



**Yukon Livestock
Guide**

**SHEEP +
GOAT**



**YUKON
LIVESTOCK
GUIDES**

 Cattle, Yak + Bison

 Equine

 Poultry

 Sheep + Goat

 Swine

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PURPOSE

The Government of Yukon's role is to support the Yukon's agriculture sector and create conditions for a thriving agricultural industry.

This booklet supports livestock farmers with guidance on raising and caring for their animals as well as managing their farm operations. The content is a summary of the applicable Codes of Practice for raising and caring for livestock and information on addressing or preventing common issues that can impact livestock farmers in the Yukon.



STANDARDS OF CARE

The Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals are nationally developed guidelines that are scientifically informed, practical and reflect societal expectations for responsible farm animal care.

We encourage you to consult the [Codes of Practice on the National Farm and Animal Care Council's website](http://nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice) (nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice).

Increasing your understanding and adopting best management practices for raising and caring for livestock can increase production, reduce overall costs, reduce injuries and illness as well as reduce loss of profits.

The Five Freedoms

The Five Freedoms are internationally accepted standards for the care of living beings and their right to humane treatment. When producers safeguard these freedoms, they ensure an animal's primary welfare.

The Five Freedoms are the basis for animal care protocols.

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst.
2. Freedom from discomfort.
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease.
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour.
5. Freedom from fear and distress.

CONTROL ORDER

The Government of Yukon issued a Control Order under the *Animal Health Act* to reduce the risk of respiratory disease transfer from domestic to wild sheep and goats. The Control Order is in effect until December 31, 2024.

In accordance with Control Order 2018-001, sheep and goats must:

- be kept in an enclosure approved by an inspector;
- have permanent identification (e.g., ear tag, microchip)
- be tested for pathogens that cause respiratory disease; and
- be kept below 1,000 metres (3,280 feet) elevation.

In addition, under the Control Order 2018-001, owners must:

- keep records for every individual sheep and goat;
- report the escape of any sheep or goats from their enclosure or while being transported to the Animal Health Unit (see “Contact” section); and
- apply for and obtain a permit to import sheep or goats into the Yukon.

Learn more and keep up to date on the Control Order 2018-001 at [Yukon.ca/health-and-wellness/animals/reduce-risk-respiratory-disease-wild-sheep-and-goats](https://www.yukon.ca/health-and-wellness/animals/reduce-risk-respiratory-disease-wild-sheep-and-goats).

If you own sheep or goats, you must let the Animal Health Unit know. (See “Contact” section.) Failure to do so is an offence under the *Animal Health Act*.

NOMENCLATURE

Groups of goats are commonly referred to as a herd; groups of sheep are referred to as a flock.

- **Lamb (for sheep) or kid (for goat):** Offspring of either sex that is still nursing and less than one year of age.
- **Weanling:** Recently weaned offspring, less than one year of age.
- **Yearling (sheep and goat):** One to two years of age.
- **Wether (sheep and goat):** A castrated male.
- **Ram for sheep or buck for goat:** Male breeding stock.
 - » **Sire:** The father of a kid or lamb.
- **Ewe (for sheep) or doe (for goat):** Female breeding stock that has had one or more offspring.
 - » **Dam:** The mother of a kid or lamb.

BASIC NEEDS

Housing and environment

Housing and living environment must provide for an animal's basic needs and be as stress free as possible. Stressed livestock do not thrive and are more susceptible to illnesses.

Facilities

Access to equipment or facilities that allows for the safe handling, restraint, treatment, segregation, loading and unloading of sheep or goats reduces stress for the handler and the animal.

Allow enough space in your facilities for horned animals to move freely without hindrance.

Well-designed facilities reduce fighting, horn entanglement and other issues among horned sheep and goats. Sheep and goats require a minimum of two square metres (21.5 square feet) per animal to minimize aggressive behaviour.

Sheep should always have visual contact with other sheep to prevent excess stress when moving, handling or housing them. Design facilities accordingly.

Dry and elevate resting/bedding areas. Make the resting/bedding areas available at all times for all sheep and goats in all locations (pasture, pens and segregation pens).

Flooring inside barns should provide secure footing and traction and allow for routine cleaning.

Areas for housing, grazing and loafing should be sufficient in space and size to allow all animals to simultaneously lie down and ruminate, stand up, turn around and move easily.

Sheep in full fleece need more space than shorn animals, and pregnant animals need more space than open animals. Total floor space for sheep and goats should meet or exceed their estimated lot space requirement for their current stage of life.

Sheep and goats are prone to respiratory diseases if confined indoors. Access to fresh air and outdoor exercise areas is recommended at all times of the year.

During the off season, locate separation pens for rams and bucks, and provide them with company such as a wether. Individual bucks and rams should not be kept in solitary isolation as this can cause extreme stress and lead to behavioural problems. Provide rams and bucks with additional bedding in the winter to prevent scrotal frostbite.

Have temporary holding areas available and ready during lambing/kidding season for first-time ewes and does or those experiencing lambing/kidding problems.

Fencing

Perimeter fences must be well constructed and regularly maintained to protect sheep and goats from predators and to prevent escape.

Keep pastures and fencing free of loose wire or anything with sharp edges that can cause injury.

BASIC NEEDS

Check for poisonous plants such as celery-leaved buttercup or lupine and remove them from pastures.

Keep outdoor stocking densities low enough to prevent soil degradation and overgrazing.

Electric mesh fencing should not be used for horned animals.

Specifically, all sheep and goats must be contained appropriately to prevent any potential nose-to-nose contact with wildlife.

The Government of Yukon issued a Control Order 2018-001 under the *Animal Health Act*. The Control Order requires sheep and goats be contained in an enclosure approved by an inspector and inspected each year to ensure it is in proper condition and working order. (See “Control Order” section.) Contact the Animal Health Unit or the Agriculture Branch to review enclosure requirements or to have your fence inspected and approved. (See “Contact” section.)

Government funding is available for protecting livestock, pasture or crops from wildlife. Learn more at [Yukon.ca/funding-agriculture](https://www.yukon.ca/funding-agriculture).

There is also compensation available for damage caused by wildlife. Learn more at [Yukon.ca/funding-agriculture](https://www.yukon.ca/funding-agriculture).

Contact the Agriculture Branch’s Livestock Extension Services Unit for more information on agricultural funding programs. (See “Contact” section.)

Weather conditions

Manage your flock in relation to adverse weather conditions.

- Relocate to sheltered areas.
- Provide additional bedding when appropriate.
- Manage shearing to minimize risk of hypothermia or heat stress.
- Provide additional feed to increase energy, especially during excessive cold periods.

Outdoors, provide your animals with access to areas that are either natural (hills, gullies, thickets of trees, shelterbelts) or artificial (windbreaks, three-sided sheds) for protection and relief from extreme weather that poses a serious risk to their welfare.

Feed and nutrition

Correct feed management is necessary to meet sheep and goats' varying nutritional needs throughout the production process (e.g., maintenance, growth, reproduction or lactation).

Ruminant diets must contain forage with adequate fibre to ensure proper rumen function, prevent acidosis and reduce the risk of bloat and laminitis.

Distribute feed and water in a way that avoids provoking excessive competition between individual sheep and goats. Design and distribute hay feeders, feed bunks and troughs to provide sufficient feeding space to reduce aggressive interactions. Where possible, provide 40 centimetres (16 inches) of feeder space per adult animal and 30 centimetres (12 inches) of feeder space per lamb or kid.

BASIC NEEDS

To determine a balanced feed ration, take into account:

- age, frame size, body condition and reproductive status;
- health status and physiological requirements;
- required vitamins, minerals and amino acids;
- competition; and
- weather.

Sheep are prone to copper toxicity. Sheep diets should not contain more than 15 parts per million of copper as it becomes toxic. Use mineral supplements formulated especially for sheep. If goats are fed sheep mineral, the goats may become marginally copper deficient. As sheep and goats do not have rough tongues like cattle, loose mineral is preferred.

Check the quality of your feed. Ask your supplier for a feed analysis. Yukon feed suppliers can get their feed tested through the Agriculture Branch. (See “Contact” section.)

Provide additional feed during extreme weather conditions to meet animals’ increased energy requirements.

Gradually transition from high-forage to high-energy rations to avoid bloat resulting from abrupt dietary changes.

Water

Provide sheep and goats with access to adequate and clean sources of water at all times. Sheep and goats require five to ten litres per head per day depending on weather conditions and life stage. Water requirements are less in cold temperatures.

You can use clean, loose snow as a sole water source temporarily. Ice is not an adequate source of water.

If using snow as the sole water source, you must ensure:

- there are sufficient quantities available each day;
- there is no sign of dehydration in the flock;
- the flock gradually acclimated early in the cold season;
- the snow is not hard packed, trampled or soiled; and
- a backup water source is available.

Snow cannot be the sole water source if:

- animals are lactating;
- animals are newly weaned;
- an animal's Body Condition Score is BCS 2 or lower; or
- animals are unable to access feed resources.

In these cases, you must provide another source of water for the sheep or goats.

Use best management practices by moving portable water troughs regularly to avoid muddy and trampled ground.

Continuously monitor water troughs and other water sources in warmer weather to prevent heat stress and increase forage utilization.

BODY CONDITION SCORE

The Body Condition Score (BCS) system is a useful tool to evaluate health and welfare, assess nutritional status and optimize production of your animals. Typically, the five-point BCS scale is used with a score of BCS 1 meaning “too thin” and a score of BCS 5 meaning “too fat.” Generally, a score of BCS 3 is ideal. (Refer to the “Body Condition Score” table and images.)

You must take corrective actions to improve an animal's Body Condition Score when it is:

- below the minimum of BCS 2 for meat breeds; and
- BCS 1.5 for dairy/prolific breeds of sheep.

Factors that can cause a low BCS include:

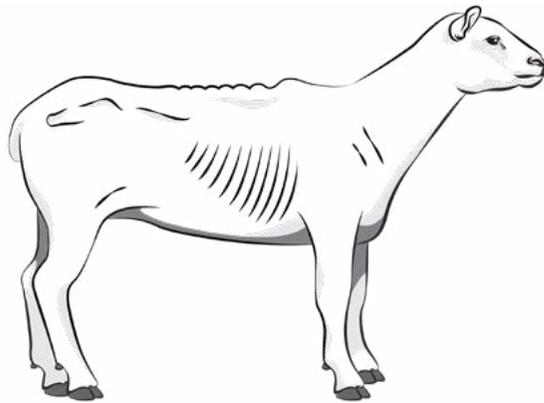
- insufficient nutritional content in feed;
- excessive competition for feed;
- health conditions causing increased nutritional requirements;
- parasitism; or
- old age.

BODY CONDITION SCORE

You must consult with a veterinarian or nutritionist when Body Condition Score is below the minimum of BCS 2 and if corrective actions (isolation, improved feeding rations, etc.) are ineffective at improving a BCS 2 score.

Contact the Agriculture Branch's livestock health technicians who can connect you with veterinarians and nutritionists specialized in livestock. (See "Contact" section.)

The Veterinary Services Program helps farmers get veterinary care for livestock. Learn more at [Yukon.ca/livestock-health](https://www.yukon.ca/livestock-health). Contact the Animal Health Unit about this program. (See "Contact" section.)

BODY CONDITION SCORE**SHEEP – BCS 1****WHOLE BODY**

emaciated

bony processes can be easily felt

SPINE

dorsal spinous processes are sharp and prominent

easily felt through skin

LOIN

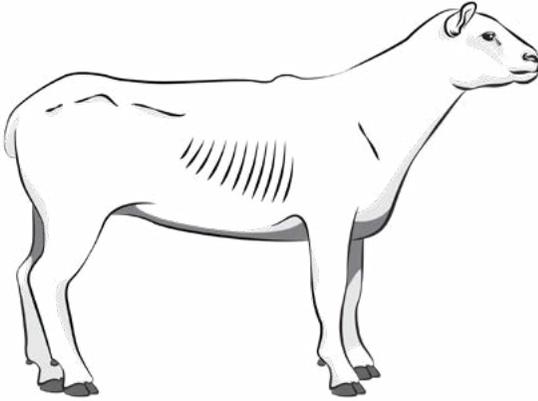
no fat cover

loin muscles very shallow

TRANSVERSE PROCESSES

sharp

easy to pass fingers underneath them

SHEEP – BCS 2**WHOLE BODY**

thin

more difficult to feel between each process

SPINE

dorsal spinous processes still prominent, but not as sharp

LOIN

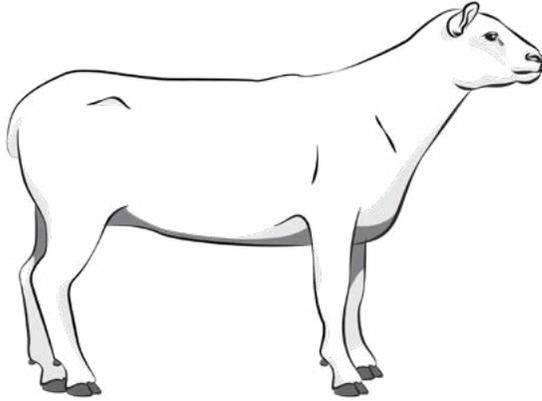
loin eye muscle fuller

virtually no fat cover

TRANSVERSE PROCESSES

rounder on edges

slight pressure needed to push underneath them

SHEEP – BCS 3**WHOLE BODY**

average

SPINE

spinous processes smoother and less prominent

some pressure required to feel between them

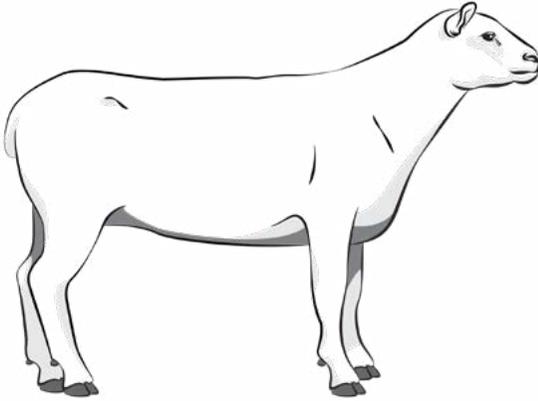
LOIN

loin muscle full, some fat cover

TRANSVERSE PROCESSES

smooth

firm pressure needed to push fingers under edge

SHEEP – BCS 4**WHOLE BODY**

fat, with fat accumulations over tail head

SPINE

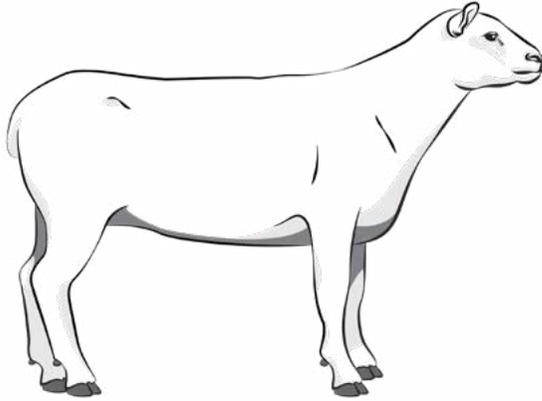
considerable pressure needed to feel dorsal spinous

LOIN

loin eye muscle full, with discernible fat cover

TRANSVERSE PROCESSES

cannot be felt

SHEEP – BCS 5**WHOLE BODY**

obese

fat pad over tail head

SPINE

dorsal spinous processes cannot be felt

depression often present where they would normally be felt

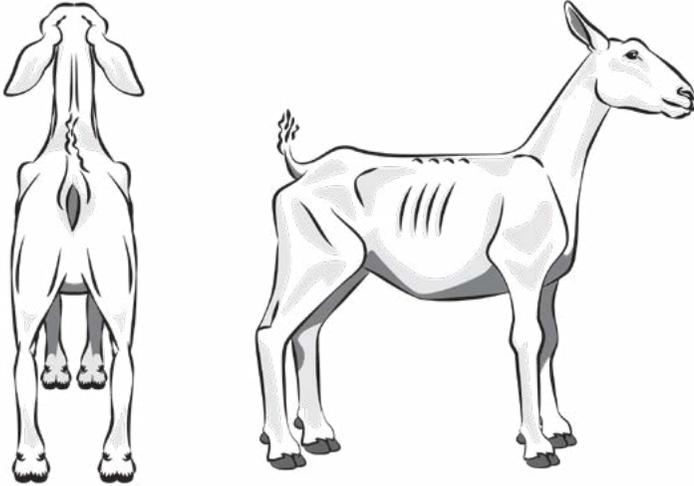
LOIN

loin eye muscle very full

thick covering of fat

TRANSVERSE PROCESSES

cannot be felt

GOAT - BCS 1**WHOLE BODY**

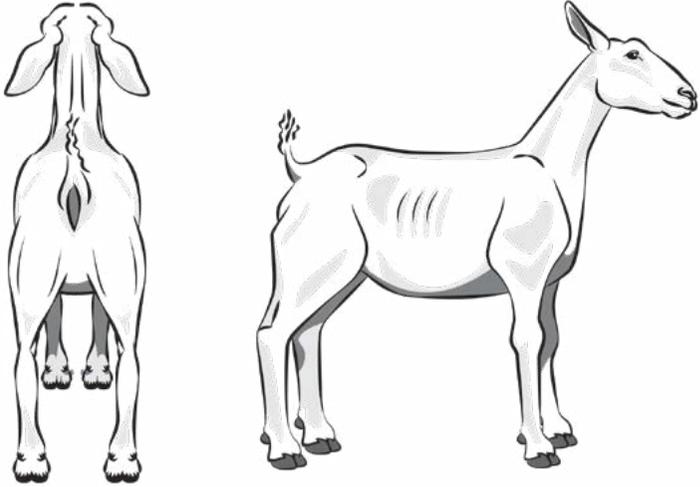
skeletal

BRISKET

bones felt, movable callous present

LUMBAR

emaciated, skin stretched over a skeleton

GOAT - BCS 2**WHOLE BODY**

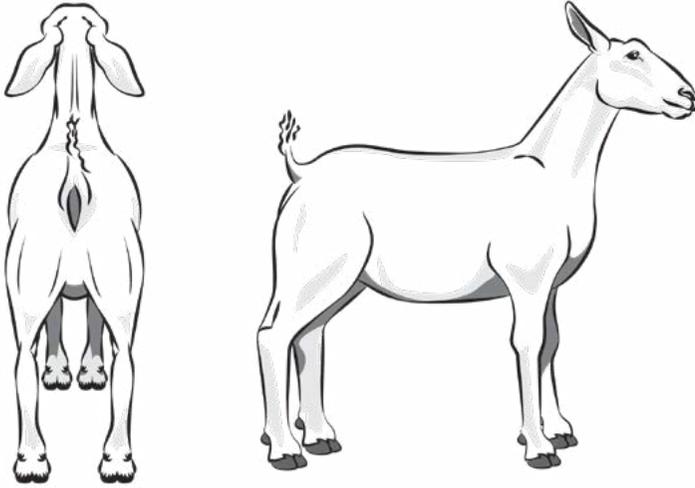
thin

BRISKET

callous small, small fat pad under skin

LUMBAR

some muscle present, skeleton still obvious

GOAT - BCS 3**WHOLE BODY**

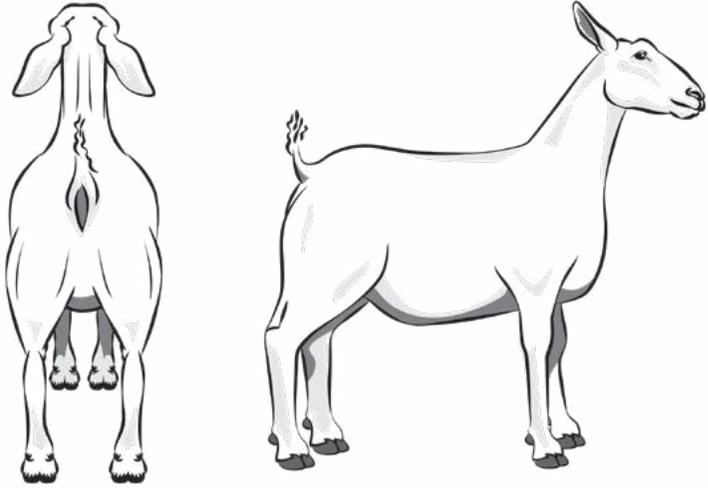
fair

BRISKET

ridge between fat and muscle and bone, fat over muscle

LUMBAR

firm muscle, 60 mm of fat

GOAT - BCS 4**WHOLE BODY**

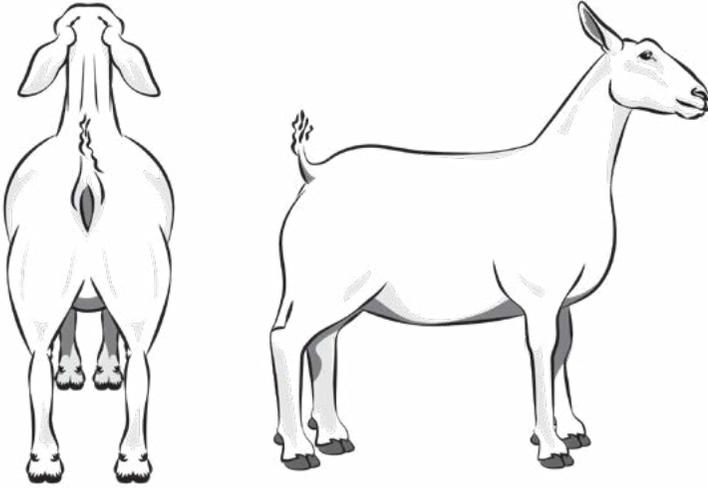
average

BRISKET

bones not palpable, muscle ridge still felt

LUMBAR

good muscle and fat cover

GOAT - BCS 5**WHOLE BODY**

obese

BRISKET

muscle not felt, fat under the skin is not moveable

LUMBAR

abundant fat under the skin

ANIMAL HEALTH STRATEGIES

An effective Flock or Herd Health Management Program contributes to animal well-being by focusing on disease prevention, rapid diagnosis and effective treatment. Here are a few strategies for ensuring your animals' welfare and well-being.

Breeding

We recommend that breeding occurs exclusively with a predetermined purpose or market. Avoid accidental or indiscriminate breeding of sheep or goats.

When lambing or kidding, follow these strategies.

- Intervention is not recommended unless absolutely necessary.
- Personnel in charge must be trained and able to recognize and deal with distressed ewes or does, or lambs or kids.
- Consult with veterinarians prior to lambing or kidding season and have a plan in case of emergency.
- Provide colostrum (fresh or reconstituted powder) to any newborn lamb or kid showing signs that they have not yet received it through suckling. A lamb or kid should receive at least two litres within six hours of birth.
- It is common for sheep or goats to have twins or triplets. If the doe or ewe has difficulty giving birth and produces only one offspring, check to see if there is a second still in the animal. Consult a veterinarian for advice when there is a retained fetus.

When lambing or kidding in cold weather, newborns need shelter and bedding to keep them dry and protected from drafts. Use straw or hay bales as a windbreak if lambing/kidding on pasture. Provide supplemental heat if temperatures are less than minus 10 degrees Celsius (14 degrees Fahrenheit) and stop using once lambs/kids are dry and nursing.

Disbudding/dehorning and castration

Use pain control medication when disbudding/dehorning/trimming, tail docking, or castrating sheep or goats to reduce pain and stress.

Castrate and disbud lambs and kids as young as possible and implement low-stress handling.

Castration is not required if males are to be slaughtered before sexual maturity.

Contact veterinarian to discuss safe and effective disbudding and castration practices for sheep and goats and appropriate pain control medication.

Disease prevention

Importing new sheep or goats is the most common way that disease is introduced into a herd and parasites are introduced into your soil.

- When purchasing new sheep or goats, ask the sellers about their disease and parasite management programs.
- Quarantine new sheep or goats for 30 days in a dedicated location separate from all other livestock on the farm.
- Boost the new animal(s)' immunity by updating their external and internal parasite treatments and vaccinations while they are quarantined.
- Consult with the Agriculture Branch's livestock health technicians or a licensed veterinarian about diseases and parasites common in the territory.

Keep your flock/herd's vaccinations and parasite control status up to date and on a schedule to aid with treatment effectiveness.

Research and understand the life cycle of the parasites that pose problems in livestock in the Yukon. Controlling internal parasites can prevent health and welfare issues.

Do a routine check of your flock/herd to identify any issues or disease quickly.

Reportable diseases

If an animal is displaying signs of aggression, poor health or welfare, it is your responsibility to investigate those problems or vices to determine the cause.

Reportable diseases in sheep or goats include: Bluetongue, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (M. ovi), Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), sheep pox and goat pox, and scrapie. Refer to the [Canadian Food Inspections Agency's list of reportable diseases](https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/eng/1303768471142/1303768544412) (inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/eng/1303768471142/1303768544412).

If you suspect that an animal has a reportable disease, you must advise a veterinarian or the Animal Health Unit. (See "Contact" section.) This is required by law.

Caring for sick or injured animals

Provide immediate care, convalescence or treatment for sick or injured animals. Have a segregation area away from the flock/herd and use the area to isolate sick, injured or compromised animals. Ensure area allows for easy access to resting, food and water areas.

An animal should not suffer due to lack of action on flock/herd health, nutrition, handling or facility design. It is your responsibility to consult a professional and implement any necessary actions to ensure an animal's welfare.

Build an ongoing working relationship with the Agriculture Branch's livestock health technicians or a veterinarian and determine a strategy for disease/parasite prevention and herd health. (See "Contact" section.)

The Veterinary Services Program helps farmers get veterinary care for livestock. Learn more at [Yukon.ca/livestock-health](https://yukon.ca/livestock-health). Contact the Animal Health Unit about this program. (See "Contact" section.)

Euthanasia

Euthanize, without delay, sheep or goats that:

- are unlikely to recover from illness or injury;
- fail to respond to treatments;
- are in chronic, severe or debilitating pain and distress;
- are unable to get to or consume feed or water; or
- show continuous weight loss or emaciation.

Prior to euthanasia, sheep or goats should not be dragged, prodded, forced to move on broken limbs or made to move when in pain or suffering.

Methods and approach

Whenever possible, ensure no other animals are present when euthanasia is being performed.

The person performing euthanasia must be experienced and confident.

Acceptable methods of euthanasia include gunshot or penetrating captive bolt directly to the brain. Death by veterinary assistance is also available.

For confirmation of death, check for insensibility by touching the eyeball and noting if the animal blinks (corneal reflex). Do so only when safe. An insensible animal will not blink.

Be ready to immediately deliver a second application should the first attempt fail.

ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGIES

Handling

Even docile sheep and goats can be unpredictable. Be vigilant and do not leave children or other vulnerable people unattended with sheep or goats.

Personnel and animal handlers of sheep or goats should be familiar with their behaviour and handling techniques. This includes being able to recognize indicators of aggression, poor health or welfare.

Government funding is available for training, mentorship and internship projects. Learn more at [Yukon.ca/funding-agriculture](https://www.yukon.ca/funding-agriculture) and contact the Agriculture Branch for more information. (See “Contact” section.)

Quiet handling techniques are recommended and preferred for moving sheep and goats of all ages. Rough handling leads to frightened and aggressive sheep and goats.

Never hold sheep or goats by the wool or horns as it may result in injury to the animals' horns or to the handler. Restrain animals with a hand or arm under the neck and with the other arm placed on or around the rear or use a properly fitted collar.

Individual sheep are stressed when separated from the flock. Do not break the line of sight between flock and individual sheep. Move the flock or herd calmly by working outside their flight zone. Entering the flight zone too deeply or too quickly can cause unpredictable reactions and possibly dangerous behaviour.

ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGIES

The World Animal Health Organization states not to use electric prods on sheep. Do not use electric prods as a first resort when moving animals, and do not use electric prods on:

- genitals;
- face;
- udder;
- anal areas;
- lambs or kids less than three months of age;
- repeatedly on the same animal; or
- downed, sick or injured animals.

It is unacceptable to mistreat or cause intentional harm to animals. This includes and is not limited to: beating, slamming gates on animals, allowing herd dogs to continuously bite or push animals who have nowhere to go, dragging or pushing animals with machinery, excessive use of electric prods, etc.

Exemptions apply when a reasonable and measured defense action is required to protect other animals or humans.

Transportation

Do not transport animals who are in the last 10 per cent of their gestation period or who have given birth within the preceding 48 hours, unless seeking veterinary attention.

Pens, races, restraining gates and floors should be in good condition to avoid injury. Ramps should have an incline of no more than 35 degrees. Loading areas should be well lit and avoid casting shadows.

Provide feed and water to animals within five hours prior to loading for transportation if the transport will exceed 24 hours. Maximum transport time for sheep and goats is 48 hours, with a minimum feed, water and rest time of five hours before reloading.

Do not transport unfit sheep or goats per the federal [Health of Animals Regulations](https://canlii.org/en/ca/laws/regu/crc-c-296/latest/crc-c-296.html) (canlii.org/en/ca/laws/regu/crc-c-296/latest/crc-c-296.html) that falls under the *Health of Animals Act*. Unfit animals are not to be transported unless being transported to receive care recommended by a veterinarian. If transported, the unfit animal must be loaded, confined, transported and unloaded in accordance with the provisions under the regulations (see section 139) to prevent suffering, injury or death.

Kids and lambs should not be shipped until at least seven days old.

Do not mix sheep or goats that are incompatible for any duration of transportation.

Provide adequate dry bedding during transport per current weather and transport conditions (add extra bedding if exceedingly cold).

Provide adequate ventilation during transport (extra ventilation if exceedingly warm, or limited ventilation if exceedingly cold).

Transporting sheep or goats from outside the Yukon:

Under the Control Order 2018-001, anyone wanting to import sheep or goats into the Yukon must acquire a permit. Complete and submit the *Application to Import Domestic Sheep or Goats into Yukon* prior to importation. Once approved, the Government of Yukon will issue the permit to the applicant. The permit holder will be required to follow and adhere to the specific requirements and conditions outlined in the permit. (See “Control Order” section.)

Transporting sheep or goats within the Yukon: Owners are required to implement permanent identification for domestic sheep or goats to allow for individual identification. Learn more about animal identification inventory at [Yukon.ca/en/doing-business/support-agriculture/farm-sheep-and-goats-yukon#animal-identification-and-inventory](https://www.yukon.ca/en/doing-business/support-agriculture/farm-sheep-and-goats-yukon#animal-identification-and-inventory). (See “Identification” section.) Owners are also required to take the necessary steps to prevent escape and to report any escaped animals to the Animal Health Unit. (See “Contact” section.) A permit for transport within the Yukon is not required.

Slaughter

Slaughter only healthy sheep and goats. Only healthy sheep and goats can be transported to a slaughter facility.

Some exceptions can be made for emergency slaughter of an injured animal if the animal can be killed humanely. Contact a veterinarian if you need advice. You must get a veterinarian to approve the injured animal for slaughter if you plan on selling the meat for retail.

Withdraw feed from the animal from six to 24 hours prior to slaughter. Continue to allow access to water prior to slaughter.

Sheep or goats that have received a veterinary drug cannot be slaughtered to be sold or used for food until the withdrawal time specified on the drug’s label has passed.

Selling meat for human consumption

The Yukon's *Meat Inspection and Abattoir Regulations* apply to the slaughter of animals and sale of meat in the Yukon. According to the regulations, no person shall slaughter animals, sell or offer meat for sale to any person unless the animal has been slaughtered and inspected in accordance with regulations.

To sell meat or advertise meat for sale, you must meet all the requirements in the regulations, including:

- slaughtering the animal in a licensed abattoir;
- having the meat inspected and approved fit for consumption by a government meat inspector; and
- transporting and storing meat from an abattoir in an approved containment that is both temperature-controlled and equipped for the care of meat.

If one of the requirements above occurs in a non-inspected setting, the meat product loses its inspected status and can no longer be sold.

For the sale of uninspected (also known as “farm gate”) meat, an animal must be sold whole and alive directly from the producer to the purchaser prior to slaughter. The purchaser must be able to provide proof of a purchase agreement date before the slaughter date. The purchaser agrees that the meat will not be used or sold commercially and will only be consumed by themselves, their immediate family and non-paying guests. Each meat package should be stamped with “uninspected” or “not for sale.”

MANAGING FARM OPERATIONS

Identification

It is the producers' responsibility to have proper Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) identification for sheep and goats. Canadian Sheep Identification Program tags are radio frequency identification (RFID) enabled and bear the official Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) logo.

In accordance with the Government of Yukon's Control Order 2018-001, all sheep and goats must have permanent identification.

It is the producers' responsibility to have proper CCIA identification for animals. Proper identification of individual animals assist with tracking animal performance, verifying individual animals that require attention, dam and offspring identification, and culling decision making. Identification methods available include RFID tags (associated with CCIA account numbers), ear tags, microchips or leg bands. Learn more about the mandatory Canadian Sheep Identification Program at [Yukon.ca/en/doing-business/support-agriculture/farm-sheep-and-goats-yukon#animal-identification-and-inventory](https://www.yukon.ca/en/doing-business/support-agriculture/farm-sheep-and-goats-yukon#animal-identification-and-inventory).

Yukon farmers are encouraged to enrol in the Premises Identification and Traceability Program. The program is a bridge between local farms and the National Livestock and Poultry Traceability System. Get more information on how to enrol in the Premises Identification and Traceability Program at [Yukon.ca/doing-business/support-agriculture/farm-sheep-and-goats-yukon#identify-your-farm](https://www.yukon.ca/doing-business/support-agriculture/farm-sheep-and-goats-yukon#identify-your-farm). Enrolment is free.

You also require the premises identification number to register for the Government of Yukon's Veterinary Services Program. (See "Government support" section.)

Biosecurity

Biosecurity is critical to minimizing the spread of diseases among sheep or goats and within the sheep and goat industry.

A biosecurity plan puts measures and procedures in place to reduce the risk of introducing and spreading disease agents (pathogens).

- External biosecurity means keeping disease agents from getting onto the farm and keeping them from getting out into other farms.
- Internal biosecurity means containing the spread of disease within the farm or system and is managed by individual farms.

Biocontainment means preventing the spread of pathogens to other populations of sheep or goats.

Integrate the following actions into your daily farm practices and routines.

- Segregate diseased or infected sheep or goats to limit the risk of pathogens entering uninfected areas or groups of sheep or goats.
- Sanitize areas (especially segregation pens) to reduce or inactivate pathogens. Clean and wash to remove visible organic materials. Then disinfect and dry the area, including livestock trailers.

- Apply flow management practices and guidelines to reduce cross-contamination by people, material (equipment) and other sheep or goats. A good practice is to divide your farm into zones to control and organize movements (of people, livestock and equipment). Designate areas for parking spots, signage, boots and equipment, cleaning/changing areas, and fencing. These are good tools to limit contacts between designated zones.
- Keep records. Record keeping helps with origin tracking if there is an outbreak within your flock/herd. It also helps you mitigate an outbreak and reduce the spread to other producers. It can also be used to train new staff. (See “Record keeping” section.)

We recommend that you stay up to date on the [National Sheep or Goat On-Farm Biosecurity Standard from the Canada Food Inspection Agency](https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/biosecurity/standards-and-principles/eng/1344707905203/1344707981478) (inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/biosecurity/standards-and-principles/eng/1344707905203/1344707981478).

Record keeping

Keeping good records helps producers with their genetic performance, biosecurity and profitability.

Animal ID records: Tracks an animal's place of origin, date of birth, health, vaccination records and treatment records. This is valuable in determining withdrawal periods for slaughter.

Biosecurity records: Tracks farm visitors, pest management and cleaning protocols.

Breeding records for individual sheep or goats: Tracks the number of lambs/kids an animal has had and due dates for lambing/kidding.

Cost records: Helps producers plan for the future by evaluating the expenses versus revenues associated with sheep/goat production (e.g., feed cost, vaccination cost, maintenance, income from selling/butchering).

Health records: Tracks treatments, types of medications and vaccinations per animal and withdrawal times.

Inventory records: Tracks and determines the number of sheep or goats that have been bought, sold, born and died over a one-year period.

Traceability records: Tracks transportation of livestock and deadstock.

Emergency planning

It is important to prepare an emergency plan for unexpected events such as fires or wildfires, flooding, limited feed supply, utility failure or extreme weather. This can also include serious illness or death of main caretaker, transportation accidents, or evacuating and relocating livestock.

Refer to these emergency preparedness documents specific for farms and livestock.

- [Government of Canada's Emergency Preparedness for Farm Animals](http://getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/frm-nmls/index-en.aspx) (getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/frm-nmls/index-en.aspx).
- [Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Emergency planning is for producers too](http://agriculture.canada.ca/en/canadas-agriculture-sectors/animal-industry/agriculture-emergency-management/emergency-planning-producers-too) (agriculture.canada.ca/en/canadas-agriculture-sectors/animal-industry/agriculture-emergency-management/emergency-planning-producers-too).

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Agricultural funding programs

The Government of Yukon's Agriculture Branch, in partnership with the Government of Canada, provides funding to the Yukon's agriculture sector to:

- increase competitiveness, productivity or profitability;
- increase environmental sustainability;
- expand domestic and international markets; and
- improve anticipating, mitigating and responding to risks.

Learn more about the programs at [Yukon.ca/funding-agriculture](https://yukon.ca/funding-agriculture) or contact the Agriculture Branch. (See "Contact" section.)

Veterinary Services Program

The Government of Yukon's Animal Health Unit coordinates the Veterinary Services Program.

- It's free for farmers to enrol.
- Producers must have a premise ID to enrol.
- It helps with consultations, animal care, management plans, biosecurity assessments, drugs, vaccines and treatments, laboratory analysis.
- It offers funding for private veterinarian costs.

Learn more at [Yukon.ca/livestock-health](https://yukon.ca/livestock-health) to access the Veterinary Services Program for farmers or contact the Animal Health Unit. (See "Contact" section.)

RESOURCES

Standards

National Farm Animal Care Council's Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals (nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice)

Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada's Guidance for Organic Sheep and Goats: Animal Welfare on Organic Farms (cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/faculty/agriculture/oacc/en/livestock/Welfare/awtf_guidance_sheep_goats09.pdf)

Sheep and goat organizations

Canadian Sheep Breeders Association (sheepbreeders.ca/association)

Canadian Sheep Federation (cansheep.ca)

Scrapie Canada (scrapiecanada.ca)

Sheep Canada Magazine (sheepcanada.com)

Canadian Meat Goat Association (canadianmeatgoat.com)

The Canadian Goat Society (goats.ca)

Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada - Animal Welfare Task Force (dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/oacc/en-home/resources/livestock/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-task-force.html)

CONTACTS

Agriculture Branch, Livestock Extension Services Unit

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
Government of Yukon

Phone: 867-667-5838 or toll-free: 1-800-661-0408
(ask to be transferred)

Fax: 867-393-6222

Email: agriculture-livestock@yukon.ca

Website: Yukon.ca/support-agriculture

Location: 300 Main Street, Suite 320, Elijah Smith Building in Whitehorse

Mail: PO Box 2703 (K-320A) Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Animal Health Unit

Department of Environment
Government of Yukon

Phone: 867-667-5600 or toll-free: 1-800-661-0408
(ask to be transferred)

Fax: 867-393-6263

Email: animalhealth@yukon.ca

Website: Yukon.ca/support-agriculture

Location: 10 Burns Road in Whitehorse

Mail: PO Box 2703 (V7) Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

DISCLAIMERS

French version

This document is available in French. A digital version is available online at Yukon.ca/livestock-health.

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