

Lamb Vigour Scoring System

Birth Assistance Score				
0	1	2	3	4
Unassisted or easy complicated delivery of a short duration (<30 minutes).	Unassisted or easy uncomplicated delivery of a long duration (>30 minutes).	Minor assistance required. Presentation corrected, little effort needed to deliver lamb.	Major assistance required. Difficult delivery needing effort to deliver lamb.	Veterinary assistance required.

Lamb Vigour Score				
0	1	2	3	4
Extremely active and vigorous lamb, has been standing on all 4 feet.	Very active and vigorous lamb, standing on back legs and on knees.	Active and vigorous lamb, on chest and holding head up.	Weak lamb, lying flat, able to hold head up.	Very weak lamb, unable to lift head, little movement.

Sucking Assistance Score				
0	1	2	3	4
Lamb sucking well, unaided, within 1 hour.	Lamb sucking well, unaided, within 2 hours.	Lamb given sucking assistance/tubed (no more than 2 occasions) from ewe in the first 24 hours of life.	Lamb given sucking assistance/tubed more than 2 times, and for more than 24 hours, but less than 3 days.	Lamb given sucking assistance/tubed for more than 3 days.

With thanks to Dr. Cathy Dwyer, Team Leader, and Professor of Animal Welfare and Behaviour, Scotland's Rural College.



130 Malcolm Rd
Guelph, ON N1K 1B1
(519) 836-0043 general@ontariosheep.org
www.OntarioSheep.org

