

HUSBANDRY CALENDAR - for all alpacas advice is in black, for breeding alpacas additional information is in blue. These are only recommendations.

January

- Feed hay ad lib, [feed nursing dams extra protein](#).
- Body score, , inspect and treat teeth, check for jaw abscesses and look for evidence of mites.
- Check toe nails and trim if necessary
- Plan your field/paddock rotation for the coming year.
- Castrate males over eighteen months of age in winter to avoid the possibility of fly strike.
- Give your entire herd an injectable supplement of ADE or use paste.
- [Wean and microchip cria who are now 6 months old, register with BAS](#)
- [Plan matings for this year, especially if you want to avoid winter births.](#)

February

- Decide what your herd training needs are and start to helter train last year's cria ready for this year's shows.
- Check fences and make repairs/replace broken as necessary
- Feed hay ab lib, [feed nursing dams extra protein](#).
- Book your shearer or prepare your own shearing equipment.
- Body score, check jaws, teeth and look for evidence of mites, check toenails.
- Vaccinate against liver fluke/lungworm if appropriate.
- [Wean and microchip cria who are now 6 months old.](#)
- [Cria need to be vaccinated against clostridial disease, to include booster 3-4 weeks after initial vaccination.](#)

March

- Order fly deterrent if you use it.
- Feed hay ad lib, feed nursing dams extra protein.
- Body score, check for jaw abscesses and look for evidence of mites.
- Drench or vaccinate against liver fluke/lungworm if appropriate.
- [Prepare a birthing kit including plasma \(take blood from your own geldings or identify a reliable source\) or colostrum, stomach tube, towels, bubble wrap or cria coats, disinfectant, scales, lambing tapes, lubricant gloves, glucose, alpaca teats and bottle..](#)
- [Cria need to be vaccinated against clostridial disease, to include booster 3-4 weeks after initial vaccination.](#)
- [Wean and microchip cria who are now 6 months old and register them with BAS](#)
- [Order microchips and ear tags for this year's cria.](#)

April

- Take faecal egg counts and treat herd if appropriate.
- Move show team into a clean paddock or field.
- Plan new grasses on tired fields
- Body score, check jaws, teeth and look for evidence of mites, check toenails.
- [Confirm breeding programme and begin matings for births in March next year.](#)
- [Weigh new born cria and record birth, weight and other details.](#)
- [Cria need to be vaccinated against clostridial disease, to include booster 3-4 weeks after initial vaccination.](#)

May

- Clear the fields of ragwort, thistles, burrs and young oaks or oak leaves.
- Cut and wrap hay and haylage from now until September.
- Body score, check jaws, teeth and look for evidence of mites, check toenails.
- Weigh new born cria and record the birth and weight and any other details.
- [Cria need to be vaccinated against clostridial disease, to include booster 3-4 weeks after initial vaccination.](#)

June

- Shear alpacas not entering halter classes- trim teeth including fighting teeth if necessary and also nails.
- Sort and skirt the fleece ready for processing
- Check your fields again for ragwort, thistles, burrs and other poisonous plants
- Body score, check jaws, teeth and look for evidence of mites, check toenails
- [Weigh new born cria, record the birth, weight and other details.](#)
- [Cria need to be vaccinated against clostridial disease, to include booster 3-4 weeks after initial vaccination.](#)

July

- Finish shearing and skirting your fleece, have the fleece processed or store securely.
- Select and send fleece samples for analysis.
- Watch out for fly strike
- Continue to clear fields of poisonous plants.
- Body score, check jaws, teeth and look for evidence of mites, check toenails
- [Weigh new born cria, record the birth, weight and other details.](#)
- [Cria need to be vaccinated against clostridial disease, to include booster 3-4 weeks after initial vaccination.](#)

August

- Continue to cut hay if you have hay fields, ensuring there is no ragwort in the grass.
- Start a new dung heap leaving the old one to break down into manure to sell.
- Body score, check jaws, teeth and look for evidence of mites, check toenails
- Watch out for fly strike.
- [Weigh new born cria, record the birth, weight and other details.](#)
- [Cria need to be vaccinated against clostridial disease, to include booster 3-4 weeks after initial vaccination.](#)

September

- Body score, check jaws, teeth and look for evidence of mites, check toenails
- Vaccinate against liver fluke/lungworm if appropriate.
- Watch out for fly strike
- [Scan pregnant females.](#)
- [Weigh and new born cria, record the birth, weight and other details.](#)
- [Cria need to be vaccinated against clostridial disease, to include booster 3-4 weeks after initial vaccination.](#)
- [Feed pregnant and feeding dams extra protein.](#)
- [Give supplements of vitamin ADE females due to give birth in 6-8 weeks and young alpacas.](#)

October

- Give first supplement of vitamins ADE to dark coated, growing and [pregnant/nursing dams](#)
- Buy in and ensure you have enough hay to last through the winter months.
- Ensure your winter shelter/s are safe and do necessary repairs
- Body score, check jaws, teeth and toenails, look for evidence of mites.
- [Weigh new born cria, record the birth, weight and other details.](#)
- [Cria need to be vaccinated against clostridial disease, to include booster 3-4 weeks after initial vaccination.](#)

November

- Feed hay ad lib, feed pregnant and [nursing dams extra protein.](#)
- Body score, check jaws, teeth and toenails, look for evidence of mites.
- Consider giving an Autumn drench of zinc, copper, cobalt selenium, B12.
- [Scan pregnant females.](#)
- [Cria need to be vaccinated against clostridial disease, to include booster 3-4 weeks after initial vaccination.](#)
- [Register any cria who are unregistered](#)

December

- Feed hay ad lib, [feed pregnant and nursing dams extra protein.](#)

- Body score, check jaws, teeth and toenails, look for evidence of mites.
- Confirm breeding programme, select studs for next year matings and make arrangements