

References

1. Beetham Pastural Values
2. Beetham Pastural Animal Health Policy

Beetham Pastural's core animal health principle is that good animal feeding will prevent most animal health problems, therefore feed budgeting and not under feeding animals is the cornerstone of good animal health.

Quarantine Procedures

Sheep

All sheep not born on the property will be drenched with Zolvex immediately upon arrival and left in a quarantine holding yard around the wool shed with feed and water for 24 hours before being sent out on to the main farm.

Cattle

All Cattle not born on the property will be drenched with Matrix C oral triple combination drench and dipped for lice with Tempor immediately upon arrival and left in a quarantine holding yard around the cattle yards with feed and water for 24 hours before being sent out on to the main farm.

Animal Health Trading Stock

This plan includes all stock weaned from capital stock and not kept for replacements

Lamb Animal Health Policy

- Lambs are drenched at a minimum of 28 day intervals, any lambs on hill country must be drenched at 28 days
 - After first autumn rain i.e. going from dry and warm to wet and warm, drench all lambs 10 days after rain event, even if within the minimum 28 day required interval. This is the only time of year this is excepted practice.
- Drench products used for lambs are on a three year rotation Arrest, Switch and Matrix
- In April **all lambs** are drenched with either Zolvex or Startec as an exit drench
- All lambs going on to plantain, clover or other high quality pastures receive a 5in1 vaccine
- All lambs are shorn in late January and then dipped for fly, all trade lambs are shorn in early May (where required) and winter trade lambs are shorn on arrival.

- Lambs are brought in as feed covers allow for on a particular rotation, the numbers brought for rotation are dictated by projected pasture growth rates, time of year and size of rotation

General Guidelines for Trade Lambs Stocking Rates and Management

Rotation Size	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring
20ha	600	200	300	400
15ha	500	150	200	300
10ha	300	100	100	200

During the months from September through to April lambs can be run in rotations of up to 600 in high quality feed rotations depending on size of rotation and feed supply. During the period from May to August lambs on plantain or clover pastures must be run in small mobs around large rotations to maintain high grow rates. Shuffle grazing in small mobs can also be used to maintain high growth rates.

Lambs must be in tight live weigh range mobs over April to September to prevent bulling within the mob. E.g. 38 kg plus, 34 -38kg and below 34kg

Trade lambs must be sex drafted in early March.

Trade lambs can be stored on hills at low growth rates in mobs up to 1000.

Weaner/R1 Cattle Animal Health Policy

- Cattle are drenched at a minimum of 28 day intervals, extend to 35 if grazing area is shared with sheep and low worm burden (complete FAC to determine interval)
- Drench products used are Converge and Switch in annual rotation
- Cattle receive a 5 in1 on arrival and a follow up 5 in1 in 4 weeks
- Cattle are dipped for lice on arrival
- Cattle are run in mobs from 30 to 60 on high quality pasture with lambs
- Even though less efficient, set stocking bulls can increase live weight gain
- Over summer supplementation with high quality baleage will increase growth rates
- Take low live weight gain bulls out of mobs to prevent these animals being bullied, thus preventing deaths and increase these individuals live weight gain.

R2 Cattle Animal Health Policy

- Cattle are drenched once in Spring and once in Autumn or if significantly below live weight gain targets (FEC used to determine if drench required)
- Drench products used are Converge and Switch in annual rotation
- Bulls are run in mobs of up to 40, steers can be added in to increase mob size over 40
- Even though less efficient, set stocking bulls can increase live weight gain
- Bulls must always have a paddock between each mob or a working electric fence between the mobs. Failure to keep mobs separate will cause a decrease in production and can cause deaths.

- Take low live weight gain bulls out of mobs to prevent these animals being bullied, thus preventing deaths and increase these individuals live weight gain.

Sheep Breeding Flock Management

All business units that have breeding animals or are grazing replacements must have a Beetham Pastoral Animal Health Plan Spreadsheet developed for the flock.

Tupping Management

MA ewes

- Focus on the tail end ewes, all ewes must be heavier than 55kg
- Target is to have all ewes condition score 3 or more when the ram is introduced
- Ewes must be drafted into A line (maternal ram, only best ewes) and B line (terminal ram)
- Light ewes drenched with Arrest and all ewes given Vitamin ADE
- All 4 teeth flushed and tupped separately
- All ewes must be flushed for 10 days before ram goes out and 10 days after ram is out, daily shifts are required at a minimum
- Bottom ewes to be flushed on Plantain and Clover as this can increase conception by up to 15%
- Rams are out for 2 17 day cycles

2 Tooth ewes

- Focus on the tail end ewes, all ewes must be heavier than 55kg
- All 2 teeth weighed prior to tupping
- All 2 teeth drenched with Arrest and all ewes given Vitamin ADE
- Mob split in half for flushing

Lambing Management

Ewe Set Stocking

- All ewes given Nilvax and ADE 6 weeks before lambing
- All ewes set stocked 10 days prior to lambing
- All ewes are set stocked at 5.5 /ha except where twin bearing ewes are planned to be transferred to plantain after lambing. These animals are set stocked at 10 /ha on a minimum of 2000kg of DM/ha to ensure covers do not drop below 1200 kgs of DM/ha before the ewes and lambs are ready to be shifted on to the plantain.
- Singles are set stocked on the lowest covers, target 1200kgs DM/ha minimum 1000 kgs DM/ha
- Twins are set stocked on the next best covers, target 1400kgs DM/ha minimum 1200 kgs DM/ha
- Triplets are set stocked on the highest covers, target 1600kgs DM/ha minimum 1400 kgs DM/ha

Ewe Management

Ewes are monitored on a daily bases for lambing issues and cast ewes. During this time, on the hills, ewes are shuffled between paddocks (5 to 10 ewes at a time) to maintain even pasture covers. Ewes and lambs on plantain are stocked at 10 /ha and rotated around half rotations at a maximum mob size of 110 ewes with lambs.

Weaning Protocols

- Weaning occurs at various times depend on the session.
- For ewes and lambs any time from 60 days onwards
- All lambs weaned before 80 days are companion weaned on high quality pasture.
- Companion weaning is where lambs are weaned off their mothers and put with other ewes to keep them calm. This can also be done by leaving a small amount of ewes with the mob.
- Any light condition ewe mobs are to be used for companion weaning to increase their body condition score quickly.
- It is a priority to bring light ewes of the hill on to plantain using this method as it gets the fat ewes of the quality feed and on to maintenance on the hills whilst bringing the light ewes up to tugging condition ready for maintenance feeding over summer.

Weaning Lambs

1. Mob brought close to yards the night before weaning
2. Mob drafted early in the morning into ewes, trade lambs and replacement ewe lambs
3. Cull ewes drafted off and ewes sent away
4. Trade Lambs weighed, lambs to be killed marked and sent off with cull ewes back to mob to wait for trucking
5. Replacement ewe lambs drenched, dipped for fly and weighed and sent out to paddock
6. Trade lambs drenched and dipped for fly and sent out to allocated rotations

Companion Weaning Lambs

1. For mobs that have been on high quality finishing pasture that are weaned at approximately 70 days
2. 2 mobs brought close to yards the night before weaning
3. First Mob drafted early in the morning into ewes, trade lambs and replacement ewe lambs
 - Cull ewes drafted off and light drafted off good ewes sent away
 - Trade Lambs weighed, lambs to be killed marked and sent off with cull ewes back to mob to wait for trucking
 - Replacement ewe lambs drenched, dipped for fly and weighed and sent out to paddock or with good ewes
4. 2nd Mob drafted early in the morning into ewes, trade lambs and replacement ewe lambs
 - Cull ewes drafted off and light drafted off good ewes sent away
 - Trade Lambs weighed, lambs to be killed marked and sent off with cull ewes back to mob to wait for trucking

- Replacement ewe lambs drenched, dipped for fly and weighed and sent out to paddock or with good ewes
- 5. Trade lambs drenched and dipped for fly and sent out to allocated rotations with light ewes as companions and culls ewes (if not trucked)
- 6. Companion ewes drafted off at next lamb weigh