



Cornell University  
Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education

CARE629.01 Preventative Veterinary Care for Sheep

The intent of this document is to describe preventative veterinary care for sheep. This SOP is intended for use by sheep facility staff, Cornell's Ambulatory & Production Medicine Clinic staff, and Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education (CARE) staff. This procedure is approved by the Cornell Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and the Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education (CARE). The facility may have supplemental SOPs that further describe their specific manner of operation. Any exemption must be approved by the IACUC prior to its application.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Materials
3. Procedures
4. Safety
5. Contingencies
6. References

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### 1. Introduction

This SOP details the preventative veterinary health care program utilized to reduce the risk of communicable and zoonotic disease in sheep at Cornell University's teaching and research facilities.

### 2. Materials

- Vaccines
- Needles and syringes
- Animal/herd health records

### 3. Procedures

#### A. Vaccination program

##### i) Lambs

(1) *Clostridium perfringens* types C&D and tetanus:

(a) Initial: 70 to 110 days of age

(b) Booster: 30 to 40 days following initial vaccination

- (1) Contagious ecthyma (a.k.a. Orf): vaccinate lambs at the time of tail docking.
  - ii) Ewes: booster Clostridium perfringens types C&D and tetanus prior to each lambing.
  - iii) Rams: booster for Clostridium perfringens types C&D and tetanus annually.
- B. Quarantine procedures
- i) Evaluate available health records of incoming non-Cornell originating sheep to assess the need to vaccinate or treat as required prior to contact with the Cornell flock.
  - ii) Quarantine (isolated pens) all sheep brought in from outside farms for at least one month.

#### **4. Safety**

- a. Sheep have the potential to transmit disease to humans, please refer to the CARE Zoonosis web page for details.
- A. Sheep have the potential to create allergies in humans, please refer to Cornell University's Environmental Health & Safety information regarding animal related allergens.

#### **5. Contingencies**

- A. Post contact information for emergency assistance at the entrance to the animal facility.
- B. Emergency veterinary care is available at all times including after working hours and on weekends and holidays through the Ambulatory & Production Medicine Clinic (607-253-3140) or CARE (1-800-349-2456).

#### **6. Reference**

- CARE SOP 542, Maintaining clinical records for animal research models: <http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/documents/SOPs/CARE542.pdf>
- Cornell Animal Related Allergen Information: <http://www.research.cornell.edu/Care/documents/OHS/AllergyPreventionFactSheet.pdf>
- CARE Zoonosis Web Page: <http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/zoonoses.html>

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