EWE NUTRITION AND BODY CONDITION SCORING TIMELINE

QMS

Weaning to tupping
Get ewes fit for production.

Aim to get all ewes to target BCS 3 – 3.5.

Offer lean ewes the best grass.

1st 50 Days
Take care of the eggs & developing embryo.

Look to maintain BCS for embryo survival.

Minimise stress on the ewe with no sudden changes in diet.

2nd 50 Days
Let the placenta grow and develop.

A well grown placenta = good lamb development and birthweight.

Ewes that were above target BCS at tupping can lose half a BCS.

3rd 50 Days
Ensure ewes are fit for lambing.

Growing foetus and udder increases nutritional demands.

Maintaining BCS will minimise ewe metabolic problems, maximise colostrum production, lamb vigour and survival.

Early Lactation
Maximise milk production.

Total milk production is driven by high quality pasture and body condition.

Late Lactation
Maximise lamb growth.

Lamb growth driven by pasture quality as ewe milk production declines.

Wean at 90-110 days and offer lambs the best grass.

Golden 20 days
Move ewes to fresh pasture regularly, ideally daily, for 10 days before and after tups go out to raise scanning %

Use opportunity to condition score and pull out ewes below target BCS 3 for preferential feeding.

Golden 35 days
Essential to feed to maintain BCS. Under feeding in last 35 days will cap lactation and reduce lamb vigour

Last date ewes can be expected to gain 1 condition score before tupping

Tupping date

Most ewes tupped by day 25

Embryo implantation complete by day 55

Scanning

Lambing

Peak lactation

Weaning

-40 -30 -20 -10 0 Days 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200 250

COMPLETE DATES IN THIS SECTION RELEVANT TO YOUR LAMBING SCHEDULE

Maintain or raise ewe BCS to 3-3.5 → BCS 3 to 3.5 **TARGET**

Important to maintain BCS → BCS 3 to 3.5 **TARGET**

Maintain BCS, or can drop by 0.5 → BCS 3 **TARGET**

Essential to maintain BCS → BCS 3 **TARGET**

BCS loss should be kept to minimum. Ewe will use body reserves → BCS 2.5 **TARGET**

Ewes likely to gain condition → BCS 3 **TARGET**

PASTURE ALLOCATION FOR ROTATIONAL GRAZING (for 75kg ewe)

	x Maintenance	MJME/day required	kgDM/day assuming 10 MJME grass*
Early pregnancy	1.0	11.5	1.5
Mid pregnancy	1.0	11.5	1.5

*These figures assume 20% grass wastage

		x Maintenance	MJME/day required	kgDM/day assuming 11 MJME grass*
Late pregnancy	Singles	1.1	13.0	1.5
	Twins	1.5	16.5	1.8

*These figures assume 20% grass wastage

		x Maintenance	MJME/day required	kgDM/day assuming 12 MJME grass*
Peak Lactation	Singles	2.0	22.5	2.8
	Twins	3.0	34.5	3.5

*These figures assume 20% grass wastage

These guidelines are applicable to mature ewes on a pasture based upland or lowground system. Individual ewe requirements may vary. Prolific breeds and hoggs may require different management at certain stages. Internal parasites and mineral deficiencies can also affect nutritional efficiency and BCS. Scanning, lambing and peak lactation timings are approximate.

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For further information, visit www.qmscotland.co.uk