheep are required to walk long distances (> 1.6 km) to reach water sources (if yes, estimate distance)	n/a	
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Sheep density on pasture causes destruction of land or pollution of water	Y 🗌 / N 🗍	
Health and Biosecurity (4.0)	Response	Comments
Flock health plan on file	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
		If a copy of this plan was not submitted to the Certification Body, please append a copy with your self-assessment documents
Flock monitored daily for injury, lameness, health (disease, illness), etc.	Y 🗌 / N 🗍	
Sheep have good body condition	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
Sheep with body score 1 (emaciated) were seen in the main (healthy) flock	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
Complete and accurate vaccination and treatment records are kept on file	Y 🗌 / N 📗	append copy of treatment records
Treatment records included lame sheep	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
How is lameness monitored to determine		
the need for treatment?		
Lameness rate (sheep per month or year)		
 calculate from farm records 		
Sick or unfit animals are segregated from the healthy flock	Y 🗌 / N 🗍	
Mortality records are available and include cause, when known	Y	append copy of mortality / cull animal records
Mortality records included culls and euthanized sheep, with reasons	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
Lamb (< 7 days) mortality rate (per month		
or year) – calculate from records		
Lamb (> 7 days) mortality rate (per month		
or year) – calculate from records		
Adult sheep mortality rate (per month or		
year) – calculate from records		
Suspicious deaths are sent for lab testing	Y	append copy of lab diagnostic records
Sheep lost to predation exceeded 2 sheep / year	Y 🗌 / N 📗	

Sheep production (e.g. births, breedings)	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
records are kept on file		
Date of last veterinary visit and reason		
Biosecurity plan on file	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
		If a copy of this plan was not submitted to the Certification Body, please
		append a copy with your self-assessment documents
Procedures listed in biosecurity plan are	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
followed. Visitor compliance is enforced.		
Management (5.0)	Response	Comments
Staff have access to and/or are familiar	with: (5.2, 6.1)	
Canada's current Code of Practice for the	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
Care and Handling of Sheep		
Sheep behaviour, diseases, needs,	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
management techniques, handling and		
common procedures		
Canada's current Code of Practice for the	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
Care and Handling of Farm Animals –		
Transportation (haulers only)		
Current SPCA Certified Standards for the	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
Raising and Handling of Sheep		
Procedures (5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6)		
Dehorning is performed	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
If dehorning is performed, is it	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
done by a vet?	/ n/a 🗌	
 Does the person performing 	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
dehorning use pain medication?	/ n/a 🗌	
 List all pain medications used, if 	n/a 🗌	
any, and whether or not they are		
used in combination		
Horn trimming is performed	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
Tail docking is performed	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
 Age of sheep at tail docking 	n/a 🗌	
 Method of tail docking used 	n/a 🗌	
List all pain medications used for	n/a 🗌	
·		

tail docking, if any, and whether or not they are used in combination		
Docked tail length covers vulva	Y \square / N \square	
(ewes) and rectum (rams)	/ n/a 🗍	
Castration of rams is performed	Y	
 Age of ram at castration 	n/a 🗌	
 Method of castration used 	n/a 🗌	
 List all pain medications used for 	n/a 🗌	
castration, if any, and whether or		
not they are used in combination		
Mules procedure is performed	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
Spaying (females) is performed	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
Handling (5.7)		
Electric prods are used	Y 🔲 / N 📗	
Handlers can describe "flight zone", "field	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
of vision", "point of balance"		
Herding dogs used (if yes, list number of	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
dogs and breed)		
Dogs are well trained in whistle or voice	Y	
commands and refrained from biting /	/ n/a 🗌	
nipping / pulling wool.		N/A farm daga natahaan ahaan
Shearing (5.8)	V - / N -	N/A − farm does not shear sheep
Shearers have training	Y	
Shearing facilities are designed	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
specifically for shearing Shearing equipment is sanitized after	Y 🗌 / N 🔲	
each batch of sheep shorn	T / IN	
Feed is withheld before shearing (if yes,	Y \square / N \square	
give length of time)	1 / IN	
Water is withheld before shearing (if yes,	Y \square / N \square	
give length of time)		
Winter shearing is performed	V D / NI D	
Willer Sheatha is perioritied	$Y \square / N \square$	
	Y □ / N □ n/a □	
If winter shearing is performed, describe		
If winter shearing is performed, describe how shorn sheep are housed.		

Intrauterine (laparoscopic) and / or transcervical artificial insemination are	Y
used regularly for breeding program	
Estrus-regulating hormones are used (if	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
yes, list what cycle their use begins; i.e.	
1 st post-partum cycle, 2 nd , etc.)	
Milking (Dairy Production) (5.10)	N/A – do not milk sheep / no dairy production
Animals moved quietly/calmly to/from milking parlour	Y
Length of wait in holding pen (waiting to	
be milked)	
Sheep are milked on a consistent	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
schedule. Describe milking schedule. Sheep milked out completely each milking	Y 🗆 / N 🗀
Teats cleaned before milking	Y
Teats dipped in suitable teat dip post-	Y
milking. If yes, what kind of teat dip is	T [] / IN []
used?	
Method of identification for sheep being	Y
given medications	n/a 🗌
Sheep given injections or subjected to	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
other painful procedures in the parlour	
Milking equipment sanitized between	Y
scheduled milkings / batches	
HACCP procedures followed /	Y ☐ / N ☐ ☐ append copy
documented for milking	
Non-ambulatory / weak animals milked in	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
the sick pen by hand or with portable	
milking unit	
Cull Animal Management (5.11)	
Age of cull lambs at transport	
Weak / non-ambulatory animals are	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
shipped (transported) Drug withdrawal times observed before	V
shipping	Y
Animal Identification (5.12)	

Ear tags used (metal, plastic)	Y
Tattoos used (list where tattoo appears)	Y
Electronic microchips used	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
Ear notching used	Y
Ear punching used	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
Temporary paints, dyes and/or wax	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
markers are used and are non-toxic	
Other method(s) are also used (describe)	Y 🗌 / N 🗌
Equipment and Emergency Preparednes	
Equipment and facilities inspected and	Y
logged regularly	
Emergency backup system in place (e.g.	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
generator)	
Emergency backup plan in place (e.g.	Y ☐ / N ☐ ☐ append copy of plan if not on file with the SPCA already
evacuation plan, feeding plan in case of	
power failure, etc.)	V 🗆 / N 🗀
Fire prevention / detection devices and	Y
plans maintained, tested and up to date	V □ / N □
Waste storage facility maintained to prevent contamination to environment	Y
Nuisance Animal Control (5.14)	
Fly control used. List method(s).	Y 🗆 / N 🗀
Predator protection used against ground	Y
predators. List method(s).	Y / IN
Predator protection used against avian	Y 🗆 / N 🗀
(air) predators. List method(s), if any.	T / IN
Guardian animals used. If yes, list	Y
species, breed and number of guardians.	1 / N
Guardian animals appear well cared for	Y
(e.g. fed, watered, clean, healthy)	/ n/a 🗌
Rodent control used indoors. List	Y
method(s).	/ n/a 🗍
Rodent control used outdoors. List	Y
method(s).	
Method(s) of control of other nuisance	Y
()	

animals (e.g. starlings, swallows) used.	
List.	

Transport and Handling (6.0)	Response	Comments
Transport / hauling Standard Operating	Y \square / N \square	append copy of SOP if not already on file with the SPCA
Procedures in place		
Shipment records (e.g. number, age,	Y 🗌 / N 🗌	
weight of animals, etc.) kept on file.		
For how long is feed withdrawn prior to		
loading for transport?		
For how long is water withdrawn prior to		
loading for transport?		
Injuries and deaths occurring during	Y 🗌 / N 📗	append copy of records
loading and unloading are recorded		
Loading ramp measurements		a)
Measure at least two of a, b, or c – see		b)
diagram in Appendix A of this checklist; List units used		
List urius used		c)
Loading ramp height is adjustable	Y \cap / N \cap	
Electric prods are used during loading and	Y / N /	
/ or unloading of sheep		
Hauler has Certified Livestock Transport	Y N N	
or similar training (list which one)		
Fitness of Sheep for Transport (6.3)		
Does the farmer ship, euthanize or treat (lis	t which one) t	he following animal types:
Sheep with body score 2 or lower?	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
 Sheep with a lameness score of 4 	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
or 5 (as per scale used in the		
SPCA Certified sheep standard)?		
Any unfit animal?	Y 🗌 / N 📗	
List age at which lambs are first shipped		
Are lactating ewes transported at any	Y [] / N []	
time? If yes, list when/why they would be		

transported.	
Transport Conditions (6.5)	
Farmer transports own animals	Y
 Size of truck (list units) 	
Type of truck (describe if unsure)	
 How many animals are loaded 	
onto the truck? (list size, type, etc.)	
Do sheep touch the roof / upper	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
deck when standing?	
Farmer contracts out animal transport	Y
	/ n/a 🗌
 Size of truck (list units), if known 	
 Type of truck (describe if unsure) 	
 How many animals are loaded 	
onto the truck? (list size, type, etc.)	
Do sheep touch the roof / upper	Y
deck when standing?	
Cross gates (partitions) are on truck to	Y
segregate rams or sheep of different sizes	
How do transport methods change/differ	
during hot (> 25°C; 77°F) weather?	
How do transport methods change/differ	
during cold (< 10°C; 50°F) weather?	
Duration of journey from farm to slaughter	
plant (list unit: hours, miles, km)	
Duration of journey from farm to auction	
(list unit: hours, miles, km)	
Injured animals, deads-on-arrival and	Y 🗌 / N 🔲 💮 append copy of records
condemnation records from the	
processing plant and auction were on file	
Purchase and Sale of Animals (6.6)	
Auctions are used to purchase sheep	Y / N
If yes:	$V \square / N \square$
 A signed affidavit from the seller is 	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
obtained confirming sheep are	

raised under the SPCA Certified standard for sheep	
 Farm of origin documentation is 	Y
kept on file for each animal	
purchased	
 A history of movement and 	Y / N
transportation records	
documenting previous	
owners/farms is kept on file for	
each animal purchased	
Auctions are used to sell sheep	Y
Farmer's previous flocks' records are on	Y
file	
Farm records include breed and number	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
of animals	
Stock purchase receipts (from sources	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
other than auction) are on file	
Stock sales records (sales to buyers other	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
than auctions) are on file	
Detailed shipment records (e.g. number,	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
age, weight of animals, etc.) kept on file	
Producer keeps processing facility	Y 🗌 / N 🔲
receipts on farm Product labelled with SPCA Certified label	Y
Copies of farm product logo / labels	Y
attached to checklist or report	T / IN Append copy of product packaging / labels
attached to checklist of report	
Euthanasia and Slaughter (7.0)	Response Comments
	used (including method of restraint, if used) for:
Young lambs	n/a 🗌
Feeder lambs	n/a 🗌
Mature ewes	n/a 🗌
Mature rams	n/a
What secondary (backup) method is used	n/a 🗌
if the first attempt to euthanize fails?	

How is death confirmed after administering the kill method?		
Euthanasia devices were kept clean and	Y \(\) / N \(\)	
in working order (e.g. guns, needles)		
Slaughter age (in days or weight)		
Where are sheep slaughtered /		
processed? Provide business name and		
location.		
Processing facility classification (federal,		
provincial, other (specify Class))		
Other Animals On Site (if applicable)	Response Comments	
Note: this section applies to f	farm animals raised for their products, but which are not SPCA Cert	ified
□ N/A – no other animals on site □		
Species and Number of Animal(s)		
Reason(s) for keeping the animal(s) – e.g.		
personal use, commercial use, etc.		
Food and water provided to maintain	Y / N	
health and vigour		
Well-maintained environment	Y	
Animal(s) appear healthy	Y / N	
Other Audits / Inspections		
	nent, have there been any audits / inspections from government or	
regulatory agencies (e.g. CFIA, provincial n	narketing board, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, etc.)?	Y 🗌 / N 📗
If yes, list the name of the agency(ies), the	date and the purpose of the visit:	
Other Information	Response Comments	
Information contained in registration forms	Y	
was accurate		

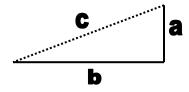
Farm map represents an accurate / up-to-	Y
date depiction of the farm	
Since the previous SPCA Certified	Y
Assessment, have non-compliance issues	
been verified as resolved? If not, list	
which remain unresolved.	
Since the previous SPCA Certified	Y
Assessment, have complaints been	
received? If yes, describe and explain	
how they were rectified:	

APPENDIX A

Summary of documents to append:

Feed and water ingredients, supplements, additives lists
Water quality tests, if available
Flock health plan, if not on file with the SPCA
Treatment (medicines) records dating back to previous assessment
Mortality and cull animal records dating back to previous assessment
Relevant vet or lab reports (e.g. high mortality, post-mortem results for suspicious deaths or
illnesses, etc.)
Biosecurity plan, if not on file with SPCA
HACCP plan(s) – milking, slaughter, food processing, etc.
Emergency preparedness plan, if not on file with the SPCA
Standard Operating Procedure / Emergency Protocol from transporter (hauler)
Record of injuries/deaths occurring during loading and unloading
Deads-on-arrival and condemnations report from processor
Product packaging / labels
Other relevant or important information

Loading ramp measurements diagram (Section 6.0: Transport and Handling)



Expanded comments, notes and/or changes since last on-farm assessment: