



# Standards for the Raising and Handling of Sheep

**BCSPCA**  
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

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Standards for the Raising and Handling of Sheep

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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The SPCA Certified program is an independent, third party animal welfare certification system. SPCA Certified brings stakeholders together to further common goals in farm animal welfare. Products come from farms that have been annually assessed to BC SPCA farm animal welfare standards by trained, independent inspectors. Third party, independent reviewers then determine certification.

The BC SPCA believes that an animal's welfare is synonymous with its quality of life and that animals' health and emotions both contribute to their welfare.

While we acknowledge it is not possible to prevent animals from experiencing all pain or discomfort in their lives, BC SPCA standards strive to provide animals with the Five Freedoms, which are derived from those first described by the Farm Animal Welfare Council of the UK:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease
4. Freedom from distress
5. Freedom to express behaviours that promote well-being

### The Sheep Standard

The key components of the sheep standard are:

- Space and an environment to move freely and exhibit species-specific behaviours
- Access to resting space
- Access to feed and water and provision of feed that does not contain mammalian or avian derived protein, except for milk products
- Surgical procedures are regulated by age and through pain control
- Development, implementation and maintenance of a Flock Health Plan for sheep health management

The BC SPCA *Standard for the Raising and Handling of Sheep* incorporates current research in animal welfare science with practical protocols developed by a Species Advisory Committee ((SAC), an expert panel of animal welfare scientists, veterinarians, and farmers), in consultation with the BC SPCA. No endorsement by SAC members or their respective organizations is implied.

Standards are updated and amended by the SAC as new scientific information and improved animal care practices are developed and proven to enhance animal welfare. Further details regarding standard development and exemptions to the standard are in the program Operations Manual.

### How to Use the Standard

This standard meets or exceeds Canada's *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep* (2013).

- a) SPCA Certified program participants must have a thorough understanding of, and adhere to, the *Codes of Practice* and the additional requirements set out in this document.
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- b) Program members are required to follow federal and provincial acts and regulations related to environmental and food safety practices.
  - c) **Mandatory Requirements** are represented as **Must** do practices for program participation.
  - d) If a farm is not in compliance with a particular mandatory requirement, the Certification Body:
    - Expects the farmer to demonstrate how s/he intends to come back into compliance via an action plan, which must be developed and implemented. The Certification Body will use this action plan to benchmark the farmer's progress on the non-compliance issue. OR
    - May, depending on the severity of and/or failure to address the non-compliance issue, opt to decertify the farm.
  - e) **Recommendations and Guidance** provide further information and, when appropriate, outline timelines for future standard requirements.

*\*Further detail on non-compliance issues can be found in the Operations Manual.*

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## 2.0 FEED AND WATER

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### 2.1 Feed

- a) Feed must be nutritionally complete and provided each day in quantities that maintain health and vigour of each group of animals. Consider: age, frame size and body condition, reproductive status, health status, level of production, competition and weather.
- b) Feed management must be well planned in order to ensure that sheep receive nutrition to maintain appropriate body condition at each stage of production.
  - No animal is permitted to have a body condition score (BCS) of less than 2 on the 1-5 scale in Appendix B without corrective actions being taken
  - A BCS below 4 will help to avoid reproductive problems and other associated disorders
  - Refer to Appendix B to additional detail and BCS targets
  - Seek the help of a nutritionist or veterinarian if needed
- c) Feed may be withheld prior to shearing or pregnancy scanning for a maximum of 12 hours.
- d) Avoid sudden changes in type and quantity of feed.
- e) Feed must not contain mammalian or avian derived protein, with the exception of milk and milk products.
- f) Although not commonly practiced in sheep production, the practice of adding antibiotics to feed at a sub-therapeutic level is prohibited.
- g) The use of therapeutic antibiotics is regulated by the Certification Body. Such treatments must be prescribed by a veterinarian for treatment of a specific medical condition. All veterinarian prescriptions and treatment records must be provided to the Validator upon inspection.
- h) Sheep must have access to forage (Code requirement, Sec. 3.1).
- i) Provide alternative feed for winter-grazing sheep that do not have easy access to forage due to severe weather conditions or heavy or crusted snow (Code requirement, Sec. 3.1).
- j) Provide salt/mineral supplements (e.g. blocks/licks) as required to meet the nutritional needs of the flock. Supplements must be formatted specifically for sheep and suited to the geographical region. Consult with a practicing veterinarian or qualified feed nutritionist if unsure of what salt/mineral supplements are necessary for your flock. (Code requirement, Sec. 3.1)
- k) A list of supplements or additives to feed (other than vitamin/mineral mixes) must be provided to the Validator.
- l) Prevent exposure of sheep to toxins (e.g. weeds toxic to sheep, lead batteries, fertilizer, treated seed, antifreeze, nitrates) and to feed with physical qualities (e.g. awns) that could cause injury or limit intake. (Code requirement, Sec. 3.1)
- m) Feeder space must be provided, as outlined below.

| <b>Animal Type</b> | <b><i>Ad libitum</i> feeding</b> | <b>Restricted feeding</b> |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ewes & Rams        | 15 cm (6") / head                | 40 cm (16") / head        |
| Feeder Lambs       | 10 cm (4") / head                | 30 cm (12") / head        |

### 2.2 Water

- a) A supply of fresh, clean water must be provided to the flock.
  - b) Water availability must be ensured when temperatures are below the freezing point. Available snow and high-moisture feeds will reduce liquid water consumption, but not
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- replace the need for a good water source. Therefore, snow/ice will not be permitted as the sole source of water for sheep.
- c) In barns, water troughs and/or bowls must be checked daily to ensure they are clean and working properly.
  - d) On pasture, water troughs or bowls must be checked daily if they provide the sole source of water for sheep.
  - e) When hand-watering, provide enough water and sufficient access to meet consumption demands of all individual sheep (Code requirement, Sec. 3.2).
  - f) Sheep on pasture must not be expected to walk longer than one mile (1.6 km) to access water. Pre-approval must be granted from the Certification Body for situations where a greater distance between the flock and water source exist. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Certification Body.
  - g) Water sources must allow 5% of the flock to drink at any one time (approximately 1 drinking place per 20 animals). A drinking place is defined as the space required by each animal while drinking (1.1 times shoulder width).
  - h) Water may be withheld prior to and during shearing or pregnancy scanning. The total withdrawal period must not exceed 4 hours. During hot weather the withdrawal period must be reduced to prevent sheep from becoming dehydrated.
  - i) An emergency water supply sufficient for one day of use must be available in case of shut-off of main water supply.
  - j) A list of supplements or additives to water (other than vitamins / minerals) must be provided to the Validator.

### ***Recommendations and Guidance***

Pasture water sources require special management to reduce the destruction of land and creation of deep mud around them. Sand and concrete aprons are suggested in problems areas.

Although they may not be the sole source of water on pasture (i.e. other bodies of water may be accessible), it is recommended that pasture water troughs be checked daily.

Annual testing of water samples taken from animals' drinking sources is recommended to ensure safety and suitability as a drinking source.

### **2.3 Lambs**

- a) Effort must be made to ensure that lambs receive 150-250 ml of colostrum from its dam or another dam within the first 6 hours of life (ideally within the first 3 hours of life). Over the first 24-hours of life, give lambs 4-5 meals of 150-250 ml of colostrum (proportionate to their size/weight). Increase the amount of colostrum fed by 20-30% if the lamb is housed outdoors in cold, wet or windy conditions.
    - If fresh colostrum is unavailable, lambs must receive an equivalent amount of powdered colostrums or a suitable replacement (e.g. frozen colostrum) that has been formulated for lambs.
    - Lambs that have not been observed nursing or that appear "flat sided" must be bottle-fed in a single feeding or in smaller frequent feedings (lambs that show a bulging or pear-shaped abdomen will have nursed, while those that appear "flat-sided" on the flank may not have nursed)
    - Lambs not able to bottle-feed must be fed by a stomach-tube
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- b) For ewes that are sick, dead or unable to provide milk for a lamb, a practical fostering program should be adopted. Fostering is most often successful when it occurs within the first 48 hours after lambing. In the event that fostering is unsuccessful, a good quality lamb milk replacer can be fed at regular intervals until weaning. Milk replacer used must be formulated for lambs (Code requirement, Sec. 3.1.2 & 5.11).
- c) Clean any automatic feeding equipment daily to ensure fresh feed and milk.
- d) Lambs must have access to fresh water from birth and high quality roughage from one week of age. Care must be taken to situate water bowls/troughs in a way that prevents lambs from drowning.
- e) Lambs from meat breeds must not be weaned before 30 days of age or 15 kg body weight, whichever is later. By that time, the lambs must be able to consume enough feed and water to meet their daily nutritional requirements for growth, health and vigour (Code requirement, Sec. 3.1.2).
- f) Lambs raised as part of dairy production must not be weaned from milk before they have been observed consuming quantities of water and solid feed as outlined in the *Recommendations and Guidance* section, below.

### ***Recommendations and Guidance***

It is recommended that a ewe and her lambs remain separated from the rest of the herd in a lambing pen for 24-48 hours. This is to assure bonding and for easier monitoring of lambs in terms of health and feeding.

Lambs should receive colostrum as soon after birth as possible, ideally within 2-3 hours, since the antibodies in colostrum can only be absorbed from the lamb's gut into its bloodstream for 12-15 hours after birth.

Nutritional weaning procedures for dairy sheep may vary between operations, based on management strategies. When weaning lambs in a dairy operation, the following recommendations should be considered:

- Target weaning weights of 15 kg or 3 times the birth weight
  - Do not remove lambs from familiar surroundings when being nutritionally weaned
  - Monitor feed intake prior to weaning to determine if a substantial amount is being consumed
  - Consider leaving lambs with low feed intake on milk longer
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### 3.0 ENVIRONMENT

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#### 3.1 General

- a) Housing design must be constructed and maintained so that there are no areas likely to cause sickness, injury, or distress to the animals. Pens must be designed to ensure the comfort, hygiene and health of all animals. Feeding equipment must be suitable and safe for the type of sheep. (meets Code requirements, Sec. 2.1)
- b) Floor surfaces (including milking parlour and holding areas, if applicable) must provide solid and stable footing and must provide good traction to prevent slipping. Flooring must be maintained to prevent the accumulation of manure or urine.
- c) Housing sheep on fully slatted floors or bare concrete is prohibited. Partially slatted flooring is acceptable, as follows:

| Animal Weight & Classification | Slat Width             | Gap Width        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Feeder lambs                   | 50 – 75 mm<br>(2 – 3") | 16 mm<br>(0.6")  |
| Ewes & Rams                    | 50 – 75 mm<br>(2 – 3") | 19 mm<br>(0.75") |

(Code requirements - Table 2.2)

- d) All animals must have access to a well-drained/dry and well maintained bedded area.
- e) The use of tie stalls is prohibited.
- f) Properly designed and built stanchions or foster pens are permitted for 7 days (maximum) use provided they allow the sheep to stand up and lie down with ease.
- g) Sheep (including rams) must be housed within sight, sound and smell of other sheep (meets Code requirement, Sec. 2.1.2).
- h) When housed indoors, sheep must be housed in a clean, dry, well lit, comfortable environment and must be provided with sources of environmental enrichment (refer to *Recommendations and Guidance* section below for suggestions).
- i) Develop a contingency plan for extreme or rapid changes to weather conditions. Be prepared to put the plan into action within a short timespan, and be prepared to relocate the sheep, giving priority for shelter to the most vulnerable. (Code requirement, Sec. 1.1)

#### ***Recommendations and Guidance***

Enrichment: Lambs enjoy climbing up to the highest point of anything and will jump on hay or straw bales. Adults may rub their faces on vertical items (as they have orbital scent glands under their eyes) but do not tend to “play” as lambs do.

#### 3.2 Space Allowances

- a) All sheep must have space and freedom of movement to be able to lie down comfortably in a dry, bedded area (all sheep at once), get up, turn around and stretch their limbs. Specifically, the following minimum bedded space allowances must be met:
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| <b>Animal Weight &amp; Classification</b> | <b>Bedded Space Allowance</b>    |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Ewes (without lambs)                      |                                  |
| under 60kg                                | 1.1 - 1.2 m <sup>2</sup> / ewe   |
| over 60kg                                 | 1.2 - 1.4 m <sup>2</sup> / ewe   |
| pregnant                                  | 1.4 - 1.5 m <sup>2</sup> / ewe   |
| in lambing pens                           | 1.5 m <sup>2</sup> / ewe         |
| Ewes with lamb under 6 weeks              |                                  |
| under 60kg                                | 1.5 - 1.7 m <sup>2</sup> / ewe   |
| over 60kg                                 | 1.5 - 1.8 m <sup>2</sup> / ewe   |
| Ewes with lamb over 6 weeks               |                                  |
| under 60kg                                | 1.8 - 2.0 m <sup>2</sup> / ewe   |
| over 60kg                                 | 2.0 - 2.2 m <sup>2</sup> / ewe   |
| Feeder Lambs                              |                                  |
| under 30kg                                | 0.7 m <sup>2</sup> / feeder lamb |
| 30-40kg                                   | 0.8 m <sup>2</sup> / feeder lamb |
| over 40kg                                 | 1.0 m <sup>2</sup> / feeder lamb |
| Rams                                      |                                  |
| under 90kg                                | 1.9 - 2.8 m <sup>2</sup> / ram   |
| over 90kg                                 | 2.8 - 3.0 m <sup>2</sup> / ram   |

- b) Ceiling height must be a minimum of 2.7 m (9 ft) (Code requirement – Table 2.1).
- c) Sheep density on pasture must ensure maintenance of pasture productivity (See Section 3.10 – Outdoor Access).

### 3.3 Maternity Housing / Lambing Pens

- a) Lambing pens must be different from hospital pens.
- b) When sheep are housed indoors, one lambing pen must be provided for every eight ewes.
- c) The ewe and her offspring must have the ability to lie down simultaneously and turn around without difficulty (See Section 3.2 – Space Allowances).
- d) Lambing pens must be fully bedded and dry to ensure ewe comfort and stable footing, and designed to facilitate easy cleaning and disinfecting.
- e) Lambing pens must be clean and re-bedded between occupants to avoid buildup of pathogens.
- f) Remove and dispose of dead lambs and afterbirths in accordance with government regulations (or recommendations where regulations do not exist) and in such a way that sheep and predators will not have access to them.
- g) Lambing pens must be equipped with a feeder and source of water.
- h) Lambing pens must provide protection from draughts, as lambs are susceptible to pneumonia. Provide extra bedding when lambing inside in cold temperatures (Code requirement, Sec. 2.1.4).

### 3.4 Lamb Housing (Post-weaning)

- a) Lambs must not be tethered in any housing system.

- b) Lambs must be housed in groups and have enough space to turn around, lie down, stretch out when lying down, get up, rest and groom themselves comfortably at all ages (See Section 3.2 – Space Allowances).
- c) Lamb housing must have enough well-maintained, dry bedding to provide insulation and warmth and to allow all lambs to lie comfortably at the same time. Plan the lambing period to match local climatic conditions and available shelter (Code requirement, Sec. 1.1.2).

### ***Recommendations and Guidance***

Small group sizes are recommended. Lambs should be housed with penmates of similar size, age and condition.

### **3.5 Ram Housing**

- a) Housing must allow rams to easily stand up, lie down, adopt normal resting postures and mount safely (See Section 3.2 – Space Allowances).
- b) If housed alone, rams must be housed within sight, sound and smell of other sheep.
- c) When planning ram housing, consider the risk of aggressive behavior between rams (Code requirement, Sec. 5.10).

### **3.6 Lighting**

- a) Lighting programs must allow sheep access to a normal period of daylight hours. Periodic restrictions on daylight hours for the purpose of triggering estrus may be permitted by the Certification Body. (meets Code requirements, Sec. 2.1.3)
- b) Natural lighting of barns must allow for assessment of animals and their surrounding environment at any location in the barn during daylight hours. Indoor artificial lighting (e.g. light bulbs) must allow for assessment of the flock and their surrounding environment at any location in the barn at any time when natural daylight is insufficient. (meets Code requirements, Sec. 2.1.3)
- c) For barns that do not have a source of natural lighting, an implementation plan must be submitted to, and approved by, the Certification Body. The implementation period cannot exceed 5 years.
- d) At night time, it is not required that lights remain on; however, lighting must be available for use should it be required. Portable lighting sources (e.g. lamps, flashlights) are acceptable for non-electrified facilities.

### ***Recommendations and Guidance***

Examples of natural lighting include windows, doors, open-sided barns, etc.

### **3.7 Temperature**

- a) Sheep must be protected from adverse weather conditions, including severe heat and cold.
  - b) Special attention to shade on pasture is required in the summer months.
  - c) Avoid handling or moving of sheep during the hottest part of the day (Code requirement, Sec. 1.1.1).
  - d) Do not shear sheep during the winter months unless they are housed indoors and/or measures have been taken to ensure they are protected from extreme weather.
  - e) Assist individual sheep showing signs of heat or cold stress (Code requirement, Sec. 1.1).
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### 3.8 Ventilation and Air Quality

- a) Sheep must be provided with fresh air through effective ventilation programs and maintenance of barn conditions, such that aerial contaminants are not noticeably unpleasant to a human observer. Effective ventilation rates will help to ensure proper circulation of fresh air throughout the animal's indoor environment, and exhaustion of air contaminants (e.g. dust and gases) to the barn's exterior.
- b) Ammonia concentrations must not exceed 25 ppm (meets Code requirement, Sec. 2.1.1). Ammonia levels must be measured at sheep head height and recorded monthly using automated equipment or the litmus paper test kits available through the Certification Body. These records must be made available to the Validator.
- c) Special attention to ventilation in barns is required in the summer months.
- d) Care must be taken to avoid creating a draughty environment in the barn at sheep level, particularly during lambing, as lambs are susceptible to pneumonia.

#### ***Recommendations and Guidance***

The Certification Body will provide a litmus paper test kit to certified members for use in measuring ammonia levels.

### 3.9 Sanitation and Waste Management

- a) Bedding, water and feed containers must be clean and well maintained.
- b) For indoor facilities, manure and soiled bedding must be removed often enough to ensure that animals have a clean, dry place to lie, unless operating a well-managed deep bedding system.
- c) Hospital pens, maternity areas, nursery pens and other lambing and lamb housing facilities must be clean and re-bedded between individuals or groups to avoid build-up of pathogens.
- d) All by-products such as manure, bedding and carcasses must be managed and disposed of in accordance with all relevant government regulations (or recommendations where regulations do not exist).
- e) Waste must be managed and stored in a manner so as to avoid run off contaminating sheep housing areas, water sources, or feed and bedding supplies; also to avoid attracting scavengers to the housing area. (Code requirement, Sec. 2.1.4)

#### ***Recommendations and Guidance***

As a guide, bedding is too wet if your knees feel wet after 25 seconds of kneeling in the area.

### 3.10 Outdoor Access

- a) Sheep (including rams) must have the option of accessing pasture for a minimum of 150 days per year and a minimum of 4 hours per day during the growing season. Exceptions to this requirement are allowed for:
  - Animals whose health and welfare would be jeopardized
  - Animals that are sick or injured and require segregation
  - Unforeseen/exceptional risks relating to soil, water or plant qualityEvidence must be provided as to why an exception should be granted.

- b) Pasture must be maintained to minimize the risk of injury and disease to all sheep.
- c) Pasture must provide access to clean drinking water (See Section 2.2 – Water). Snow is not suitable as the sole source of water (See Section 2.2 b). Sheep on pasture must not be expected to walk longer than one mile (1.6 km) to access water (see Section 2.2 f).
- d) To ensure animal comfort, all sheep kept on pasture must have access to natural or artificial shelter and shade to protect them from inclement weather and direct sunlight (Code requirement, Sec. 1.1.2). Consider direction of prevailing winds when constructing shelter to ensure adequate airflow and to protect sheep from cold winds (Code requirement, Sec. 2.1.1).
- e) Smooth wire, barbed wire and electric fencing are all acceptable for field fencing of pastures. Electrifying barbed wire fencing is prohibited. All forms of fencing must be maintained to avoid injury.
- f) Sheep density on pasture or in yards must not be so high as to damage the ground quality such that sheep health and safety are compromised. Exercise care to prevent pasture depletion or destruction due to over-grazing. Stock density must ensure maintenance of pasture productivity.

### ***Recommendations and Guidance***

Pasture management should aim to provide high quality forage. Sustainable pasture management practices, such as rotational grazing, should be employed. It is recommended that pasture supply the majority of sheep dry matter intake and nutritional requirements during the grazing season.

Farmers are encouraged to develop an Environmental Farm Plan with their local government body.

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## 4.0 HEALTH AND BIOSECURITY

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### 4.1 Purpose of Flock Health Planning

The health status of a flock is a significant factor in the welfare of the sheep. Accordingly, developing a Flock Health Plan and establishing a working relationship with a veterinarian are critical for maintaining animal health and welfare. The main goals of a Flock Health Plan are to prevent disease and to minimize mortality, illness and injury over time. As such, the principal components of the plan are:

- a) An initial plan that outlines the management practices that prevent potential disease and injury;
- b) Subsequent annual updates intended to strengthen the plan by addressing past health and welfare concerns;
- c) Record keeping of animal health measures; and
- d) Correspondence between the manager, their veterinarian and the Certification Body on all significant health matters such as disease outbreaks or occurrences of atypical diseases.

### 4.2 Flock Health Plans

- a) All farms must establish a working relationship with a veterinarian who is familiar with the farm and is available as needed. It is recommended that this veterinarian have expertise in the species of animals on the farm; however, the Program recognizes that it can be challenging to find veterinarians with expertise in sheep in some areas/provinces.
- b) A Flock Health Plan must be completed in writing, fully implemented by the farm manager and submitted to the Certification Body for review. Producers are not required to use the Flock Health Plan template; however, any plan must include the information requested in the Flock Health Plan template designed by the Certification Body.
- c) The Flock Health Plan must be reviewed annually by the farm manager and any updates submitted to the Certification Body with supporting documentation (e.g. record sheets).
- d) The Certification Body may request an update to the Flock Health Plan after a major health incident (e.g. disease outbreak) and/or when a significant change to the production system is made (e.g. introduction of new species to the farm, facility changes, etc.).
- e) Records of lab testing or other diagnostics may be requested by the Certification Body as part of the Flock Health Plan.

### ***Recommendations and Guidance***

It is recommended that the initial Flock Health Plan, as well as all subsequent updates, be made in consultation with a veterinarian. Vaccination protocols should be developed with a veterinarian and described in the Flock Health Plan.

### 4.3 Prevention of Disease and Injury

- a) Each animal must be observed daily for:
    - Physical injury
    - Foot health and lameness (see Appendix C for lameness scoring chart)
    - Infectious diseases (e.g. footrot)
    - Udder health (lactating ewes)
    - Metabolic diseases, particularly for dairy sheep
-

- Body condition scores other than 3 (see Appendix B for body condition scoring)
- b) Monitor newborn lambs for signs of starvation, hypothermia and frostbite. Ensure immediate care is given if such instances arise. (Code requirement, Sec. 5.11)
- c) Injury or disease must be treated immediately. Sheep with untreatable conditions, not responding to treatment, or not fit for transport must be immediately euthanized (also see Section 7.1 – Euthanasia). If in doubt about a sheep's health, the most effective treatment, or whether to euthanize, consult a vet without delay (Code requirement, Sec. 4.4).
- d) Producers must address foot problems through care and prevention. As per the Code of Practice (Section 5.5):
  - Inspect and trim hooves to maintain hoof health and sheep welfare
  - Aim to trim hooves when they are soft, such as during rain or heavy dew
  - Trimming must be performed or supervised by a competent individual using accepted techniques
  - Equipment must be clean and well-maintained. Disinfect equipment between flocks and between sheep within a flock that have an infectious disease/illness.
- e) Lameness rates (entire flock) must not exceed those listed in the following table:

| Score | Rate  |
|-------|-------|
| 3     | 5 %   |
| 4     | 2.5 % |
| 5     | 0 %   |

If these rates are exceeded, a follow up consultation with a veterinarian is required to discuss an action plan for mitigation and prevention. A summary of the outcome or the veterinarian's report may be requested by the Certification Body. See Appendix C for lameness scoring information.

- f) Lameness must be diagnosed and either treated, culled or euthanized (see Appendix C for course of action).
- g) Monitor flock for signs of internal/external parasitism (Code requirement, Sec. 4.4.2).
  - Familiarize/train stockpeople on the basic biology of parasites that affect sheep and how to detect them
  - Develop and implement parasite control and treatment strategies tailored to the farm location and management under the guidance of your vet
  - Develop and implement strategies for treatment and control of tapeworms (*Cysticercus ovis*) in farm dogs
- h) Sheep must be vaccinated as appropriate to each farm and according to the veterinarian's recommendation. Use of vaccines, drugs and other treatments (e.g. homeopathic medicines) other than as indicated on the label is prohibited, unless prescribed by a veterinarian.
- i) Provisions must be made for the segregation and care of sick and injured animals (Code requirement, Sec. 2.1). Pens must be constructed to facilitate effective cleaning and disinfection of surfaces. Outdoor sick pens must be clean and re-bedded between occupants to avoid buildup of pathogens.
- j) Sick sheep must be housed within sight, sound and smell of other sheep.
- k) Animals who have untreatable conditions, are not responding to treatment, or are unfit for transport (see Section 6.0 – Transport and Handling) must be immediately and humanely euthanized (See Section 7.0 – Euthanasia and Slaughter).



- l) Mortality rates must not exceed the following:

| <b>Class</b>              | <b>Rate</b>    |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Lambs under 7 days of age | 10 % per cycle |
| Lambs over 7 days of age  | 5 % per cycle  |
| Adult sheep               | 3 % per year   |

Numbers include animals that die or are euthanized on farm. Numbers also include those animals culled or shipped for reasons of poor health. These numbers do not include animals lost to predation (see Section 4.3 (n) for predation thresholds).

If these rates are exceeded, a follow up consultation with a veterinarian is required to discuss the action plan for mitigation and prevention. A summary of the outcome or the veterinarian's report may be requested by the Certification Body.

- m) If reason for mortality is suspicious, send dead animals for diagnostic testing (as per the flock health plan – see Section 4.2 – Flock Health Plans).
- n) It is unlikely that predation will be completely eliminated. Occasional losses (1-2 sheep) are likely. However, every effort must be made to manage predation and protect sheep. If the number of sheep lost to predation exceeds 2 animals annually, a plan to improve flock protection must be implemented. The producer must evaluate the protocols in place and implement improved protocols to keep sheep safe from predators. Areas of consideration include fencing, guard animals (dogs, llamas), dead stock management and housing and grazing practices. Provide immediate treatment or euthanasia to sheep that have been attacked by a predator (Code requirement, Sec. 5.3).
- o) Complete and accurate records must be kept for:
- Animal production and health
  - Disease outbreaks (including cause, if known)
  - Mortalities (including cause, if known)
  - Euthanized and culled animals (and reasons)
  - Lab testing or other diagnostics
  - All vaccines, drugs and treatments purchased and used, including homeopathic medicines

These records must be made available to the Validator, and, if appropriate, provided to the flock veterinarian.

### ***Recommendations and Guidance***

Euthanize lambs with frostbitten feet. Treat navels at birth to reduce the risk of joint ill.

It is recommended that footbaths be changed as they become soiled. Baths should be at least 6 cm deep in order to ensure the hoof is cleaned and must be carefully constructed with non-slip flooring to avoid slipping. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for proper preparation and use of footbaths.

It is recommended that pastured animals be monitored at least once every two months for internal parasite load and should be inspected at least once a year for external parasites. Where possible, biological parasite controls are recommended.

#### 4.4 Fly Strike

- a) Familiarize yourself and stockpeople on the basic biology of blowflies that cause strikes.
- b) Determine the relative risk of fly-strike (see Sheep Code of Practice – Section 4.4.1).
- c) Take steps to minimize the attraction of flies to sheep:
  - Prevent diarrhea and treat it immediately if cases arise; crutch accordingly
  - Avoid applying sheep identification during fly season
  - Clean and treat wounds immediately
  - Shear sheep before fly season
  - Tail dock as a last resort (see Section 5.4 on Surgical Procedures – Tail Docking, of this Standard for requirements related to docking)
  - Consider using fly traps (see Section 5.15 – Nuisance Animal Control, of this Standard)
- d) Monitor flock for fly-strike when fly season begins and during prolonged periods of humidity or damp weather.
- e) Treat sheep affected by fly-strike immediately.

(Code of Practice requirements – Section 4.4.1)

#### 4.5 Biosecurity

- a) Farms must have a written biosecurity plan to minimize the risk of introducing disease to the flock. The plan may be simple or complex, depending on the level of risk on the farm.
- b) It is the producer's responsibility to ensure compliance with on-farm biosecurity protocols.

#### ***Recommendations and Guidance***

The Certification Body has developed a template biosecurity plan that is available as a resource. Farmers may submit their own plan provided it addresses the information requested in the Certification Body's template.

Biosecurity plans can be developed using an industry-approved program, such as:

- The Canadian Sheep Federation's Food Safe Farm Practices program, which is based on the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) program
- A program developed by an accredited third-party certified organic association

All guests, personnel and Validators should sign a visitor log-book in order to assist in on-farm disease tracking/control. The log-book should indicate when the last contact with another sheep farm occurred.

People should have access to foot dips or dedicated footwear, and disinfectants for washing hands must be accessible at each barn to avoid cross-contamination, especially if different breeds, species, ages or sources of sheep are located on the same site. Guests should be encouraged to wear footwear and clothing (e.g. plastic booties or disinfected rubber boots, clean cover-alls, etc.).

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## 5.0 MANAGEMENT

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### 5.1 General

- a) All farm records must be kept up to date. See Appendix A for a list of all record keeping requirements.
- b) All equipment used to raise and handle sheep for the SPCA Certified program must be presented to the Validator for approval under the Program. Producers are urged to contact the Certification Body prior to purchasing new equipment if they are concerned about approval.
- c) Lambing aids must only be used to assist a delivery and not to produce a lamb as quickly as possible. When lambing assistance is required, acceptable veterinary practices must be observed.
- d) Pharmaceutical products may only be used to treat specific illnesses or conditions. Administration of pharmaceutical products to enhance growth or production is prohibited. Estrus-regulating hormones must not be used before two post-partum cycles.

### 5.2 Staff Knowledge and Training

- a) All staff with responsibility for animals must have access to a copy of and be familiar with the SPCA Certified Standards for the Raising and Handling of Sheep and Canada's *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep* (2013).
- b) All farm staff with responsibilities for handling sheep must be knowledgeable of:
  - Normal and abnormal behaviours of sheep (Refer to the Code of Practice for Sheep (2013) for an "*Introduction to Sheep Handling and Behaviour*" (Appendix E) and "*Signs of Pain in Sheep*" (Appendix J) for guidance)
  - Common diseases
  - Physical and psychological needs
  - Appropriate management techniques
  - Skills in handling sheep (see Section 5.7 – Handling)
  - How to perform common procedures (e.g. body condition scoring, lameness scoring, castration)
- c) An on-farm training program must equip all farm staff with the knowledge and skills essential to perform their job, including the bullet points in Section 5.2 b). Training should also provide access to new information on animal care methods and welfare issues.
- d) Producers and stock people must understand the reporting requirement for reportable diseases. Immediately consult your flock veterinarian when suspected cases occur (Code requirement, Sec. 4.2).

### 5.3 Surgical Procedures – Horn Removal

- a) Inspect horned sheep, especially rams, regularly to ensure no part of the horn is in contact with the face (Code requirement, Sec. 5.9).
  - b) If horns are left intact, they may need to be trimmed to avoid injury or to prevent interference with the animal's ability to see, eat or drink. Only remove a small amount of the horn (i.e. the tip) to avoid damaging the soft, sensitive internal tissue. Trimming must only be performed by a skilled, trained person, such as a vet or competent stockperson.
  - c) Dehorning (including disbudding or substantial horn trimming) is a rare practice in the sheep husbandry and is not permitted. Producers who feel disbudding, dehorning or
-

substantial horn trimming is necessary must submit an explanation to the Certification Body for approval.

- d) If disbudding, dehorning or substantial horn trimming is deemed necessary and approval has been granted by the Certification Body, the procedure must be performed by a licensed veterinarian using a local anaesthetic (such as lidocaine) and a post-operative analgesic (a NSAID such as ketoprofen). (Code requirement, Sec. 5.9)

### **Recommendations and Guidance**

Substantial horn trimming (def.): Removal of more than just the tip of the horn, typically resulting in damage to the soft (internal) tissue of the horn.

### **5.4 Surgical Procedures – Tail Docking**

- a) Although uncommon, tail docking of hair breeds of sheep is prohibited.
- b) Tail docking on wool breeds of sheep will be permitted provided producers ensure docking is only performed by a skilled and competent operator using proper, clean, sanitized and well-maintained equipment and one of the approved methods described in this section. The decision to tail dock must be based on a welfare risk/benefit analysis rather than carrying out docking as a routine (Code requirement, Sec. 5.7).
- c) Tails must be docked no shorter than the lower lip of the vulva in ewe lambs and the equivalent length in ram lambs. Tails must be docked no shorter than the distal end of the caudal fold (Code requirement Sec. 5.7; refer to diagrams in Appendix F – Tail Docking, of the Code).
- d) The following table provides a list of accepted methods of tail docking with associated age and pain medication requirements. These procedures must not be conducted within the first 24 hours of age in order to avoid interference with colostrum intake.

| <b>Method</b>                            | <b>Age</b>  | <b>Required Pain Medications(s)</b>      | <b>Further Guidance</b>   |
|--|-------------|--|---|
| Rubber ring / banding                    | 2 - 7 days  | must be phased in if not already used    | Producers who use the rubber ring alone will be expected to phase in the use of pain medication within 2 years of certification, or adopt one of the other methods. |
|  | 7 - 21 days | can choose local anesthetic OR analgesic | Although producers have the choice of which pain medication to use, it is recommended that both be administered when possible.                                      |
| Clamp (burdizzo)                         | 2 - 21 days | can choose local anesthetic OR analgesic | Although producers have the choice of which pain medication to use, it is recommended that both be administered when possible.                                      |
| Clamp (burdizzo) + Rubber ring / banding | 2 - 7 days  | not required                             | See <i>Recommendations and Guidance</i> below.  |
| Hot iron                                 | 2 - 21 days | not required                             | Ensure the iron is clean and fully heated before carrying out the procedure.  |

|                           |           |                                |   |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---|
| Any of the above methods  | 3-6 weeks | local anesthetic AND analgesic | Must consult with a veterinarian before carrying out the procedure.   |
| Any of the above methods* | > 6 weeks | local anesthetic AND analgesic | Must be performed by a licensed veterinarian using both anesthesia and post-operative analgesia (Code requirement, Sec. 5.7).<br>* Rubber rings must not be used after 6 weeks of age (Code requirement, Sec. 5.7). |

- Local anesthetic: e.g. Lidocaine. Must be injected at the site of the procedure (i.e. locally). Consult with your veterinarian about appropriate injection site, timing and procedure.
- Analgesic: e.g. A non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) like ketoprofen. Consult with your veterinarian regarding appropriate injection site, timing and procedure.
- Should farmers find it difficult to meet the requirements of this section, they are encouraged to contact the Certification Body for guidance.

**Recommendations and Guidance**

Producers are strongly encouraged to use both a local anesthetic and an analgesic when docking tails, regardless of the method chosen.

Docking tails too short can lead to more problems than leaving tails intact, such as increased risk of fly-strike or rectal prolapse. It is important to ensure tails are docked no shorter than the distal end of the caudal fold (refer to tail docking diagrams in Appendix F of the 2013 Sheep Code).

When used in combination with the rubber ring, the clamp (burdizzo) causes one third of the pain produced by rubber ring alone because it destroys nerves, thus reducing pain impulses below the crushed point. To be effective the clamp must be applied for 10 seconds across the full width of the tail. The clamp can be applied either proximal or distal to the rubber ring (see diagram below); however, research suggests this method is less painful if the clamp is applied proximal to the ring.



**5.5 Surgical Procedures – Castration**

- The decision to castrate must be based on a welfare risk/benefit analysis rather than being performed as a routine procedure. If castration is performed, producers must ensure it is performed only by a skilled and competent operator using proper, clean, sanitized and

well-maintained equipment and one of the accepted methods listed in this section (meets Code requirements, Sec. 5.6).

- b) The following table provides a list of accepted methods of castration with associated age and pain medication requirements. These procedures must not be conducted within the first 24 hours of age in order to avoid interference with colostrum intake.

| Method                                   | Age         | Required Pain Medications(s)             | Further Guidance  |
|--|-------------|--|---|
| Surgical (knife/scalpel)                 | 2 - 21 days | local anesthetic AND analgesic           | Consider using bleeding control and sedation.   |
| Rubber ring / banding                    | 2 - 7 days  | must be phased in if not already used    | Producers who use the rubber ring alone will be expected to phase in the use of pain medication within 2 years of certification, or adopt one of the other methods.   |
|  | 7 - 21 days | can choose local anesthetic OR analgesic | Although producers have the choice of which pain medication to use, it is recommended that both be administered when possible.  |
| Clamp (burdizzo)                         | 2 - 21 days | can choose local anesthetic OR analgesic | Although producers have the choice of which pain medication to use, it is recommended that both be administered when possible.  |
| Clamp (burdizzo) + Rubber ring / banding | 2 - 7 days  | not required                             | See <i>Recommendations and Guidance</i> below.  |
| Any of the above methods                 | 3-10 weeks  | local anesthetic AND analgesic           | Must consult with a veterinarian before carrying out the procedure. Use a method of bleeding control for surgical methods. Consider using sedation.   |
| Any of the above methods                 | > 10 weeks  | local anesthetic AND analgesic           | Must be performed by a licensed veterinarian using both anesthesia and post-operative analgesia (Code requirement, Sec. 5.6). Consider using sedation. Use a method of bleeding control for surgical methods. |
| Short scrotum castration                 | Any age     |  | Prohibited (as per Code requirement, Sec. 5.6)  |

- Local anesthetic: e.g. Lidocaine. Must be injected at the site of the procedure (i.e. locally). Consult with your veterinarian about appropriate injection site, timing and procedure.
- Analgesic: e.g. A non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) like ketoprofen. Consult with your veterinarian regarding appropriate injection site, timing and procedure.
- Should farmers find it difficult to meet the requirements of this section, they are encouraged to contact the Certification Body for guidance.

### **Recommendations and Guidance**

Short scrotum castration (def.): For this method of castration, the testes are pushed up against the ram's body and a rubber ring is applied on the scrotum below the testes. As a result, the scrotum dies and drops off, but the testes survive. Most rams become infertile using this method, although infertility is not guaranteed, and they still exhibit ram-like behaviours such as aggression or riding.

All methods of castration cause pain to sheep with the surgical (knife) method causing the most acute pain. Producers are strongly encouraged to use both a local anesthetic and an analgesic when castrating, regardless of the method chosen. Younger animals heal more quickly than older animals, so producers should aim to perform painful procedures early in the animal's life. If at all possible, farmers should attempt to market intact males at a younger age to avoid the need for castration.

When used in combination with the rubber ring, the clamp (burdizzo) causes one third of the pain produced by rubber ring alone because it destroys nerves, thus reducing pain impulses below the crushed point. To be effective, the clamp must be applied for 10 seconds across the width of each cord. Clamp each cord separately. Clamping each cord individually allows more precision – you can manipulate one testicle into the scrotum at a time – and prevents accidental crushing of a testicle or the urethra. Furthermore, there is a thick piece of tissue running down the center of the scrotum that can prevent the burdizzo from completely closing when attempting to clamp both testicles at once, thus preventing complete destruction of the two cords. The clamp can be applied either proximal or distal to the rubber ring (see diagram below); however, research suggests this method is less painful if the clamp is applied proximal to the ring. Note: Added care should be taken to avoid crushing the urethra if the clamp is applied proximal to the ring.

**PROXIMAL**

Toward body



**DISTAL**

Toward tip of scrotum

### **5.6 Surgical Procedures – Other**

- a) Performing the mules operation (mulesing) is strictly prohibited (Code requirement, Sec. 5.8).
- b) Vasectomies and laparoscopic artificial insemination and embryo transfer are considered surgical procedures which must only be performed by a licensed veterinarian (Code requirement, Sec. 5.10).
- c) Although uncommon, spaying (females) is prohibited.

## 5.7 Handling

- a) Animals must be handled with care and in a manner that imposes the minimum possible stress on the animals. When moving sheep, facility design and the surrounding environment must be considered.
- b) Handlers must refrain from using loud noises or hitting.
- c) Electric prods are ineffective and must not be used on sheep.
- d) Animal handlers must be trained in humane handling techniques, including the concepts of “field of vision”, “flight zone” and “point of balance.” Members are encouraged to take a livestock handling course and obtain a copy of the American Meat Institute’s *Good Management Practices for Animal Handling and Stunning*. Producers can contact the Certification Body for information about these and other resources and courses on the handling of sheep.
- e) Catching and restraint should be conducted by holding the head, legs or flank and never by holding or grabbing, dragging or lifting by the wool, tail, legs, neck, ears or horns. Sheep have a very thin membrane between the hide and carcass that can easily separate when people or dogs hold onto them by the wool.
- f) Sheep must not be restrained on their side or back for more than a few minutes at a time, especially if they are heavily pregnant or if their rumen is full (Code requirement, Sec. 5.1).
- g) Electro-immobilization must not be used on sheep (Code requirement, Sec. 5.1).
- h) Some breeds of herding dogs that work by nipping and biting can pose a serious welfare issue for sheep. Herding dogs must be properly trained and must respond to voice, hand or whistle commands. Validators may ask to see a demonstration of herding dogs at work to ensure they do not harass sheep by continuously biting them, grabbing them or pulling on their wool. Dogs must not be allowed to work sheep without an experienced handler present (Code requirement, Sec. 5.1).

### **Recommendations and Guidance**

Consider using positive reinforcement, such as feed rewards, instead of negative reinforcement or punishment to encourage the desired response to handling.

## 5.8 Sheep Shearing

- a) All wool sheep must be shorn at least once annually and more often if necessary to ensure good health and welfare of sheep (Code requirement, Sec. 5.4).
  - b) Well-trained, skilled and conscientious personnel must be used to shear sheep. Novice personnel should receive training and supervision from experienced co-workers or more formally through extension classes. Only experienced shearers should shear pregnant ewes in their last month of gestation (Code requirement, Sec. 5.4).
  - c) Handling facilities and equipment should be designed explicitly for this task and maintained in good condition. Shearing equipment must be sanitized between flocks, particularly any equipment or clothing brought onto the farm by contract workers.
  - d) Feed withdrawal – refer to Section 2.1 – Feed.
  - e) Water withdrawal – refer to Section 2.2 – Water.
  - f) Consider time of year, expected weather conditions, local insect season and available shelter when planning shearing. Take steps to prevent potential negative outcomes associated with shearing (e.g. hypothermia, sunburn, biting insects, health problems). (Code requirements, Sec. 5.4)
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- If winter shearing is performed, sheep must have access to shelter that can house the entire flock comfortably. Refer to Section 3.2 – Space Allowances of this Standard.
- g) Cuts and wounds incurred at shearing must be treated immediately.

### **Recommendations and Guidance**

Shearing is necessary for the well-being of sheep but can negatively affect the welfare of the animal if performed incorrectly. Care must be taken to complete the procedure in a timely fashion without causing injury to the sheep. Shearing when animals will be exposed to wet conditions, severe cold, or intense sunshine coupled with high temperatures should be avoided; however, failure to shear ewes before confinement for lambing, even in the winter, may result in moisture and health problems in the barn.

### **5.9 Lambing**

- a) Stockpeople must be able to recognize when a ewe is experiencing difficulty lambing and know when/how to provide assistance, or when to seek help from experienced stockpeople or a vet (Code requirement, Sec. 5.11).
- b) Supervise lambing and provide immediate assistance when the ewe is in need. Use good hygiene and sanitation practices. (Code requirement, Sec. 5.11)
- c) Only perform an embryotomy on dead lambs (Code requirement, Sec. 5.11).

Refer to the following sections of this Standard for additional information:

- Section 2.3 – Lambs (RE: feeding & colostrum)
- Section 3.3 – Maternity Housing / Lambing Pens
- Section 3.4 – Lamb Housing (Post-Weaning)

Also refer to Appendix G – “*Lambing and Neonatal Care*”, of the Sheep Code of Practice (2013)

### **5.10 Breeding and Replacement Animal Management**

- a) Ewe lambs must not be bred before they are 8 months of age, or weigh 70% of their projected adult weight.
- b) Intrauterine (laparoscopic) and transcervical artificial insemination are not acceptable for routine breeding programs; however, using these techniques on a non-routine basis to improve the genetics of a closed flock is acceptable.
- c) Vasectomies and laparoscopic artificial insemination and embryo transfer are considered surgical procedures which may only be performed by a licensed veterinarian (Code requirement, Sec. 5.10).
- d) Estrus-regulating hormones must not be used before two post-partum cycles have occurred.
- e) Electroejaculation must only be performed by a licensed veterinarian (Code requirement, Sec. 5.10).

### **5.11 Milking (Dairy Production)**

- a) Animals must be handled quietly and calmly to, in and out of the milking parlour.
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- b) Animals should not have to wait longer than an hour and a half from the time they are moved to the holding area to the time they return to the barn/pasture (maximum 3 hours/day). If the holding area is bedded, longer waiting times are permitted.
- c) Stockpeople responsible for milking ewes must be competent and experienced in milking, or be under the direct supervision of a stockperson who is (Code requirement, Sec. 5.12).
- d) Develop and implement protocols to train ewes to the milking system when in their first lactation (Code requirement, Sec. 5.12).
- e) Sheep must be milked on a consistent schedule to provide the animals with a predictable routine.
- f) Milking must be carried out at least once daily (Code requirement, Sec. 5.12).
- g) Sheep must be milked out completely at each milking.
- h) To prevent the spread of mastitis, teats must be cleaned before milking and coated in a teat dip after milking.
- i) Ewes being treated with pharmaceuticals for disease symptoms must be identified, milked last when possible, and drug withdrawal times must be followed. Such ewes must continue to be milked on schedule (Code requirement, Sec. 5.12).
- j) Ewes must not be subjected to stressful or painful procedures (e.g. injections) in the milking parlour as this may cause a negative association with milking or the parlour.
- k) Animals too sick or weak to walk to the parlour must be milked in a hospital pen with a portable milking unit, or by hand.
- l) Equipment used in milking must be suitable for sheep (Code requirement, Sec. 5.12).
- m) Ensure milking equipment/machinery is functioning properly by carrying out proper maintenance tests in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations (Code requirement, Sec. 5.12). Safeguards must be implemented to prevent and eliminate tingle voltage.
- n) Milking equipment and facilities must be sanitized according to industry standards.
- o) Follow HACCP principles in all aspects of milking and parlour procedures (also refer to Section 4.5 – Biosecurity).

### 5.12 Cull Animal Management

- a) Cull animals must be cared for right up until shipping or euthanasia.
- b) Lambs must not be transported until at least 15 days of age.
- c) Animals too sick or injured to be transported must be immediately treated or euthanized on site (See Section 7.0 – Euthanasia and Slaughter).
- d) If animals are culled, drug withdrawal times must be observed prior to slaughter for meat.

### 5.13 Animal Identification

- a) Ear-tags (metal and plastic), tattoos and electronic microchips are acceptable methods of identification. According to the Code of Practice for Sheep (Section 5.2):
    - Proper restraint appropriate for the size of sheep must be used
    - Identification procedures must be performed or supervised by a competent stockperson to ensure the procedure causes the minimum amount of handling stress
    - Ensure proper sanitation, maintenance and functioning of all equipment used in the procedure
    - Tags must be suitable for the age, size and breed of sheep
    - When tagging, use a maximum of two tags per ear positioned according to the manufacturer's instructions
  - b) Ear notching and punching are prohibited.
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- c) Branding is prohibited unless specifically required by export regulations, in which case:
  - Freeze branding must be chosen over hot iron branding, if allowed
  - Pain control medication must be used to mitigate pain caused by branding (consult your vet for assistance with choosing the appropriate medication)
  - Branding must be performed by a competent stockperson
  - Do not brand wet sheep(Code requirements, Sec. 5.2)
- d) If temporary identification is used (e.g. paints, dyes, wax markers), they must be designed as livestock markers and must be non-toxic.
- e) Ensure all identification requirements (i.e., Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP), export requirements) are met for all sheep leaving the farm (Code requirements, Sec. 5.2 & 6.1.3).

### 5.14 Equipment and Emergency Preparedness

- a) All equipment and facilities must be inspected at regular intervals and any defect or malfunction corrected (meets Code requirements, Sec. 2.1).
- b) Emergency back-up systems and plans must be maintained and tested, especially for ventilation, feeding and watering equipment.
  - Emergency back-up systems: Back-up generators and any other equipment used in the event of a power failure.
  - Emergency back-up plans: Procedures to be followed in the event of a natural disaster, power or other mechanical failure to ensure that animals can be cared for, housed, fed, and watered. Include protocols for moving animals from their existing housing to alternative temporary housing in the case of flood, fire, or other natural disaster.
- c) All fire prevention and detection devices and plans must be maintained, tested and up to date (meets Code requirements, Sec. 2.1).
- d) Emergency provisions for clean drinking water and feed must be available in case of natural disaster or power failure.
- e) Maintenance of waste storage facilities is essential to prevent groundwater, stream contamination and other such environmental disasters in the event of a natural disaster.

### *Recommendations and Guidance*

Producers are urged to contact the Certification Body prior to purchasing new equipment if they are concerned about its compliance to the Program standards.

### 5.15 Nuisance Animal Control

- a) Management techniques must be employed to control fly populations in indoor and outdoor settings. Fly paper and zap traps are acceptable.
- b) Sheep must be protected from predators on pasture, ideally by methods that do not cause death to the predator (e.g. use of guard dogs and/or electric fencing).
- c) Provide immediate treatment or euthanasia to sheep that have been attacked by a predator (Code requirement, Sec. 5.3). For permitted predation thresholds, see Section 4.3 (n), of this Standard.
- d) Any guardian animals (e.g. dogs, llamas, donkeys) used to protect the flock from predators must also meet high animal welfare standards for care and handling. This includes access to feed and water, grooming for the purpose of maintaining good health (e.g. hoof/claw or

hair trimming when necessary), parasite control and treatment of diseases/illnesses, among other things.

- Note: The grooming requirement is meant to be for practical purposes only (i.e. to maintain good health) and is not meant to be for aesthetic purposes.
- e) Humane methods of rodent control must be used. This includes devices or systems that minimize suffering and/or cause a quick death.
- Quick-kill snap traps are preferred over rodenticides.
  - Rodenticides may only be used to control severe outbreaks. When used, rodenticides must only be applied using bait stations, which must be closely monitored to ensure prompt removal of dead rodents.
  - Methods of control that prolong suffering (by causing starvation, hypothermia or excessive discomfort) are unacceptable, as are those that endanger other animals.
  - The use of glue boards, electrocution, drowning, live freezing and ineffective traps for controlling rodent populations are strictly prohibited.
- f) Methods of control for other nuisance animals (e.g. non-predatory birds like starlings and swallows) must also be humane. Traps/nets must be checked frequently. Prevention of entry to the barn is key.
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## 6.0 TRANSPORT AND HANDLING

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### 6.1 General

- a) Transporters/haulers must have a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and Emergency Protocol for transportation. It must be provided to the Validator upon request. At a minimum, the SOP and Emergency Protocol must outline how the requirements in Section 6.5 – Transport Conditions, are met.
- b) Personnel involved in transport and handling of animals are expected to adhere to:
  - Provincial and federal animal transport regulations, including the federal *Health of Animals Act*, which regulates humane handling and transport of animals
  - The *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals – Transportation* (2001), available through the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC)
  - The *SPCA Certified Standards for the Raising and Handling of Sheep*
  - The Transporter's Standard Operating Procedure and Emergency Protocol, as approved by the Certification Body
- c) Farm managers, staff and haulers must also have access to and be familiar with each of these documents.

### 6.2 Holding, Loading and Unloading

- a) Sheep must have access to feed and water until being loaded for transport.
- b) Animals must be collected and handled with care and in a manner that imposes the minimum possible stress on the animals (See Section 5.7 Handling).
- c) When moving sheep, facility design and the surrounding environment, as well as the use of other aids must be considered. Design and operate races, gates and pens to utilize sheep natural behaviours, and so the movement of sheep is not impeded.
- d) Precautions must be made to minimize noise levels from personnel or equipment during the loading and unloading process.
- e) All injuries and deaths occurring during loading and unloading must be recorded. A copy of this record must be kept on the farm and made available to the Validator.
- f) Maximum slope of loading/unloading ramps is 35 degrees (*Code of Practice – Transportation*, 2001).
- g) Electric prods must not be used on sheep (Code requirement, Sec. 6.2).
- h) Confirm that vehicles are in good repair, are clean, and are appropriately bedded (Code requirement, Sec. 6.2).

### 6.3 Fitness of Sheep for Transport

- a) Evaluate each sheep for fitness prior to transport. Unfit animals must not be transported unless travelling to a veterinarian for diagnosis and/or treatment on the advice of the vet. Otherwise, unfit animals must be immediately treated on-farm or euthanized (See Section 7.0 – Euthanasia and Slaughter).
  - b) Animals deemed unfit for transport include those that:
    - Score less than 2 for BCS on a 1-5 scale (see Appendix B for body condition scoring)
    - Score 4 or 5 for lameness on a 1-5 scale (some exceptions apply; see Appendix C)
    - Are under 15 days of age
    - Are likely to give birth during the journey
    - Fall within any of the descriptions listed on the *Should this Animal be Loaded?* decision tree (see Appendix D)
-

- c) Lactating animals (and their offspring) or animals in the final 10% of gestation must not be transported to a sale or to slaughter, but may be transported for short durations between properties that are part of the same farm operation. Lactating ewes must be milked out immediately prior to transport (Code requirement, Sec. 6.1.3).
- d) If an animal becomes unfit for transport during transit, it must be treated immediately, humanely slaughtered at the nearest possible location or euthanized immediately on site (See Section 7.0 – Euthanasia and Slaughter).

**Recommendations and Guidance**

It is strongly recommended that animals be scored for health and fitness before leaving the origin farm and at staging points such as auction yards, ports and borders (provincial and national). Body condition and lameness scores should be assessed.

**6.4 Hauler Qualifications**

- a) Sheep must be transported by haulers/staff who have completed training in the Certified Livestock Transport (CLT) program, or another training program approved by the Certification Body. *\*This requirement will be phased in as the course becomes available across Canada and a reasonable representative sample of certified haulers are available in the area.\**

**6.5 Transport Conditions**

- a) Time from beginning of loading until slaughter must not be longer than 24 hours unless a 5-hour rest period is provided with feed and water.
- b) Cross gates (partitions) are required in order to separate mature rams from other animals on the transport vehicle, to separate sheep of different size within the same vehicle and to create smaller groups of approximately 30-40 animals.
- c) Loading density must not exceed the following in any compartment of the transport vehicle:

| Shorn and Half Wool |                                       |  |                  |  |   |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------|--|---|
| METRIC              |                                       |  | IMPERIAL         |  |   |
| Body Weight (kg)    | Floor Space / Sheep (m <sup>2</sup> ) | Loading Density (kg / m <sup>2</sup> ) | Body Weight (lb) | Floor Space / Sheep (ft <sup>2</sup> ) | Loading Density (lb / ft <sup>2</sup> ) |
| 20                  | 0.16                                  | 123                                    | 40               | 1.6                                    | 25                                      |
| 30                  | 0.20                                  | 150                                    | 60               | 1.9                                    | 31                                      |
| 40                  | 0.24                                  | 170                                    | 80               | 2.3                                    | 35                                      |
| 50                  | 0.27                                  | 183                                    | 100              | 2.7                                    | 37                                      |
| 60                  | 0.32                                  | 190                                    | 120              | 3.1                                    | 39                                      |
| 70                  | 0.36                                  | 195                                    | 140              | 3.5                                    | 40                                      |
| 80                  | 0.41                                  | 196                                    | 160              | 4.0                                    | 40                                      |

| Full Wool           |  |   |                     |   |  |
|---------------------|--|---|---------------------|---|--|
| METRIC              |  |   | IMPERIAL            |   |  |
| Body Weight<br>(kg) | Floor Space / Sheep<br>(m <sup>2</sup> ) | Loading Density<br>(kg / m <sup>2</sup> ) | Body Weight<br>(lb) | Floor Space / Sheep<br>(ft <sup>2</sup> ) | Loading Density<br>(lb / ft <sup>2</sup> ) |
| 40                  | 0.27                                     | 146                                       | 80                  | 2.7                                       | 30   |
| 50                  | 0.30                                     | 165                                       | 100                 | 2.9                                       | 34   |
| 60                  | 0.34                                     | 174                                       | 120                 | 3.3                                       | 36   |
| 70                  | 0.40                                     | 176                                       | 140                 | 3.8                                       | 37   |
| 80                  | 0.46                                     | 175                                       | 160                 | 4.4                                       | 36   |

Code of Practice – Transportation (2001): Figures 15 and 16, page 44.

- d) Measures must be taken to shelter sheep from unfavourable environmental conditions (excessive wind, rain, heat or cold) during transport and before slaughter.
- e) During hot weather (over 25°C; 77°F)
  - Sheep must be transported at night, during the coolest part of the day, or at 20% lower density than those stipulated in Section 6.5 c), above.
  - Measures must be taken to promote active ventilation on the transport vehicle.
  - If vehicles are required to remain stationary for substantial periods of time during hot/sunny weather, measures must be taken to ensure vehicle ventilation aids in avoidance of heat stress (e.g. parking the vehicle in the shade).
- f) During cold weather (below 10°C; 50°F)
  - Increased bedding or insulation is necessary. Remove wet bedding after each trip to prevent it from freezing on the trucks. Bedding must be free of substances that would harm sheep.
  - Vehicle openings must be adjusted during cold weather to balance the need for protection from wind chill with the need for adequate ventilation.
  - Do not increase loading density beyond recommendations during cold weather as it restricts animal movement/repositioning and can therefore predispose individual animals to frostbite.
- g) All injuries and deaths occurring during transport must be recorded. A copy of this record must be kept on the farm and made available to the Validator. Haulers must take immediate corrective action to prevent identified causes of injury and/or death.

### **Recommendations and Guidance**

Sheep should only be transported in vehicles specifically designed for their transport in order to provide adequate care during the journey.

Where possible, sheep should be transported directly from farm to final destination (slaughterhouse or other farm) rather than through sales yards, auctions or collecting stations.

During hot weather periods, efforts should be made to transport sheep at night or during the coolest part of the day, instead of during peak temperature periods. The use of actively ventilated

transport vehicles and on-board equipment for monitoring temperature and humidity is strongly recommended. Parking the vehicle in a shaded area during rest stops will help control any abrupt rises in temperature during hot weather.

## **6.6 Purchase and Sale of Animals**

The program discourages the use of auctions/sale barns for purchasing and selling sheep.

- a) When the use of auctions/sale barns is unavoidable, the following documentation is required for each animal purchased (breeding animals exempt – see Section 6.6 b):
    - Signed affidavit from the seller confirming that sheep are raised under the SPCA Certified program
    - Farm of origin documentation
    - History including movement and transportation records, documenting previous owners/farms
  - b) Sheep purchased for breeding purposes that are not certified in the program shall be managed to the SPCA Certified Standard for one month in order to be included under the farm's Certificate of Registration (as per the SPCA Certified Operations Manual).
  - c) Compromised sheep must not be sent to auction or collection yards. Sheep with injuries, infectious diseases or obvious clinical signs of disease must not be sold or sent to auction (Code requirements, Sec. 6.1.1).
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## 7.0 EUTHANASIA AND SLAUGHTER

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### 7.1 Euthanasia

- a) Sheep with untreatable conditions, not responding to treatment, or not fit for transport must be immediately euthanized.
- b) All farms with stockpeople must have a written euthanasia action plan for each phase of production indicating the decision criteria for euthanizing an animal and listing the appropriate tools and methods for doing so. Consult with your vet for advice or assistance in creating the action plan. (Code requirements, Sec. 7.1 & 7.2)
  - Refer to Appendix L of the Code for a plan template and other plan considerations
- c) An acceptable method for euthanizing sheep on-farm or in-transit must be used. The method(s) must be quick, cause minimal pain and stress, and result in immediate loss of consciousness followed by death without the sheep regaining consciousness. According to the OIE (World Animal Health Organization) and the Code of Practice for Sheep (Sec. 7.2), acceptable methods of euthanasia for sheep are:

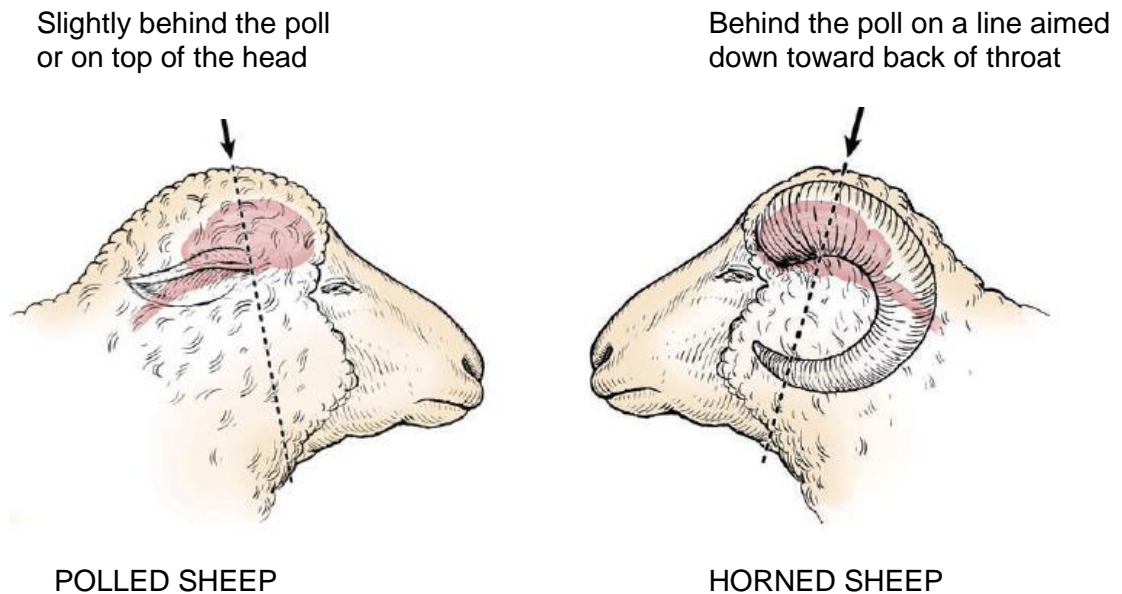
| Method   | Animal Type  | Application and Further Guidance  |
|--|--|---|
| Free bullet / firearm  | All sheep  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Equipment: Minimum of .22 caliber firearm using long-rifle hollow-nosed ammunition and .22 magnum for horned sheep, or a shotgun with correct ammunition.</li> <li>▪ Must only be done by persons well versed in handling firearms and licensed to use them. Should be done outdoors to avoid bullets ricocheting off of other surfaces.</li> <li>▪ Positioning: See siting guidelines below.</li> </ul> |
| Penetrating captive bolt (to stun) + pithing or bleeding out (kill step) | All sheep  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Equipment: Use the correct cartridge, charge and bolt length for sheep, as specified in the manufacturer's manual.</li> <li>▪ Positioning: Accuracy / precision is key. See siting guidelines below.</li> <li>▪ Confirm insensibility before performing pithing or bleeding out.</li> </ul>  |
| Non-penetrating captive bolt (to stun) + bleeding out (kill step)        | Lambs under 15kg (33 lbs)                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Equipment: Use as specified in the manufacturer's manual.</li> <li>▪ Positioning: Accuracy / precision is key.</li> <li>▪ Confirm insensibility before bleeding out.</li> </ul>  |
| Blunt force trauma (to stun) + bleeding out (kill step)                  | Lambs up to 5 days old and under 9kg (20 lbs) only | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Positioning: Administer a strong blow to the back or top of the head. Accuracy / precision on the first attempt is key to preventing pain and suffering.</li> <li>▪ Ensure skull has been crushed, either visually, or by feeling the area.</li> <li>▪ Confirm insensibility before bleeding out.</li> </ul>   |

---

|                                       |           |   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Intravenous injection of barbiturates | All sheep | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some barbiturate drugs are strictly controlled. Such drugs must be administered by, or under the direction of, a licensed veterinarian.</li> <li>▪ The sheep carcass is toxic. Safe, secure disposal is required.</li> </ul> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---|

See *Recommendations and Guidance* below for advice on pithing, bleeding out, confirming insensibility / unconsciousness and confirming death.

- d) The proper placement of a firearm or captive bolt device for polled and horned sheep is as illustrated below.



Alternatively, for HORNED sheep, the aim can be on the front of the skull directing the bolt or bullet toward the spinal cord.

Siting diagrams and description taken, with permission, from *Procedures for the Humane Euthanasia of Sick, Injured and/or Debilitated Livestock* (Shearer and Nicoletti: 2011).

- e) Train stockpeople responsible for sheep euthanasia to recognize when sheep need to be euthanized. Familiarize them with the written euthanasia action plan and train them on the criteria, methods and tools used for proper euthanasia, as listed in the plan (Code requirements, Sec. 7.2).
- f) Have the appropriate euthanasia tools on hand at the facility housing sheep.
- g) Regardless of the method of euthanasia used, prior restraint of the animal may be necessary. Choose the safest, least stressful method available.
- h) Avoid unnecessary handling or movement right before euthanizing an animal.
- i) Non-ambulatory animals must not be forced to move or dragged before being euthanized.
- j) Confirm the animal has lost consciousness immediately after stunning. If animal did not lose consciousness or appears to be regaining consciousness, repeat the step used or use an alternate method listed in the table in Section 7.1 c) before administering the kill step. Have the backup method on hand in case the first attempt fails.

- k) Confirm death immediately after administering the kill step and before moving or leaving the animal (e.g. lack of breathing, lack of heartbeat, dilated pupils). See *Recommendations and Guidance*.
- l) Equipment and tools used to perform euthanasia must be cleaned and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions to ensure they continue to function properly (Code requirement, Sec. 7.2).
- m) All carcasses must be disposed of according to federal, provincial, municipal and/or territorial regulations (Code requirement, Sec. 7.3).

### ***Recommendations and Guidance***

Fearful, aggressive or unmanageable animals may be controlled by sedation prior to euthanasia. Consult with your veterinarian prior to using sedation in combination with your euthanasia method.

It is recommended that captive bolt devices be cleaned daily, when fired, and maintained to ensure they are in good working condition so they will not jam or stick in the animal's head when used.

Confirming insensibility (loss of consciousness):

- See if the animal blinks if you touch its eyelashes. If it does not blink, try touching its eyeball. Insensible animals will not blink.
- An animal has NOT been successfully rendered insensible if it vocalizes, attempts to get up, lifts its head up, blinks like an animal that is alive and conscious, moves its eyes around or responds to something painful, like pinching its nose.

Bleeding out:

- A method of killing animals that have been stunned by gunshot or a penetrating captive bolt device. Not to be used as the primary method of euthanasia.
- Use a pointed, very sharp knife with a strong blade
- Insert the knife through the skin just behind the point of the jaw and below the bones of the neck of an animal that has been stunned and is already insensible. Bring the knife forward to sever the jugular vein, carotid artery, and windpipe.
- When properly performed, blood will flow freely and death will occur over several minutes.

Pithing:

- A method of killing animals that have been stunned by gunshot or a penetrating captive bolt device.
  - Causes physical destruction of the brain and upper regions of the spinal cord and can be performed as a secondary kill step when bleeding out is undesirable for aesthetic or sanitary reasons.
  - To pith an animal, insert a rod or similar long, slender tool through the hole in the skull left by a bullet or captive bolt. Move the rod / tool around to destroy the brain and spinal cord. This will result in death.
  - Pithing rods are commercially available, but can also be made from a variety of materials (e.g. a high tensile wire, steel rod, a discarded artificial insemination rod, etc.).
-

**Confirming death:**

- Check for a heartbeat. In a live animal, the pulse would be found at the left lower side of the animal's chest, just behind the elbow.
- Check for breathing. Observe the chest for movement. Note: Breathing may be slow or erratic in an unconscious animal.
- Death is confirmed by a lack of heartbeat and breathing for more than 5 minutes.

*Above steps for bleeding out, pithing, confirming insensibility and confirming death adapted from: Woods et al. (2010).*

**7.2 Slaughter of Animals for Meat**

The Certification Body will be phasing in a requirement that slaughter plants and farms that slaughter animals on site be assessed by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party auditor for adherence to the American Meat Institute's *Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide*. Farms and plants that pass this audit will be certified for slaughter of animals.

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**APPENDIX A: FLOCK RECORDS**

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All flock records must illustrate:

- a) The Farm System Design Plan – a map of the farm illustrating all areas (indoor and outdoor), exits, emergency equipment and evacuation routes for workers.
- b) Flock Health Plan and the following related records:
  - Animal production and health information
  - All vaccines, drugs and treatments used and purchased (receipts kept) – a record of drug serial numbers, withdrawal dates, dosages, expiry date on bottle, reason for use and location of administration. This includes homeopathic medicines.
  - Disease outbreaks (including cause, if known)
  - Treatment log with reasons, medication used, animal identification, withdrawal times
  - Mortalities (including cause, if known)
  - Euthanized and culled animals (and reasons)
  - Lab testing or other diagnostics
- c) Biosecurity Plan
- d) Breed and number of all animals
- e) Sources of all purchases and sales of animals – a complete audit trail from farm to final sale
- f) Year-end inventories of animals
- g) Record of all deaths and injuries occurring during loading and transport
- h) Condemnations and dead-on-arrival records from the processor
- i) Feed suppliers, feed ingredients and supplement records
- j) Water additives, if any
- k) Monthly ammonia levels assessed at sheep head height
- l) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and Emergency Protocol for transportation

Using the record keeping forms that are provided with this manual is optional. It is acceptable to use records from industry programs and/or any record keeping forms that have already been developed for the operation. Applicants that do not have a consistent record keeping system are encouraged to use and implement the Certification Program forms upon receiving them in the application package.

Upon obtaining certification, Members will be expected to retain all records between one Annual Assessment and the next (minimum one year).

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**APPENDIX B: BODY CONDITION SCORING GUIDE**


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| <b>Score</b> | <b>Appearance</b>   | <b>Condition</b>  |
|--------------|---|---|
| 1            | Severe underconditioning<br>(emaciated)                               | Spine prominent / sharp looking, no fat cover, deep depression in loin muscle (appears hollow / shallow).   |
| 2            | Frame obvious<br>(thin)   | Spine is prominent but smooth, slight fat cover, back muscle full.  |
| 3            | <b>Moderate frame and covering well balanced<br/>(good condition)</b> | <b>Spine smooth and rounded but can still be felt, muscle development full, some fat cover.</b>   |
| 4            | Frame not visible<br>(fat)  | Spine evident only as a line and can barely be felt, fat cover considerable but firm, fat over tail head, muscle very full with no depression in loin area. |
| 5            | Severe overconditioning<br>(obese)                                    | Spine not detectable, fat cover dense and soft, tail head and rump buried under thick layer of fatty tissue.  |

Note: There can be extreme differences in body condition scores between breeds. Some maternal breeds lay down a lot of internal fat, which is not detectable externally. The more muscular, meat breeds can appear to have better condition over the loin area than the less muscular breeds.

| <b>Stage of Production</b> | <b>Target Body Condition Score</b> | <b>Animal Group</b> |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Breeding                   | 3                                  | Breeding flock      |
| Early to mid-gestation     | 3                                  | Breeding flock      |
| Lambing                    | 3+                                 | Breeding flock      |
| Weaning                    | 2+                                 | Ewes                |
| Pre-breeding               | 3+                                 | Rams                |

Refer to Appendix B of the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep* (2013) and *What's the Score: Sheep*, available from Alberta Agriculture and Food, for additional detail and diagrams on how to score sheep.

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## APPENDIX C: LAMENESS SCORING GUIDE

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### Lameness Scoring Protocol for Sheep

1. Choose a point where sheep can be observed walking in a straight line on a flat, even, and dry surface. The observer should keep sufficient distance from the sheep so as not to startle them.
2. If a large group of sheep are grouped together, it will be difficult to observe individual sheep to assess lameness. Try to select a vantage point from which you can view individual animals well. If you are moving them to a new area, move them through a narrow gate or chute (e.g. into or out of a milking parlour) so that they can be separated out from each other as you view them from the side. This will make it easier to assess each individual.
3. Watch sheep walk at their own pace. Assess lameness from the side to be able to see the back arch, head movement, length of the stride, and evenness of the steps.
4. Tally the number of sheep scored as per the scoring sheet provided (page 33) and record the total number of sheep assessed. Calculate the percentage of sheep for each lameness score to determine the prevalence of lameness.

### Creating a Good Lameness Scoring Environment:

Creating an environment where a sheep feels comfortable walking will optimize your lameness scoring ability. Scoring sheep during their familiar routine minimizes stress and allows for the most accurate assessment. Sheep may alter their gait if they are put in a new situation or see an unfamiliar person. Scoring can be done most accurately when sheep walk at a consistent pace in a straight line.

### Interpreting Lameness Scores

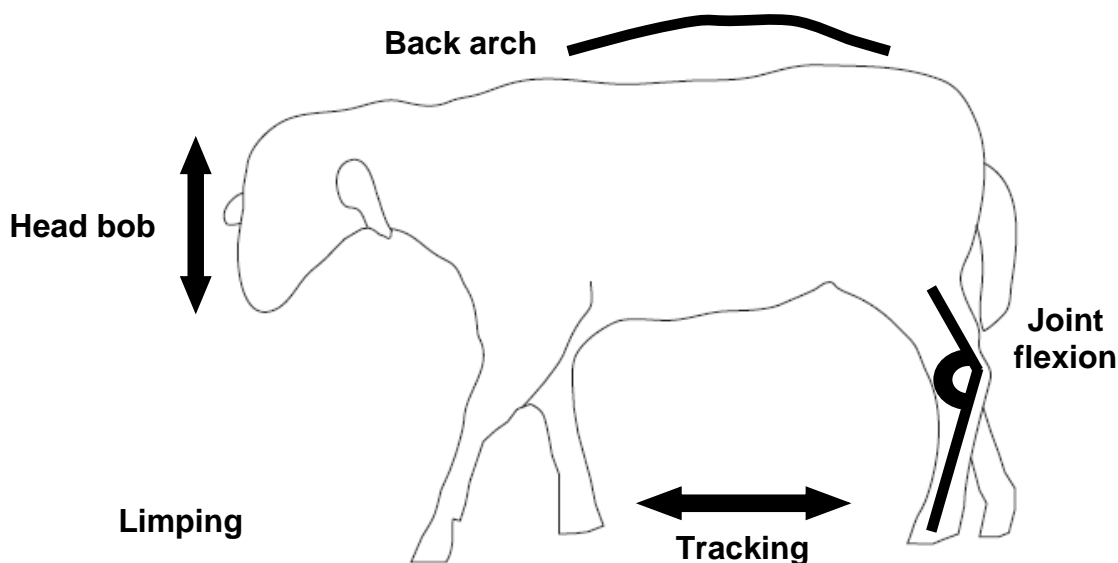
- Score 1: Fit for transport.
- Score 2: Assess to determine course of action (e.g. medical treatment, cull). Fit for transport.
- Score 3: Requires medical treatment or send directly to slaughter/euthanize.
- Score 4: Requires medical treatment or send directly to slaughter/euthanize. Haul only a short distance for slaughter or for veterinary treatment.
- Score 5: If untreatable, euthanize animal or slaughter on-farm.

Score 3 may become worse during transport. Animals with a score of 4 or 5 are more likely to fall down and/or get trampled during transport. This may result in worsened lameness upon arrival at the final destination, or increased incidence of dead-on-arrivals.

Refer to the following two pages for behavioural signs of lameness and a scoring sheet.

---

| Score | Description  | Behavioural Signs   |
|-------|--|---|
| 1     | <b>Not Lamé</b>  | <b>Normal walking</b><br>Smooth and fluid movement  |
| 2     | <b>Slight to Mild Lameness</b><br>Imperfect movement but ability to walk not compromised   | <b>No limp</b><br><b>Flat back</b><br>Steady head carriage<br>Smooth strides (tracking of front and back feet)<br>Even steps<br>Joints flex freely  |
| 3     | <b>Mild to Moderate Lameness</b><br>Capable of movement but ability to walk is compromised<br><br>Still able to keep up with a walking flock | <b>Slight limp</b><br><b>Arched back</b><br>Steady head carriage<br>Shortened strides<br>Uneven steps<br>Joints show signs of stiffness   |
| 4     | <b>Moderate to Severe Lameness</b><br>Ability to walk is obviously diminished<br><br>Unable to keep up with a walking flock                  | <b>Obvious limp that is immediately identifiable</b><br><b>Obviously arched back</b><br><b>Head bob</b> (jerky head movement up or down)<br>Short and hesitant strides<br>Uneven steps<br>Stiff joints<br>May stand with bent leg (avoids weight bearing) |
| 5     | <b>Severe Lameness</b><br>Ability to walk is severely restricted; must be vigorously encouraged to move                                      | <b>Inability to bear weight on one or more limbs</b><br><b>Extremely arched back</b><br><b>Obvious head bob</b><br>Hesitant and deliberate strides<br>Extremely uneven steps<br>Obvious joint stiffness<br>Often graze while kneeling on front knees      |





**SPCA Certified Lameness Scoring Form**

**Farm:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Flock Size:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Breed:** \_\_\_\_\_

| Score   | Number (Tally) of Sheep | Total |
|---|-------------------------|-------|
| 1   |                         |       |
| 2   |                         |       |
| 3   |                         |       |
| 4   |                         |       |
| 5   |                         |       |
| <b>Total number of sheep observed (group size):</b> |                         |       |

**Lameness Prevalence**

| Score →         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of sheep |   |   |   |   |   |
| % of sheep      |   |   |   |   |   |

APPENDIX D: DECISION TREE - SHOULD THIS ANIMAL BE LOADED?

Updated 05/10

# SHOULD THIS ANIMAL BE LOADED? Guidelines for Transporting Cattle, Sheep & Goats



**Load Healthy Animals**

**Do Not Load  
Do Not Transport**




**Do Not Transport to a Sale**



**Delay Transportation and Reassess**

- Exhaustion
- Calving/lambing/kidding
- Dehydration
- Weakness/unstable
- Acute mastitis
- Ketosis
- Fever:
  - cattle > 102.5°F / 39.1°C
  - sheep/goats > 103.3°F / 39.6°C



**Euthanize**

- **Non-ambulatory (see box below)**
- Fractures of limb or spine
- Arthritis in multiple joints
- Cancer eye (severe)
- Cancer/leukosis (extensive)
- Extremely thin
- Pneumonia (unresponsive with fever)
- Prolapsed uterus
- Water belly
- Nervous disorders, such as rabies must be reported to CFIA
- Hernia that impedes movement

**Transport With Special Provisions Direct to Slaughter**



**As Soon As Possible**

- Abscess
- Blind
- Frost bite
- Cancer eye (eye intact)
- Lameness Class 1, 2
- Left/right displaced abomasum (without weakness, toxicity)
- Lumpy jaw
- Penis injuries
- Pneumonia (without fever)
- Prolapsed vagina or rectum
- Animals that have given birth within 48 hours

**Within 12 Hours**

**Seek advise from your veterinarian**

**Advise inspector at the destination plant.**

- Bloat\*
- Hardware with localized signs
- Intestinal accidents
- Recent injury\*
- Urethral blockage (acute)\*
- Broken tail or jaw
- Smoke inhalation

*\*Animals must travel in a small compartment, either individually or with one quiet animal.*

**Animals with multiple conditions may not be fit to transport.**

**Non-ambulatory animals:** Unable to stand without assistance, or unable to move without being dragged or carried (downers). **Do not load or transport.**

**Lame animals:**

- Animals should not be loaded if at risk of going down in transit.
- Animals that can't bear weight on all four legs may be in pain and are at risk of going down during transit. These animals are often euthanized at sales and plants.

**Lactating animals:** Dry off heavy lactating cows before shipping when possible or ship directly to an abattoir.

**Emergency On-Farm Slaughter**

If an animal is fit for human consumption but not fit for transport (i.e. injured but not sick) emergency on-farm slaughter may be an option. Please consult with your provincial government for more information on the availability of emergency on-farm slaughter in your province.

The diagram on this page was originally published in *Should This Animal Be Loaded? Guidelines for Transporting Cattle, Sheep and Goats* (2010). Permission to republish has been granted from Farm & Food Care Ontario.

## Guidelines for Dealing with Compromised Cattle, Sheep & Goats

### Federal Transportation Regulations (2010)

Health of Animals Regulations [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca)

#### DO

- Segregate animals of different species, or substantially different weights and ages, or if incompatible by nature.
- Provide proper ventilation, drainage and absorption of urine.
- Have sufficient headroom for animals to stand in a natural position.
- Spread sand in the vehicle or have vehicle fitted with safe footholds, in addition to appropriate bedding.
- Ensure that animals unloaded for feed, water and rest remain at least five hours and longer, if necessary, for all animals to receive food and water.
- Ensure that calves too young to exist on hay and grain are provided with suitable food and water at intervals of no more than 18 hours.\*
- Ensure that animals segregated in trucks receive extra protection from cold and wind chill; supply ample bedding.
- Euthanize animals promptly when you identify conditions outlined in the "Should this Animal be Loaded?" chart.

\*Note: The Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals - Transportation suggests no more than 12 hours between intervals for calves.

#### DO NOT

- Transport a sick or injured animal where undue suffering may result.
- Transport when the animal is liable to give birth during the journey, unless under the advice of a veterinarian for medical care.
- Continue to transport an animal that is injured, becomes ill, or is otherwise unfit to travel beyond the nearest place it can be treated.
- Use goads or prods on the face, anal, udder or genital area.
- Load or unload animals in a way that would cause injury or undue suffering.
- Crowd animals to such an extent as to cause injury or undue suffering.
- Transport livestock in trailers not designed for safe handling of that species or class of livestock.

Source: *Transporting Livestock by Truck* (CFIA)

### Lameness Classes

These categories can be used to determine the status of an animal's mobility, from normal to non-ambulatory.

#### Transport as soon as possible

##### Class 1

Visibly lame but can keep up with the group: no evidence of pain.

##### Class 2

Unable to keep up; some difficulty climbing ramps. *Load in rear compartment.*

#### Do Not Load or Transport\*

##### Class 3

Requires assistance to rise, but can walk freely.

##### Class 4

Requires assistance to rise; reluctant to walk; halted movement.

##### Class 5

Unable to rise or remain standing.

**\* Any animal, including Lameness Classes 3, 4 or 5 may be transported for veterinary treatment, on the advice of a veterinarian.**

**CFIA Livestock  
Emergency  
Transport Line  
1-877-814-2342  
(Ontario only)**

*Special thanks to the Ontario Humane Transport Working Group for their leadership on this resource. Funding for this project was provided in part through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Program and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.*



[www.bcfacc.ca](http://www.bcfacc.ca)  
(604) 287-3276



[www.afac.ab.ca](http://www.afac.ab.ca)  
(403) 932-8052



Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.  
[www.facs.sk.ca](http://www.facs.sk.ca)  
(306) 249-3227



[www.mbfac.ca](http://www.mbfac.ca)  
(204) 632-9047



[www.ofac.org](http://www.ofac.org)  
(519) 837-1326

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**APPENDIX E: MEASUREMENT CONVERSION TABLE**


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Multiply an imperial number by the conversion factor shown to get its equivalent in metric units.  
Divide a metric number by the conversion factor shown to get its equivalent in imperial units.

| <b>Imperial Units</b> | <b>Approximate<br/>conversion factor</b> | <b>Metric Units</b>                         |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| <b>Length</b>         |  |   |
| inch                  | 25                                       | millimetre (mm)                             |
| foot                  | 30                                       | centimetre (cm)                             |
| yard                  | 0.9                                      | metre (m)                                   |
| mile                  | 1.6                                      | kilometre (km)                              |
| <b>Area</b>           |  |   |
| square inch           | 6.5                                      | square centimetre (cm <sup>2</sup> )        |
| square foot           | 0.09                                     | square metre (m <sup>2</sup> )              |
| square yard           | 0.836                                    | square metre (m <sup>2</sup> )              |
| square mile           | 259                                      | hectare (ha)                                |
| acre                  | 0.4                                      | hectare (ha)                                |
| <b>Volume</b>         |  |   |
| cubic inch            | 16                                       | cubic centimetre (cm <sup>3</sup> , mL, cc) |
| cubic foot            | 28                                       | cubic decimetre (dm <sup>3</sup> )          |
| cubic yard            | 0.57                                     | cubic metre (m <sup>3</sup> )               |
| fluid ounce           | 28                                       | millilitre (mL)                             |
| pint                  | 0.57                                     | litre (L)                                   |
| quart                 | 1.1                                      | litre (L)                                   |
| gallon (Imp.)         | 4.5                                      | litre (L)                                   |
| gallon (U.S.)         | 3.8                                      | litre (L)                                   |
| <b>Weight</b>         |  |   |
| ounce                 | 28                                       | gram (g)                                    |
| pound                 | 0.45                                     | kilogram (kg)                               |
| short ton (2000 lb)   | 0.9                                      | tonne (t)                                   |

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**APPENDIX F: REFERENCE MATERIAL**

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The following publications are available from national commodity group and/or specialized provincial organizations and were used in the development of the *SPCA Certified Standards for the Raising and Handling of Sheep*:

**Certified Livestock Transport Training Program**

Email: [info@livestocktransport.ca](mailto:info@livestocktransport.ca)

Website: [livestocktransport.ca](http://livestocktransport.ca)

**Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep (2013)**

Available from the National Farm Animal Care Council

Website: [www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice](http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice)

**Dylan Biggs Livestock Handling Clinics**

Humane handling clinics approved by the Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS)

Website: [www.cattle-handling.com](http://www.cattle-handling.com)

**Health of Animals Act**

Available through Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Website: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/trans/transpoe.shtml>

**Organic Production Systems: General Principles and Management Standards – Canadian General Standards Board**

Information regarding the Canada Organic Regime is available from:

Canada Organic Office, CFIA

1400 Merivale Road, Tower 2, Floor 5, Room 345

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0Y9

Telephone : 613-773-6218

Fax : 613-773-5961

Email: [canadasite@canada.gc.ca](mailto:canadasite@canada.gc.ca)

Website: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/orgbioe.shtml>

**Procedures for the Humane Euthanasia of Sick, Injured and/or Debilitated Livestock (2011)**

J. K. Shearer, DVM, MS and Paul Nicoletti, DVM, MS

Iowa State University

College of Veterinary Medicine

Ames, IA 50011

[jks@iastate.edu](mailto:jks@iastate.edu)

Phone: 515-294-2836

Website: <http://vetmed.iastate.edu/HumaneEuthanasia>

**Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide**

American Meat Institute

June 2010 Edition

Website: [www.animalhandling.org](http://www.animalhandling.org)

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**Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals –  
Transportation (2001)**

Available from the National Farm Animal Care Council

Email: [nfacc@xplornet.com](mailto:nfacc@xplornet.com)

Website: [nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice](http://nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice)

**RSPCA Freedom Food - Welfare Standards for Sheep (2010)**

Wilberforce Way

Southwater

Horsham

West Sussex, RH13 9RS

Telephone: 0870 010 1181

Website: [www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk)

**Should this Animal be Loaded? Guidelines for Transporting Cattle, Sheep and Goats (2010)**

Produced jointly by: Alberta Farm Animal Care Council, Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan, Manitoba Farm Animal Council, Ontario Farm Animal Council (now called Farm & Food Care Ontario).

Available from Certified Livestock Transport or any of the above organizations

Website: [www.livestocktransport.ca](http://www.livestocktransport.ca)

**What's the Score: Sheep. Body Condition Scoring Guide.**

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

Alberta Agriculture and Food

Publication Office

7000 - 113 Street

Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6.

1-800-292-5697

Website: [www1.agric.gov.ab.ca](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca)

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