

PRACTICAL SESSIONS

1 ANAEMIA ESTIMATION AND THE FIVE POINT CHECK

Lana Botha

- Reason:** Estimation of anaemia, for diagnosis/treatment/ decisions
- Animal:** All grazing stock as determined by need. (sheep and goats)
- Method:** As on card and instructions (FAMACHA[®] system)& 5 POINT CHECK[®]
- Training:** Essential.
- Timing:** During haemonchosis period, at required intervals (see instructions).
- Equipment:** FAMACHA card and pamphlet
- Follow up:** Nil
- Risks:** Not following instructions

The development and use of these systems are described elsewhere in these documents. The practical sessions will show users how to examine animals and make sufficiently accurate estimates to implement Targeted Selective Treatments – (TST)-treating only those animals likely to benefit. “LEAVE THE BEST, TREAT THE REST.”

CONDITION SCORING SHEEP

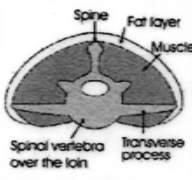




Reason: The ability to assess physical condition is a valuable guide to the **supplementary feeding** of ewes at critical stages in their production cycle. It is a way of estimating the fat reserves of the animal, and hence its **nutritional status**. It is also used to **determine suitability for marketing**.

- Animal:** All classes
- Method:** Body condition is assessed by feeling the amount of fat and underlying

musculature over the back and lumbar bones in a position behind the last rib. In goats, because they store fat mainly in the abdomen, the scoring is done mainly on the brisket. Also check rib cover when in doubt. Remember in breeds with fat tails to also assess the fat content of the tail when determining body condition score.

Training: essential

Equipment: nil (a card for reference is useful)

Condition Scoring in Sheep					
Spines	Individually clearly felt, sharp, obvious	Form a smooth line with deep undulations	Only slightly detectable undulations	Only detectable with firm pressure	Not detectable
Transverse processes	Fingers easily pass underneath	Smooth round edges	Well covered. Have to push firmly to get fingers underneath	Cannot be felt at all	
Muscle	Very little. Concave	Concave	Not concave. Not convex	Maximally developed. Convex	
Fat layer	No	Very thin	Moderate	Thick	Very thick to form a dip along top midline
					
Condition score	1	2	3	4	5
<p>Description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The condition scoring is performed over the lower back area. Cases which do not fit these categories properly i.e. fall between whole numbers, can be assigned half scores eg. 1.5, 2.5 etc. This scheme may be used in goats, but half a score is added to the score, since goats preferentially store fat intra-abdominally and not over the lower back. 					



Timing:

- At **8 weeks prior to mating**: Below a 2 and above a 3½ condition score at mating ewes reproduce sub-optimally. The ideal condition score at mating is 2½ to 3, which indicates a 25-35% body fat content on a fleece free empty body weight.
- Approximately **6 weeks before the start of the lambing season**. This will help the farmer to decide the amount of supplementary feeding, especially if the number of foetuses the ewe carries is known (pregnancy scan). By day 90 of pregnancy the foetus has only reached 15% of the eventual birth mass. The enormous growth rate of the foetus in the last trimester should be catered for.
- As soon as possible **after the lambing season** and again at **weaning**. The

condition score will determine whether nutrition is adequate.

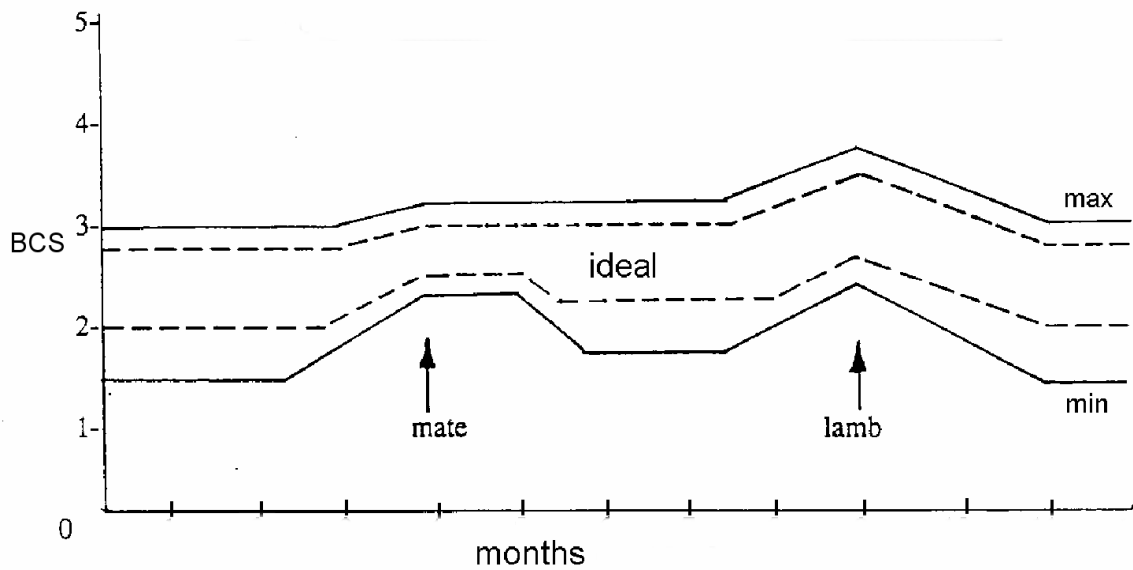
- Before stock is offered for **sale**.

The effects of deviations on the target scores at each of these strategic times will be discussed during the practical session (see figure on Condition Scores).

Follow-up: Nil

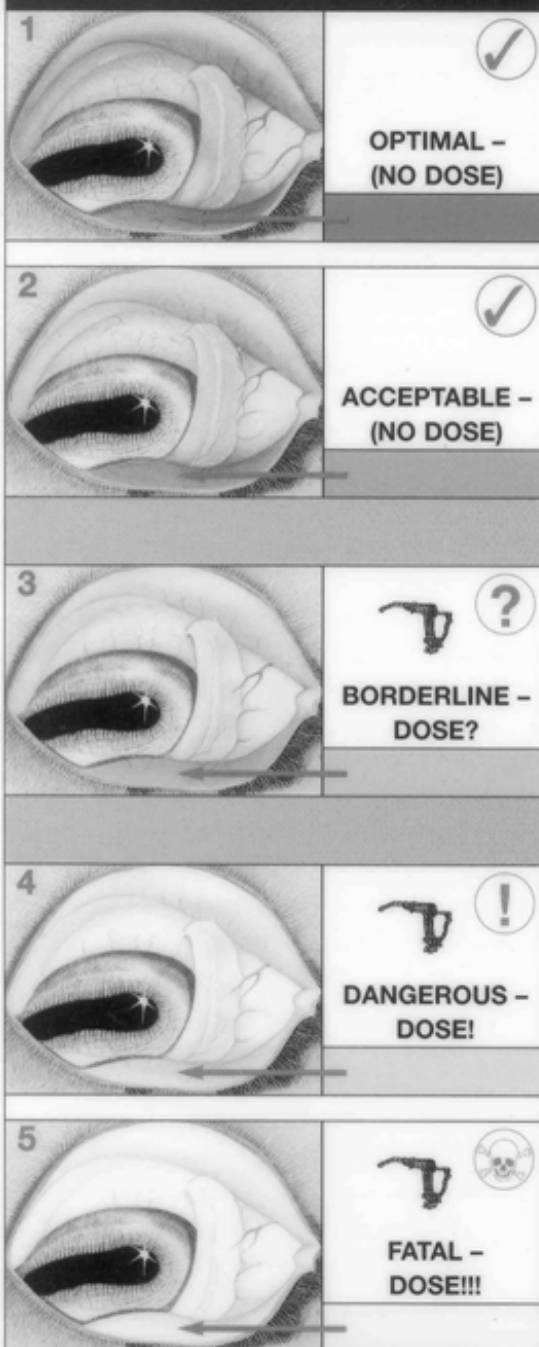
Risks: Poor scoring leads to wrong conclusions and decisions.

CONDITION SCORER FOR EWES

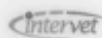


FAMACHA[®]

ANAEMIA GUIDE



DEVELOPED AND SUPPORTED BY:

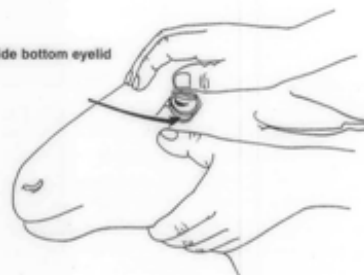


INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Examination

- Examine sheep in good, natural light
- Open the eyelid as shown in the sketch
- Push the upper eyelid down with the upper thumb, while the lower thumb gently pulls the lower lid downward
- Look especially at the colour inside the lower eyelid
- Open the eyelid for a short time only, or else the mucous membrane may become redder
- Compare the colours seen to those on the reverse side of this card
- Score the sheep 1 to 5 and proceed as explained in the pamphlet
- If in doubt, score the sheep at the lower (paler) category
- Examine weekly and no less than every 2 to 3 weeks
- Contact your veterinarian if you have any questions

Look inside bottom eyelid



Precautions

- Only properly trained persons should use this card
- Read the full information pamphlet before using the guide and follow instructions carefully
- This guide is intended for sheep only
- If used for goats, all those in category 3 should also be treated
- This card is an aid in the control of wireworm only
- Paleness or reddening of the eyes may have other causes
- Maintain standard worm control measures
- The colours of this card will fade with time, especially if exposed to the sun
- Replace the card after 12 months use
- As the system is used in conditions outside their control, no organisation involved in its development or distribution accepts liability for losses or problems associated with its use

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Enquiries:

Prof. G F Bath

phone: + 27 12 529-8038
 fax: + 27 12 529-8396
 email: gfbath@op.up.ac.za