

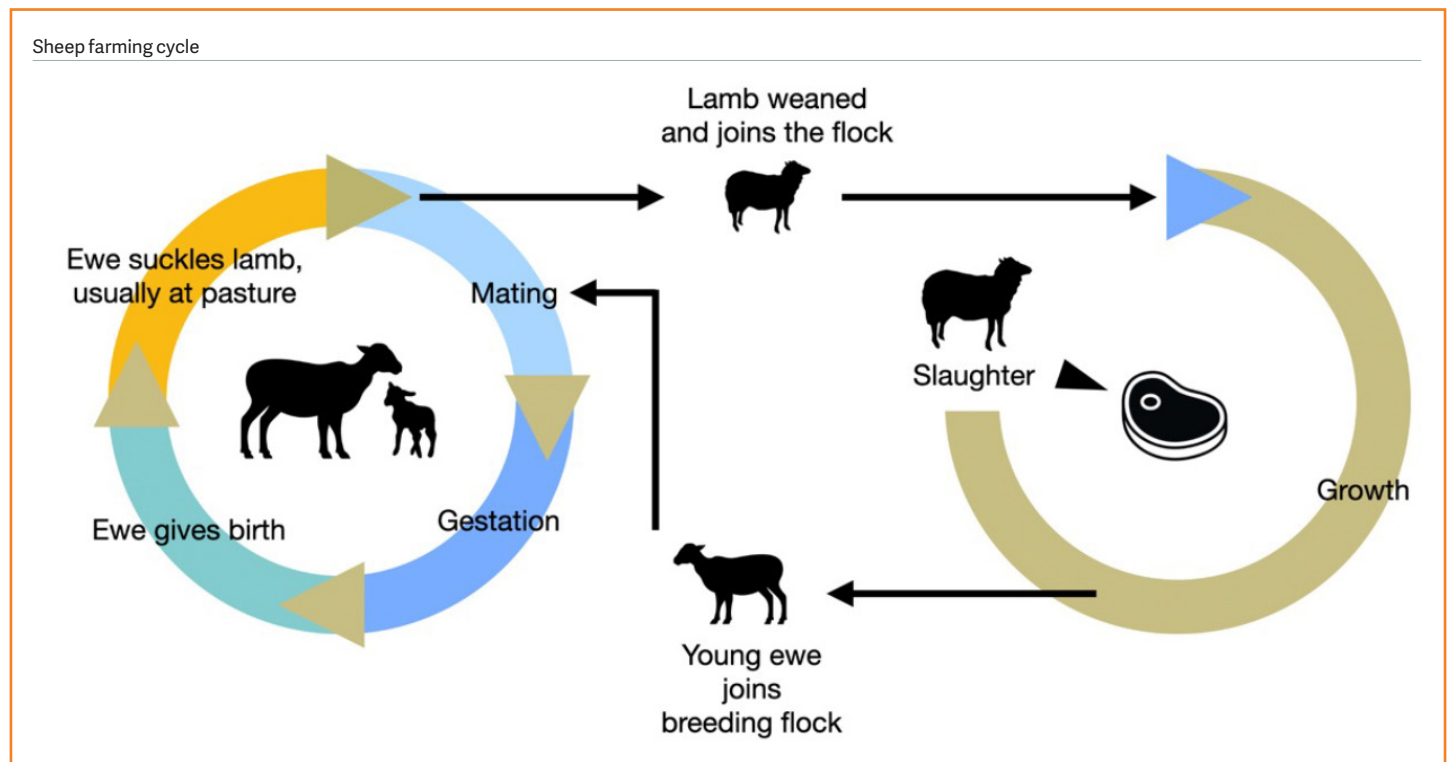
5.9 Sheep Toolkit

Introduction

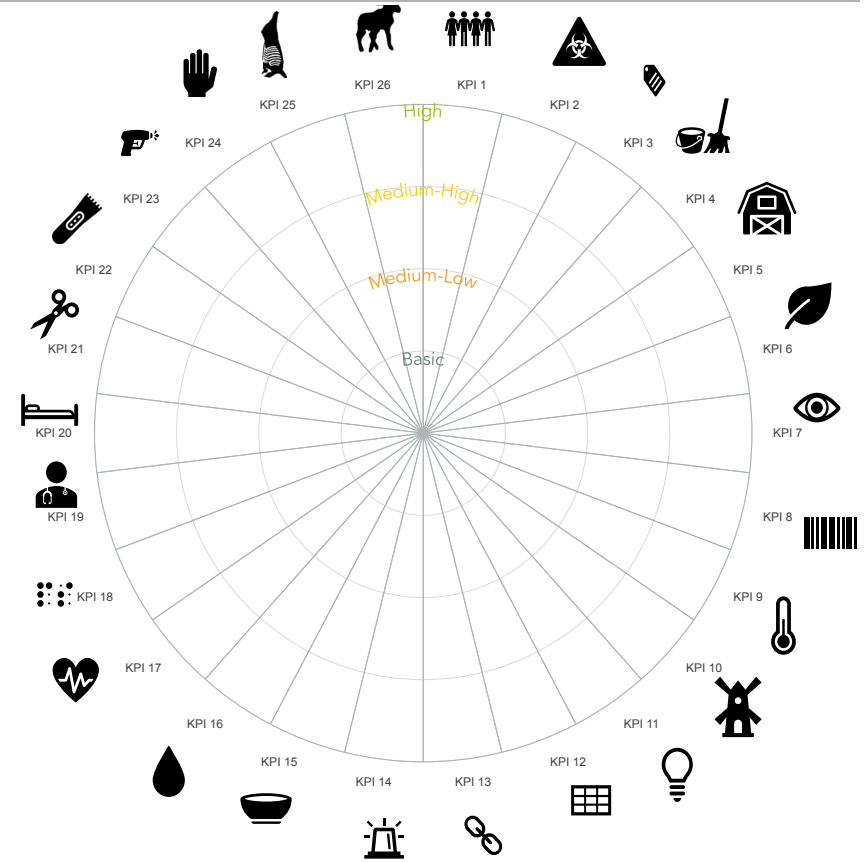
The domestic sheep (*Ovis aries*) is a small ruminant species raised for wool, meat, milk and hides. The FAO estimates there are 1 billion sheep in the world. The species has many breeds, adapted to serve different local purposes and suiting diverse global environments, from the cold, wet mountainous areas of northern Europe and New Zealand, to the arid areas of Africa, Asia and Australasia. There is often a large difference in size between males and females. Sheep can live for up to 12 years, but most are slaughtered at a younger age – usually at between eight months and two years of age. Sheep are primarily grazing animals, cropping pasture close to the ground. Sheep species spend a large proportion of their time eating high fibre forage and then resting, often lying down to chew the cud. In the wild, sheep tend to form small social groups, with males entering the group only during the breeding season.

In many parts of the world, sheep are sheared in early summer to protect against heat stress and fly strike. Lambs are usually separated from their mothers (ewes) sometime after 12 weeks, when natural weaning is well under way, and lambs then grow based on forage diet (See figure for sheep farming cycle).

Key welfare issues for sheep include: rough handling during sorting; shearing and transport; use of dogs for handling; lameness; internal and external parasites including fly strike skin damage; hunger and body condition when forage is sparse (in drought); predators; long distance transport; and non-stun slaughter.



KPI	Achievement
KPI 1: People, training - Links to P1, P2, P11	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 2: Biosecurity - Links to P5, P8, P11	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 3: Animal identification - Links to P10	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 4: Cleaning and disinfection - Links to P5, P8, P11	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 5: Farm environment: physical - Links to P2, P4, P5, P6, P9	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 6: Farm: pasture, all-year access - Links to P3, P4, P6	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 7: Animal checks - Links to P10, P11	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 8: Handling - Links to P2, P4, P5, P11	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 9: Farm environment: temperature - Links to P4, P9	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 10: Farm environment: ventilation, air quality, dust - Links to P4, P9	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 11: Farm environment - light - Links to P6	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 12: Farm environment: stocking - Links to P1, P4, P6	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 13: Tethering - Links to P1, P4, P6	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 14: Farm environment: emergency - Links to P7, P10, P11	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 15: Feed - Links to P3	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 16: Water - Links to P3	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 17: Health, and health planning - Links to P5, P8	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 18: Isolation - Links to P5, P8	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 19: Medicines - Links to P2, P8, P11	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 20: Litter, bedding - Links to P4	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 21: Mutilations - Links to P5, P7	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 22: Shearing - Links to P5, P7	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 23: Euthanasia - Links to P5, P7	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 24: Transport - Links to P2, P11, P12	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 25: Slaughter - Links to P7, P11, P12	<input type="radio"/>
KPI 26: Lambing - Links to P1, P2, P4, P5, P10	<input type="radio"/>

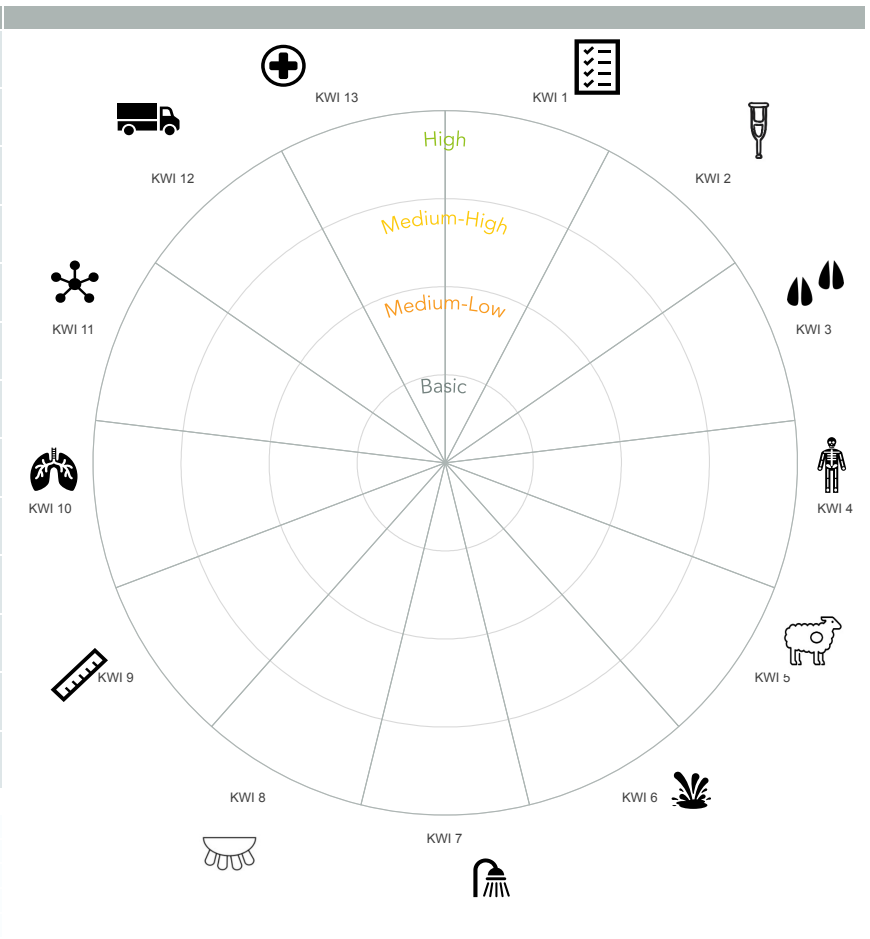


Basic level not achieved
 Basic (B)
 Medium-Low (ML)
 Medium-High (MH)
 High (H)

Overall KPI achievement



KWI	Achievement
KWI 1: Animal records - Links to P10	<input type="radio"/>
KWI 2: Lameness - Links to P1, P4, P5, P11	<input type="radio"/>
KWI 3: Feet - Links to P1, P4, P5, P11	<input type="radio"/>
KWI 4: Body condition - Links to P1, P4, P5, P11	<input type="radio"/>
KWI 5: Hair loss, swellings - Links to P1, P4, P5, P11	<input type="radio"/>
KWI 6: Faecal soiling - Links to P1, P4, P5, P11	<input type="radio"/>
KWI 7: Sheep cleanliness - Links to P1, P4, P5, P7, P11	<input type="radio"/>
KWI 8: Mastitis - Links to P1, P4, P5, P8, P10, P11	<input type="radio"/>
KWI 9: Tail length - Links to P1, P4, P5, P11	<input type="radio"/>
KWI 10: Respiratory disease, pneumoniaLinks to P1, P4, P5, P11	<input type="radio"/>
KWI 11: Social - Links to P1, P2, P6	<input type="radio"/>
KWI 12: Transport: vehicles - Links to P10, P12	<input type="radio"/>
KWI 13: Transport: fitness to travel - Links to P2, P4, P5, P7, P11	<input type="radio"/>



Overall KWI achievement



Overall achievement

Overall achievement





KPI Sheep 1

People, training - Links to P1, P2, P11		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	All people responsible for the care of sheep should have received appropriate training by others with appropriate experience, who can demonstrate sufficient knowledge of animal behaviour, general signs of diseases, and indicators of poor animal welfare.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	People handling animals are trained in handling techniques, emergency killing procedures and biosecurity.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Records of training are kept.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	Routine procedures should not cause injury, panic, lasting fear or avoidable pain or distress, and where painful procedures cannot be avoided, they should be carried out by competent and trained people.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	An animal welfare contact person or co-ordinator, responsible for animal welfare aspects within the farm or company, is identified.	<input type="radio"/>				
High (H)	The animal welfare contact person has received training in animal welfare aspects.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Training, performance and competence of staff is reviewed, and periodic refresher training is carried out.	<input type="radio"/>				
High (H)	People in the company are supported to have higher-level training or achieve professional qualifications in sheep management, animal care and animal welfare.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	The company supports staff to be part of a development and training programme.	<input type="radio"/>				



KPI Sheep 2

Biosecurity - Links to P5, P8, P11		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Sheep housing has surfaces that allow cleaning and is periodically cleaned, so that animals can remain clean and to help prevent disease.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	A biosecurity programme or plan (Resource 7) is in place.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Facilities (including feed and bedding storage areas) are constructed to limit the entry of pathogens, pests, and animals that could transmit diseases to the sheep.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	Access to the farm buildings is limited to essential farm employees only.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Visitors adhere to strict biosecurity requirements specific to the farm being visited.	<input type="radio"/>				
High (H)	The biosecurity programme includes a risk assessment (which may be based on hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) training) of the primary pathogens and parasites that are likely to pose a risk to the herd.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 3

Animal identification - Links to P10		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Sheep are identifiable, in line with the local requirements, by ear tag or other mark, to allow for traceability.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Imported sheep are identifiable, in line with the local requirements, by ear tag or other mark to allow for traceability.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	Marking of sheep is done with care, by trained people, and avoiding unnecessary pain or distress.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Ear cutting or notching is not carried out.	<input type="radio"/>				
High (H)	If used, neckbands and tailbands are fitted with care and adjusted as required to avoid unnecessary pain or distress.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 4

Cleaning and disinfection - Links to P5, P8, P11		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Vermin are controlled through the use of bait stations, traps and other appropriate and effective measures, and only approved pest control substances or chemicals permitted by law are used.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	The construction of accommodation, pens, handling facilities for sheep ensures they can be cleaned and disinfected.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	Written cleaning and disinfection protocols are implemented.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	A list of permitted disinfectants and detergents used on the farm, and their safety data sheets, is available.	<input type="radio"/>				
High (H)	The most humane effective baiting method is adopted, and pest control baits are only accessible to the targeted species.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 5

Farm environment: physical - Links to P2, P4, P5, P6, P9		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Floors, surfaces, fittings, equipment and other facilities in and around the sheep housing is designed, constructed, operated and maintained to minimise the risk of escape, injury, electrical shock, trapping, or disease, and are free from rough edges and sharp protrusions.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	The sheep house environment provides opportunity for comfortable resting and normal movement, and expression of a range of normal sheep behaviours.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Sheep are protected from predators, vermin, and excessive noise.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Slats or mesh floors, if used, do not result in injury to the animals' feet.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	Housing is constructed to minimise fire risk, and firefighting equipment and smoke detectors are installed, with capacity to escape the building in an emergency.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	Automatic systems, for example automated feed systems for sheep, have not replaced human 'care and observation' until their safe and reliable use in maintaining animal welfare has been demonstrated.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 6

Farm: pasture, all-year access - Links to P3, P4, P6		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The farmer is aware of the welfare advantages of access to pasture when the ground conditions allow.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	If sheep are kept outside all year round, they should be protected from extreme weather conditions (especially for land prone to drought, flooding, or snow cover), and able to receive adequate food and water.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Animals at pasture are given protection from biting insects where this is possible.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	At pasture, there is enough shade and shelter available for all sheep to use at the same time.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	For sheep kept outside all year round, there is a dry lying area or alternative site where sheep can be moved in the case of extreme weather.	<input type="radio"/>				
High (H)	As previous.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 7

Animal checks - Links to P10, P11		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Daily (minimum) checks are carried out on sheep and lambs kept outside on enclosed pasture.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Increased frequency of checks for newborn lambs and sheep about to give birth.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Twice daily (minimum) checks for sheep and lambs kept inside.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	When sheep are on upland, hill or mountain pastures, they must be inspected as frequently as is necessary to avoid welfare problems, ideally once a day.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	As previous.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 8

Handling - Links to P2, P4, P5, P11		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The farmer uses temporary gates or handling facilities to move or handle sheep.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	There are appropriate permanent holding and handling facilities on-site.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-Low (ML)	Sheep are not pulled or lifted by the fleece, horns, tail, ears or limbs.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Sticks are not be used for hitting sheep.	<input type="radio"/>				
	If dogs are used for sheep handling, they must not cause injury or distress to sheep.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Dogs must not be allowed to scavenge on carcasses or animal parts, including placentae.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	A crate or crush in good condition, and designed for sheep of the appropriate size, is available.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Heavily-pregnant ewes (those in the last 2 months of pregnancy) are only be handled when absolutely necessary, and with care.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Races and gates are designed so animals can move through them easily.	<input type="radio"/>				
High (H)	Loading facilities (if provided) have a ramp of no more than a 26.6% incline.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 9

Farm environment: temperature - Links to P4, P9		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The farmer is aware of the need to protect sheep and lambs from extremes of high or low temperature.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Heating and cooling systems are capable of producing enough heat or cooling to ensure the sheep do not get too hot or too cold. This is particularly important for lambs and young sheep.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	Active steps are taken if sheep indicate signs of heat stress or extreme cold.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	As far as possible, sheep are prevented from gathering in places where they may be buried by snow.	<input type="radio"/>				
High (H)	As previous.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 10

Farm environment: ventilation, air quality, dust - Links to P4, P9		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The farmer is aware of air quality as a welfare concern.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Housing is effectively ventilated with control of humidity, no build-up of noxious gases (for example ammonia, nitrogen oxide, carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulphide).	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	If meters or testing tubes are used to assess air quality: ammonia must not exceed 25ppm	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	An air quality score is used (see Resource 4).	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 11

Farm environment - light - Links to P6		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Light levels are at the legal base requirement.	<input type="radio"/>				
	If no legal requirement exists, adequate levels of light are provided for carers to observe animals, and for the animals to carry out daytime behaviours.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Sheep housing has lighting which allows inspection of the sheep or lambs, and allows for normal behaviours and rest.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Dark rest periods are provided.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	Fixed or portable artificial lighting is available, at any time, to allow sufficient light to inspect animals, for example, during lambing.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	Natural light is provided.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Housed sheep have a normal period of daylight hours, and with access to an area lit to a level of at least 100 lux measured at animal eye level.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 12

Farm environment: stocking - Links to P1, P4, P6		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Where stocking density is legislated, the legal specification is followed.	<input type="radio"/>				
	All sheep have sufficient space to walk, turn around, sit, and access feed and water without undue competition.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Yards or loose housing allow all sheep to lie down at the same time, to rise without difficulty, and to turn around and stretch.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	Recommended space allowances are adopted (see Resource 10 for recommended space allowances).	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	As previous.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 13

Tethering - Links to P1, P4, P6		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	All-year-round tethering of sheep is not permitted.	<input type="radio"/>				
	If tethered, sheep are untethered before lambing.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Tethers do not cause pain or injury, do not tighten, are made of non-abrasive materials, and allow the sheep space to lie down, rise without difficulty, stand in a natural position, and stretch and groom without obstruction.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Exercise without a tether is provided daily for tethered sheep.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	No tethering of any sheep or lambs is permitted.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	As previous.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 14

Farm environment: emergency - Links to P7, P10, P11		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Written plans are in place to deal with emergencies such as fire, power failure, flooding, accidental injuries, freezing, failure of water and feed supply, or chemical or effluent spillage.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	The written plan is in place and displayed.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-Low (ML)	Contacts and emergency phone numbers, and contact numbers in cases where the emergency can affect human health, are available at each site.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	If generators are used for back-up power, they are tested periodically under conditions of load.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	The emergency plan includes approved methods of humane killing of sheep. The methods proposed are consistent with national law.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	Plans have been developed in consultation with a veterinarian, and updated annually, to cover circumstances such as animals infected with a potentially zoonotic or notifiable disease.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 15

Feed - Links to P3		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The feed is of a quantity and quality to maintain normal health and productivity, to prevent prolonged hunger or malnutrition, and is suited to the sheep or lamb age and needs.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Feed and watering systems are easily accessible to all sheep, without bullying.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	All feeding and drinking systems are checked daily for proper operation. In feed barrier systems, 'pushing up' (moving feed closer to the feed barrier) may be required, so housed sheep can access feed at all times.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Feed is stored to protect it from contamination or water damage.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Medicated feed is kept separate and is clearly labelled.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	Feeder space allowance for sheep is provided as in Resource 10.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	When grass or conserved forage is low in quantity or quality, or when nutrient demand is high (such as with ewes in late pregnancy) supplementary feeding is given.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Lambs are not weaned until sufficient hard feed is being eaten.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Lambs are given dry, fresh, clean feed including forage from 8 days.	<input type="radio"/>				
High (H)	Sheep with difficulty eating because of damaged or missing teeth are supplied with food which they are able to eat, and are monitored to ensure they do not lose condition.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Forage intake is optimised as far as possible, through good grassland management.	<input type="radio"/>				



KPI Sheep 16

Water - Links to P3		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Water is of a quantity, quality and hygiene to maintain normal health and to prevent dehydration.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Drinkers and drinking troughs meet both manufacturers' recommendations and local regulatory requirements, and must provide adequate access for all sheep or lambs.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Drinking systems essential for sheep health and welfare are checked for proper operation daily.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-Low (ML)	Sheep have access to clean water during all daylight hours.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	Water bowls and troughs are designed to avoid lambs drowning.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	At least one drinking space per 20 animals is provided.	<input type="radio"/>				
High (H)	An emergency supply of water has sufficient capacity to supply the site for 24 hours at maximum demand.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Natural open water sources (such as lakes, ponds, rivers) are not used as a water source.	<input type="radio"/>				



KPI Sheep 17

Health, and health planning - Links to P5, P8		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	A procedure is in place to report, and deal with, an outbreak of any notifiable disease.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Infectious, parasitic and metabolic diseases, injury, and conditions causing distress, are prevented and controlled through good management, good animal care, biosecurity, vaccination and genetic selection.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	The farming system does not depend on prolonged or routine use of pharmaceuticals.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	A H&W plan is in place (Resource 6).	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	The H&W plan is reviewed annually and is authorised by the company veterinarian.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 18

Isolation - Links to P5, P8		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The farmer is aware that separation of sick animals from health animals has welfare advantages.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Appropriate facilities are available (within 3 hours) for the segregation or isolation of sick or injured sheep or lambs.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	The isolation facility is capable of being cleaned and disinfected, and shares no airspace with other livestock housing, does not allow direct contact with any other animal(s), and has drainage which can prevent contamination of other livestock areas.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	As previous.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 19

Medicines - Links to P2, P8, P11		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Any drugs or other agents used to treat sheep must be compliant with all local guidelines and applicable local legislation.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Hormones and antibiotics are not used as growth promoters.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Preventive (prophylactic) use of antimicrobials is not permitted.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-Low (ML)	Vaccines and medicines are stored securely and in the recommended conditions (label instructions).	<input type="radio"/>				
	Medicine use is recorded (Resource 5).	<input type="radio"/>				
	The company has access to a veterinarian experienced in sheep care.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	Any antimicrobial classified as being of 'high' or 'medium' importance for human medicine, defined as Highest Priority Critically Important Antimicrobials (HPCIA) is not permitted for use in sheep, unless under veterinary advice.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Persons administering medicines have relevant experience and training.	<input type="radio"/>				
	An annual review of medicine use should include a review of records and data, including medicine records, and make recommendations to responsibly reduce antibiotic usage where appropriate, without negatively impacting welfare.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	An antimicrobial stewardship plan is in place, and, is complied with (see OIE 2016, in Resource 12).	<input type="radio"/>				
	The plan is reviewed on annually, and is linked to existing regional or national antimicrobial stewardship schemes.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	The company reviews prophylactic treatment and makes recommendations for alternative disease prevention strategies.	<input type="radio"/>				

 KPI Sheep 20

Litter, bedding - Links to P4		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Bedding (such as straw, hay, wood shavings, rice hulls and rubber matting) provision is at the legal base requirement.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Where no legal definition exists, some new bedding material is added to the bedded area regularly to maintain comfort and hygiene.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-Low (ML)	Housing conditions allow the sheep to be able to keep clean.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Water, urine, dung or slurry does not accumulate to a degree which makes the sheep wet or dirty.	<input type="radio"/>				
	All sheep and lambs sent to slaughter meet the abattoir cleanliness requirements.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	Lying areas are well-drained and regularly cleaned out to avoid a build-up of dirty bedding.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	Fully slatted systems without bedding are not recommended, and systems adopting this will not achieve the High Welfare tier.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		

 KPI Sheep 21

Mutilations - Links to P5, P7		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The farmer is aware that, if mutilations are carried out, there are methods available to reduce pain and distress.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Where painful procedures cannot be avoided, they should be carried out by competent and trained people.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Where painful procedures cannot be avoided, pain is actively managed, for example through using analgesics, or procedures under anaesthetic.	<input type="radio"/>				
	The suggested age limits and methods in Resource 11 are adopted.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	Mutilations are undesirable, and alternatives to mutilations are used wherever possible.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	No mutilations are carried out.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		

 KPI Sheep 22

Shearing - Links to P5, P7		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The farmer is aware of poor condition or overgrown fleece as a welfare issue.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Adult sheep of a wool breed have their fleece removed at least once a year.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Sheep are not shorn if the weather conditions will mean the loss of fleece will compromise their welfare.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	If a sheep is wounded during shearing, treatment is given immediately.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	To minimise the risk of spreading diseases between flocks, shearers clean and disinfect their shearing equipment, and change or clean and disinfect their footwear and protective clothing.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 23

Euthanasia - Links to P5, P7		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Sheep or lambs are euthanased by adopting local legally-approved methods.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Sick or distressed animals are isolated and treated promptly, or euthanased humanely without delay, if treatment is not feasible or recovery is unlikely.	<input type="radio"/>				
	People responsible for euthanasia have received appropriate training.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-Low (ML)	Any equipment used for euthanasia is maintained in good working order, and records documenting maintenance are kept.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Carcases of mortalities or euthanased animals are stored and protected from vermin and other animals.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	A written policy for euthanasia is produced by working with a veterinarian, and is based on recognised best international practice.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	Methods used for euthanasia in emergency or disease control situations have approval from the appropriate local government agency.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 24

Transport - Links to P2, P11, P12		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Handling for transport is carried out by trained people.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Sheep or lambs which are sick, weak, injured, or known to be diseased, are not transported.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-Low (ML)	Sheep or lambs in transport, and those awaiting market or slaughter, are protected from adverse weather, and high temperatures.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Sheep or lambs are not pulled or lifted by the fleece, tail, ears or limbs.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Sticks are not to be used for hitting sheep.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Sheep are well-fed and hydrated prior to the transport.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	Animals are handled using low-stress methods, equipment, and facilities that calm animal movement.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	As previous requirement.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 25

Slaughter - Links to P7, P11, P12		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	A recognised method to induce immediate insensibility is adopted at slaughter (see Introduction Action 3.5 regarding stunning).	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Animals are slaughtered by adopting local legally-approved methods.	<input type="radio"/>				
	The slaughterhouse is aware of stunning as a welfare issue.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Stunning and killing is conducted by an appropriately trained and competent person.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Any equipment used for euthanasia is maintained in good working order and is appropriate for the designated use, and records documenting maintenance are kept.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Electro immobilisation is not used.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-Low (ML)	Staff are trained in, and able to explain, how to: check an animal has been properly stunned; check for signs of consciousness and unconsciousness; and know what to do if an animal has not been properly stunned.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	At least 1 welfare contact person or co-ordinator, sometimes known as an Animal Welfare Officer) is appointed to have specific knowledge, training and responsibility for welfare during slaughter.	<input type="radio"/>				
	A maximum stun-to-stick interval of 15 seconds is adopted.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	Percentage of sheep not effectively rendered immediately insensible is recorded and actions taken to reduce to a minimum.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	Internationally-recognised best practice methods for slaughter are adopted (see RSPCA in Resource 12).	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KPI Sheep 26

Lambing - Links to P1, P2, P4, P5, P10		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The farmer is aware of the disease and welfare advantages of lambing sheep in a separate, hygienic and clean bedded area.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Sheep that are giving birth are kept separate from other livestock (other than other lambing sheep).	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-Low (ML)	There are appropriate facilities for sheep to give birth.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	Space allowances (Resource 10) for lambing pens and lambing areas are adopted.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	Sheep in the lambing pen can see and hear other sheep.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Close restraint of ewes (involving 'yoking') for the purpose of lamb fostering is not carried out.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KWI Sheep 1

Animal records - Links to P10		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Records are kept of:	<input type="radio"/>				
	Births	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Mortality (including lambs stillborn)	<input type="radio"/>				
	Animals sent to the abattoir	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-Low (ML)	Records are kept of:	<input type="radio"/>				
	Lameness (clinical cases, non-routine foot trimming)	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Culling records and reasons for culling (planned culls, poor fertility etc).	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	Records are kept of:	<input type="radio"/>				
	Infectious diseases	<input type="radio"/>				
	Number of medical treatments is recorded (see Medicine KPI Sheep 19, and Resource 5).	<input type="radio"/>				
	Parasite disease incidence	<input type="radio"/>				
	Sheep injuries	<input type="radio"/>				
	Metabolic disorders (pregnancy toxemia/ketosis and hypocalcaemia)	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Problems at lambing (vaginal prolapse, dystocia, 'ringwomb')	<input type="radio"/>				
	Foot care	<input type="radio"/>				
	Mastitis	<input type="radio"/>				
	Body condition scores	<input type="radio"/>				
Pain relief given	<input type="radio"/>					
High (H)	Records are kept of staff observation and checking times for sheep.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KWI Sheep 2

Lameness - Links to P1, P4, P5, P11		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The farmer is aware of lameness as a welfare issue.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Lameness is evaluated on-farm using pictures and descriptions such as in Resource 1.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	If the incidence of lameness is higher than established targets, measures are taken to improve conditions on-farm.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	The company sets high targets for lameness incidence, measures performance and reports on outcomes.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KWI Sheep 3

Feet - Links to P1, P4, P5, P11		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The farmer is aware of foot condition and overgrown feet as a welfare issue.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Feet and foot condition is evaluated on-farm using pictures and descriptions such as in Resource 1.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	If the incidence of overgrown feet is higher than established targets, measures are taken to pare and improve feet.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	The company sets high targets for foot condition, measures performance and reports on outcomes.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KWI Sheep 4

Body condition - Links to P1, P4, P5, P11		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The farmer is aware of the impact of poor body condition on sheep welfare.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Body condition scoring is carried out by the farmer (an example of a sheep body condition score scale is given in Resource 1 – similar scales exist in several countries).	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	The farmer responds to the minimum body condition scores for different part of the sheep production cycle by altering feed and management.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	Annual review of body condition scores is part of the health plan.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KWI Sheep 5

Hair loss, swellings - Links to P1, P4, P5, P11		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The farmer is aware of hair loss and swellings as a welfare issue.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Hair loss and swellings are evaluated using pictures and descriptions such as in Resource 1. If sheep are found with swellings and skin lesions at the slaughter plant, the farmer is informed.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	If the incidence of hair loss and swellings is higher than established targets, measures are taken to improve conditions on-farm.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	The company sets high targets for low levels of hair loss and swellings, and measures performance and reports on outcomes.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KWI Sheep 6

Faecal soiling - Links to P1, P4, P5, P11		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The farmer is aware of faecal soiling as a welfare issue.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Faecal soiling is evaluated using pictures and descriptions such as in Resource 1. If sheep are found with faecal soiling at the slaughter plant, the farmer is informed.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	If the incidence of faecal soiling is higher than established targets, measures are taken to improve conditions on-farm, including nutrition.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	The company sets high targets for low levels of faecal soiling, and measures performance and reports on outcomes.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KWI Sheep 7

Sheep cleanliness - Links to P1, P4, P5, P7, P11		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The farmer is aware of sheep and lamb cleanliness as a hygiene and welfare issue.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Sheep cleanliness is evaluated at farm using pictures and descriptions such as in Resource 1. If sheep arrive dirty at the slaughter plant, the farmer is informed.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	If the incidence of dirtiness is higher than established targets, measures are taken to improve conditions on-farm.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	The company sets high targets for sheep cleanliness, measures performance and reports on outcomes.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KWI Sheep 8

Mastitis - Links to P1, P4, P5, P8, P10, P11		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The farmer is aware of the importance of mastitis in sheep health and welfare (and in public health for milking sheep).	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Records of mastitis cases are kept, and review of treatment outcomes takes place.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	Targets based on incidence of clinical mastitis are established according to the individual circumstances on the farm.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	A sheep mastitis treatment and control plan is adopted.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KWI Sheep 9

Tail length - Links to P1, P4, P5, P11		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The farmer is aware of the importance of tail length in protecting the welfare of the sheep.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Sheep and lamb tail length is evaluated at farm using pictures and descriptions such as in Resource 1. If sheep arrive at the slaughter plant with tails too short, the farmer is informed.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	If the incidence of short tails is higher than established targets, measures are taken to improve conditions on-farm, through training and understanding of the need for appropriate tail length.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	Alternatives to tail docking are adopted (see mutilations).	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KWI Sheep 10

Respiratory disease, pneumoniaLinks to P1, P4, P5, P11		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	The farmer is aware of the link between housing conditions and respiratory disease, particularly in lambs.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Treatment action is taken when there are cases of respiratory disease When there is respiratory disease, measures are taken to improve conditions on-farm.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	If the incidence of respiratory disease, particularly in lambs, is higher than established targets, measures are taken to improve conditions on-farm. Good ventilation is provided with free circulation of air above sheep height, and avoidance of draughts at sheep level.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	The company sets high targets for respiratory disease performance and reports on outcomes.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KWI Sheep 11

Social - Links to P1, P2, P6		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Sheep are kept in appropriate groups according to age, size and stage of the production cycle.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-Low (ML)	Sheep which bully other sheep, or rams (out of mating season) are not mixed with unfamiliar animals, or are removed from the group if there is bullying or injury.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
Medium-High (MH)	All sheep are allowed the sound and view of other sheep.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	As previous requirement.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KWI Sheep 12

Transport: vehicles - Links to P10, P12		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Legally-required stocking densities in transport are followed.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Journey durations are in line with local legislative requirements.	<input type="radio"/>				
	The transport is free from sharp edges or projections.	<input type="radio"/>				
	The transport allows the livestock to be inspected.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Sheep are not roughly moved onto transport which does not have ramps.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Sheep are not forced to jump on to, or off, of transport without ramps.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-Low (ML)	The transport is adequately ventilated for the temperature and loading conditions.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Loading ramps are designed to reduce the risk of slipping.	<input type="radio"/>				
	The transport flooring is not itself hazardous (for example, use of wire meshes or metal bars on the floor may prevent slipping, but are potentially damaging to feet and legs).	<input type="radio"/>				
	Transport flooring prevents the leakage of faeces and urine (as far as practicable).	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	The transport is safe and secure (for example, it has sides and gates sufficient to safely contain the animals during transport).	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	The transport has headroom that allows livestock to stand in a natural position.	<input type="radio"/>				
High (H)	The angle of internal and external ramps does not exceed 26.6°	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
High (H)	Vehicles used to transport sheep for export journeys over 8 hours, or non-export journeys over 12 hours have ventilation and temperature monitoring equipment and alarms.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		



KWI Sheep 13

Transport: fitness to travel - Links to P2, P4, P5, P7, P11		Observed?	Comment on observation	Achieved level?	Progress	Evidence/comment
Basic (B)	Sheep and lambs transported must be fit for the intended journey.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Sheep and lambs are able to bear weight on all 4 legs and walk onto the vehicle unaided.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-Low (ML)	Animals are handled and transported by trained and competent people.	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Stress due to herding, gathering, handling and the use of dogs before transport is minimised.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Heavily-pregnant ewes (those in the last 2 months of gestation) are handled with extra care and attention.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Loading facilities (if used) provide a ramp of no more than a 20% incline.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Sheep are penned in the lorry in groups of a similar age and size.	<input type="radio"/>				
Medium-High (MH)	The following animals are not transported unless under the direction of a veterinary surgeon:	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Sick or injured sheep or lambs. Animals unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Animals with a severe open wound, or prolapse, where moving them would cause additional suffering.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Heavily-pregnant sheep (where more than 90% of the gestation period has passed) unless being transported for veterinary treatment.	<input type="radio"/>				
	Sheep which have given birth during the last 7 days.	<input type="radio"/>				
	New-born sheep with unhealed navels are not transported.	<input type="radio"/>				
High (H)	Sheep are transported in their (farm) social groups (established at least 1 week prior to transport).	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
	Sheep have access to water up to the point of transport, and food up to 4 hours before loading onto the lorry.	<input type="radio"/>				

Notes: Sheep

AHDB (2015): [Condition Scoring of Ewes](#).

AssureWel: [Sheep](#)

AssureWel: [The AssureWel Approach to Improving Farm Animal Welfare: The Development and Use of Welfare Outcome Assessments in Farm Assurance](#)

AWIN: [Welfare assessment protocol for sheep](#).

BBAFW Investor Briefing (August 2015): [How are Investors Using the Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare?](#)

BBAFW Investor Briefing (November 2017): [How Companies Are Using the Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare](#)

BBAFW: [The Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare Report 2019](#).

British Veterinary Association: [Farm Assurance Schemes Infographic](#)

[Compassion in World Farming, Strategic Plan 2013–2017, For Kinder, Fairer Farming Worldwide](#)

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE (EC) 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE (EC) 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives EEC 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) 1255/97

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes

[COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes](#)

Council of Europe No.087: [European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes](#)

FAO: [Water Quality for Livestock and Poultry](#)

[FAWC advice on animal sentience \(10 June 2019\)](#)

[FAWC: Evidence and the welfare of farmed animals - part 2: evidence based decision making \(19 July 2018\)](#)

[FAWC advice on space and headroom allowances for transport of farm animals \(17 September 2013\)](#)

[FAWC report on farm animal welfare: health and disease \(29 November 2012\)](#)

[FAWC opinion on contingency planning for farm animal welfare in disasters and emergencies \(15 March 2012\)](#)

[FAWC advice on sustainable intensification of livestock agriculture \(3 February 2012\)](#)

[FAWC report on education about farm animal welfare \(15 December 2011\)](#)

[FAWC report on economics and farm animal welfare \(7 December 2011\)](#)

[FAWC opinion on the welfare of animals killed on-farm \(29 March 2018\)](#)

[FAWC opinion on CCTV in slaughterhouses \(3 February 2015\)](#)

Gov UK: [The Welfare of Farmed Animals \(England\) Regulations 2007](#).

Gov UK: [Animal Welfare Act 2006](#)

Gov UK: [Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing \(England\) Regulations 2015](#)

IFC (2014): [Good Practice Note: Improving Animal Welfare in Livestock Operations \(2014\)](#)

OIE: [Terrestrial Animal Health Code \(2019\)](#)

OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2019): [Chapter 7.5, Slaughter of Animals](#)

OIE: [The OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials \(2016\)](#)

[Red Tractor Beef & Lamb Standards \(2018\) Version 4.1](#)

RSPCA (2020) [Welfare Standards for Sheep](#)

Share Action: [What we do](#)

Vet Sustain (2019): [The Veterinary Sustainability Goals](#)

Welfare Quality Network: [Assessment Protocols](#)

WHO: [Water Safety and Drinking Water Quality Guidelines](#)

World Bank Group: [General Environmental, Health and Safety \(EHS\) Guidelines. \(April 2007\)](#)

[World Vet Antimicrobial Stewardship: McDonald's Corporation – Vision for Antimicrobial Stewardship in Food Animals \(March 2015\)](#)