

# A Timeline for the Ewe and Her Lambs

## The Ewe

### DAYS 0-7 →

Greatest risk of embryo loss due to heat and humidity stress

### DAYS 30-90 →

Critical period for placental and mammary gland development. Reduced fetal growth, birth weights, vigor, and lower milk production result from poor nutrition at this time. Macro- and micro-mineral supplementation is vital. Impairment cannot be made up for later.

### DAY 60 →

Booster vaccination (following pre-breeding vaccine) protects ewe against chlamydiosis and vibriosis abortions

### DAYS 100-BIRTH →

Nutritional demands of fetuses place greatest demand upon ewe

### DAY 120 →

Vaccination against respiratory, clostridial diseases and tetanus stimulates high level of antibodies in colostrum, (forming by about day 136). Periparturient rise of internal parasite egg production: deworm to protect lambs.

### BIRTH →

Colostrum production ceases; 24-36 oz available to lambs.

### DAYS 21-28 →

Maximum milk production attained. Maximum production requires maximum nutrition. Feed best hay, match grain amounts to number of nursing lambs.

### DAY 60 →

Many ewes producing less than half of the amount of milk they produced at peak production.

## The Lambs

### 0 DAYS FROM CONCEPTION

10

20

30

40

50

60

70

80

90

100

110

120

130

140

150

OR BIRTH

### 10 DAYS AFTER BIRTH

20

30

40

50

60

70

80

90

100

### ← DAYS 20-24

Embryos implanted in uterine wall

### ← DAY 35

First primary fiber follicles form

### ← DAYS 60-63

Most primary fiber follicles formed; lateral primary follicles begin to form

### ← DAYS 90-100

Secondary wool follicles begin forming

### ← DAYS 100-BIRTH

70% of fetal growth occurs

### ← DAY 120

Fetal lambs immunocompetent: capable of forming some antibodies

### ← BIRTH

Antibody-rich colostrum (received within 24 h of birth) provides passive immunity for up to 10 weeks; primary follicle fibers shed

### ← DAYS 7-14

Lambs begin eating creep feed; some rumen function by day 14; 250% increase (from birth) in growth/maturity of secondary follicles

### ← DAYS 28-42

Lambs convert from high-milk, low-feed to low-milk, high-feed diet

### ← DAYS 42-56

Rumen becomes fully functional; lambs vulnerable to coccidiosis (add coccidiostat to feed)

### ← DAY 60

75% of secondary follicles growing fiber; lambs vulnerable to high parasite loads (deworm)

### ← DAY 70

Disease immunity of lambs, gained by colostrum, depleted (vaccination vital)

### ← DAYS 91-98

In vaccinated lambs, antibody titers peak; booster of vaccine at this period "confirms" to immune system that antibody production is important