

## Care during pregnancy period

1. Housing the pregnant ewes in separate enclosures
2. Provide green leguminous fodder *ad libitum*
3. Avoid taking them for long distance for grazing
4. Provide enough protein, energy, water and minerals in the feed
5. Provide clean and safe drinking water
6. Keep houses clean and well ventilated

## Care of new born lamb

1. Ensure the nose and mouth are free of membranes and mucoid fluid immediately after birth
2. Clean the mucus from body of lamb and make it dry
3. Cut the navel cord with sterile scissors leaving 3 cm from the body and treat with tincture iodine
4. Weigh the lamb and record it
5. Allow the ewe to lick the lamb
6. Help the lamb to reach the teats of ewe for suckling
7. Make sure the lamb gets the colostrums or first milk
8. Keep the lamb in a clean and sheltered place
9. Protect the lamb from chillness by wrapping in a blanket

## Health management

### a. Deworming

Sheep should be given deworming regularly to keep them free from endoparasites. It should be done before the onset of rainy season, after cessation of rains and before spring showers. The frequency of deworming may be increased in lambs which are more prone to parasitic infections

### b. Dipping

The sheep should be dipped for against the external parasites and it may be done after shearing of the wool.

### c. Vaccination

Vaccination of sheep should be done against the most common diseases like Enterotoxaemia, Sheep Pox, Haemorrhagic Septicemia, Peste des

petits ruminants and Foot and mouth disease at appropriate time of the year (Table 1).

- d. Give antiseptic foot baths to check foot rot and foot diseases.

Table 1. Vaccination schedule for Sheep

No.	Disease	Primary vaccination	Regular vaccination	Month for vaccination	Dose and Route
1	Anthrax	6 months and above	Annually in endemic area	February	1ml, Subcutaneous
2	Haemorrhagic septicemia	6 months and above	Annually before monsoon	June	2ml, Subcutaneous
3	Black quarter	6 months and above	Annually before monsoon	June	2ml, Subcutaneous
4	Enterotoxaemia	4 months and above	Annually before monsoon	May	2ml or 5ml, Subcutaneous
5	Foot and mouth disease	4 months and above	Twice in a year	September and March	1ml, Subcutaneous or Intramuscular
6	Peste des petits ruminants	3 months and above	Annually	January	1ml, Subcutaneous
7	Sheep pox	3 months and above	Annually	December	1ml, Subcutaneous

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## Care and Management of Bannur breed of Sheep

(Prepared under Tribal Sub Plan Programme)



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## Characteristics of Bannur breed of sheep

Bannur breed of sheep is seen in Mandya district of Karnataka state and is mainly reared for meat and wool purpose.

### Breed characters

Size	Medium
Coat colour	White
Face colour	White
Wool colour	White
Horns/polled	Polled
Tail	Short

### Wool parameters

Annual yield	1.1-3.3 kg
Fiber diameter	33 to 45 microns
Staple length	7 cm
Quality of fleece	coarse

### Adult sheep body size parameters

Parameters	Bannur Ram	Bannur Ewe
Body weight (kg)	30-33	40-46
Length (cm)	52-59	60-68
Height (cm)	60-65	58-64

### Qualities of breeding rams

1. It should be pure bred
2. It should be active, vigorous and moderate in flesh
3. Age should be 2 years for breeding purposes
4. Retain 2 to 4 percent of all males in the flock for breeding
5. Select ram for growth rate and carcass trait

### Qualities of breeding ewes

1. Good health, vigour, active disposition and with healthy look of skin
2. Deep wide chest, strong head, back leveled, wide deep body, short legs and moderate size
3. Fleece should be dense, tight, uniform quality
4. Preferable age for breeding 2-5 years

5. Udder should be sound, smooth, soft pliable with both teats functional
6. Ewe should be full sized
7. Have uniform built and slightly longer body
8. Roomy hind quarters with well formed udder
9. Motherly instinct to raise the lambs
10. Active foraging habits
11. Be prolific in production of lamb
12. Select ewe for maternal effect and prolificacy

### Housing

1. Provide minimum housing requirements which will increase the productivity
2. Protect the young lambs, pregnant ewes and breeding rams against inclement weather conditions and predators
3. Provide 9-10 sq ft. of space for Bannur sheep
4. Sheds measuring 60ft x 20ft having thatched or asbestos roofing can accommodate about 120 sheep
5. Provide 2" thick thatched roofing during summer months



Thatched housing for Bannur sheep

### Feeding, watering and grazing management

1. Sheep generally thrives best on growing pasture
2. Rotational grazing and spelling of pastures should be followed to avoid worm infestation and unthriftiness in sheep
3. Conserve fodder in the form of hay/silage for meeting the demands during lean period
4. Supplementary feeding with minerals and vitamins to keep the sheep healthy

5. Sheep consumes 2-3 litres of water per day
6. Provide water once a day in watering trough or channels

### Breeding management of sheep

1. Age of maturity of ram -12 months
2. Age of maturity of ewe-12 months
3. Age of ewe for mating-18 to 24 months
4. Detection of oestrus by
  - a. Symptoms – vulvular swelling, frequent urination, restlessness, reduced appetite
  - b. Teaser - used after applying wet paint on the brisket to teaser ram to spot the ewes in oestrus which carry paint colour marks on the back due to mounting
5. Number of ewes per ram - 15 to 20
6. Separate rams for about 12 hours in day time and then return to flock at night for pen mating
7. Breeding seasons for sheep
  - Summer - March to April
  - Autumn - June to July
  - Winter - October to November
8. Average oestrus cycle - 17 days ( 14 to 19days)
9. Average oestrus period - 30 to 36 hours
10. Time of ovulation - 12 hours before the end of heat
11. Gestation period - 147 days (142-152 days)
12. Best time for mating 20 hours after the start of heat preferably in the morning or evening
13. Sheep breed more with the shortening of day light hours
14. Maximum useful age of ewe - 6 to 7 years

### Pregnancy diagnosis

This is very important in sheep management and also to undertake rebreeding of empty ewes at the earliest. The signs for pregnancy diagnosis are as follows

- a. Observing ewes for cessation of heat
- b. Ballotment of belly from three months onward
- c. Chemical test - Take 5ml of urine sample and add 5ml of barium chloride solution (1%). Mix if turbidity is seen, the ewe is pregnant, clear solution indicates non pregnant condition