

Calendar of events on the Farm

This is a very brief rundown of what needs doing roughly when, to avoid most problems. Your vet will be able to describe/show you the various procedures.

NB Individual circumstances will vary, please consult your vet for detailed information.



JANUARY

Sheep / Goats

- Shear lambs
- Check for flystrike,
- Treat for facial eczema
- Check ram health.

Cattle

- Treat for facial eczema
- Treat for fly worry

Horse

- Treat for fly worry.

Alpaca

- Unpacking
- Mating
- Feed extra to alpacas close to unpacking and mums feeding cria
- Add hay if grass is short
- Supplement feed if necessary
- First summer drench
- Treat for Facial Eczema

Other

- Make/buy hay 25 bales/cow, 5 bales per sheep, 40 per horse.

FEBRUARY

Sheep / Goats

- Check for flystrike
- Get ewes in good condition
- Wean lambs if not done

Cattle

- Treat for facial eczema
- Treat for fly worry

Horse

- Treat for fly worry

Alpaca

- Same as January

MARCH

Sheep / Goats

- Put ram with ewes for August lambing

Cattle

- Wean spring born calves if still on cow

Horse

Alpaca

- Treat for Facial Eczema
- Vit D to all animals under 3 years
- Feed hay / supplements if grass limiting
- Drench program continued

Other

- Put fertiliser on paddocks (allow rain or 3 weeks before grazing again)

APRIL

Sheep / Goats

- Monitor ewe/doe condition, not too fat and not too thin.

Cattle

- Use electric fences to control use of grass

Horse

- As cattle, also treat for worms including bot fly

Alpaca

- Treat for Facial Eczema to end of April
- 10 in 1 vacc whole flock

Other

- Conserve grass so that pregnant animals can have a rising level of feeding in last month of pregnancy (July/August usually)

MAY

Sheep / Goats

- Same as April

Cattle

- Same as April

Horse

- Same as April

Alpaca

- Monitor feed levels and supplement as needed

Other

- Same as April

JUNE / JULY

Sheep / Goats

- Feed extra to pregnant ewes in last month before lambing.
- Get belly and bottoms shorn
- Vaccinate for tetanus etc

Cattle

- Feed well in last month of pregnancy
- Give magnesium supplement
- Vaccinate

Horse

- Feed hay/supplements
- Tetanus booster if foaling later on

Alpaca

- Monitor FEC and treat as needed
- Vit D to pregnant alpacas and all animals under 3
- Monitor feed levels and supplement as needed

Other

- Prepare emergency kit for lambing/calving/kidding etc.
- Buy necessary supplies.
- Grass growth slow most years

AUGUST

Sheep / Goats

- Lambing,
- Check 2 x daily
- drench ewes/does

Cattle

- Calving
- Check 2 x daily
- continue magnesium

Horse

- Foaling?
- Feed supplements

Alpaca

Other

- As grass growth doesn't usually speed up until September, continue hay etc this month

SEPTEMBER

Sheep / Goats

- Dock lambs/kids by 4 weeks old if possible (rubber rings)
- De-horn kids by 1 week old

Cattle

- Feed milking cows well
- Get bull calves docked
- All calves dehorned by 3 weeks old.

Horse

- May need to control grazing if grass starts to grow quickly

Alpaca

- Monitor FEC
- 10 in 1 vacc whole flock

Other

- Avoid sudden food changes for new mothers
- Milking animal needs two times what dry animal needs to eat

OCTOBER

Sheep / Goats

- Drench lambs/kids
- Vaccinate

Cattle

- Drench calves
- Vaccinate

Horse

- Treat for worms

Alpaca

- Monitor FEC
- 10 in 1 vacc whole flock

Other

- Leave grass for hay?
- Apply fertiliser

NOVEMBER

Sheep / Goats

- Drench lambs/kids
- Get ewes shorn
- Lambs crutched
- Treat for lice

Cattle

- Drench calves for worms
- Bull or AI for cows for August calves

Horse

- Treat for worms
- Annual tetanus vaccination

Alpaca

- Shearing whole flock
- Trim toenails
- Start of mating

Other

- This is usually the best month for grass growth
- Check water supplies for summer

DECEMBER

Sheep / Goats

- Drench lambs/kids
- Check for flystrike
- Get all sheep shorn if not already done
- Treat for lice

Cattle

- Drench calves
- Bull with cows for September calves

Horse

- Treat for fly worry if required.
- Check teeth

Alpaca

- Mating
- Unpacking

Other

- Ensure plenty of water as weather gets hotter, also shade in all paddocks especially for sheep.