

CAMELID HUSBANDRY CALENDAR

Advice in black is for ALL alpacas. Additional advice for breeding alpacas is in blue (advice is based on birthing in May/June, to coincide with spring grazing and will need adjusting accordingly for births at other times of the year).

The advice given in this calendar are only recommendations.

Month	Husbandry: ALL camelids	Husbandry: Breeding Females & Cria	Other Activities
Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed hay¹ ad lib. • Continue whole herd Vitamin D supplementation² (as appropriate). • Monthly Health Checks: Body score, check colour of mucous membranes, jaws, teeth and toenails. Look for evidence of mites. • Clostridial vaccination³ is essential – give annual boosters in month they are due. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wean and microchip any cria who are now 6 months old and register them with BAS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan your field/paddock rotation for the coming year. • Castrate males over eighteen months of age during the winter months to avoid the possibility of fly strike. • Start planning your breeding programme for this year, plan matings (incl. selecting any outside studs and making arrangements).
Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed hay¹ ad lib. • Continue whole herd Vitamin D supplementation² (as appropriate). • Monthly Health Checks: Body score, check colour of mucous membranes, jaws, teeth and toenails. Look for evidence of mites. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider testing soil⁴ to decide on necessary fertiliser(s). • Start to halter train last year's cria (ready for this year's shows or new homes). • Check fences and make repairs/replace as necessary. • Book your shearer or prepare your own shearing equipment.
Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed hay¹ ad lib. • Continue whole herd Vitamin D supplementation² (as appropriate). • Monthly Health Checks: Body score, check colour of mucous membranes, jaws, teeth and toenails. Look for evidence of mites. • Do a faecal egg count to determine the no./type of parasites present in your herd (treat if appropriate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed late pregnant females extra energy & protein. • Give pregnant females which are around 8 months gestation a camelid specific, one-off oral drench containing iodine, cobalt and selenium⁵. • Give a one-off Vitamin D² booster to any pregnant females due to birth in 4-6 weeks' time. • Plan clostridial vaccination⁵ schedule for pregnant females 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider testing soil⁴ to decide on necessary fertiliser(s), apply as indicated. • Prepare a birthing kit including plasma (take blood from your own geldings) or colostrum substitute, stomach tube, towels, bubble wrap or cria coats, disinfectant, scales, lambing ropes, lubricant, gloves, glucose, alpaca teats and bottle. • Order microchips and ear tags for this year's cria. • Order fly deterrent if you use it.

Month	Husbandry: ALL camelids	Husbandry: Breeding Females & Cria	Other Activities
Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed hay¹ ad lib. • Continue with your Vitamin D supplementation² programme (as appropriate) • Monthly Health Checks: Body score, check colour of mucous membranes, jaws, teeth and toenails. Look for evidence of mites. • Do a faecal egg count, if not done already, to determine the type and number of parasites present in your her (and treat if appropriate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed pregnant females extra energy & protein. • Give pregnant females which are around 8 months gestation a camelid specific, one-off oral drench of iodine, cobalt and selenium⁵. • Give a one-off Vitamin D² booster to any pregnant females due to birth in 4-6 weeks' time. • Weigh any early new-born cria and record birth, weight and other details. • Clostridial vaccination³ of cria is essential - follow datasheet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move show team into a clean paddock or field. • Plan new grasses on tired fields (sow once danger of frost has passed). • Consider testing soil⁴ to decide on necessary fertiliser(s), if not done already, and apply as indicated.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Health Checks: Body score, check colour of mucous membranes, jaws, teeth and toenails. Look for evidence of mites. • Shear alpacas not entering halter classes (IF you have shelter for bad weather). Trim nails. Sort and skirt the fleece ready for processing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed pregnant and nursing females extra energy & protein. • Give a one-off Vitamin D² booster to any pregnant females due to birth in 4-6 weeks' time. • Weigh new-born cria and record the birth and weight and any other details. • Clostridial vaccination³ of cria is essential - follow datasheet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm breeding programme and begin matings for births in May next year. • Select and send fleece samples for analysis (taken from animal). • Clear the fields of ragwort, thistles, burrs and young oaks or oak leaves. • Cut and wrap hay and haylage from now until September.
Jun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Health Checks: Body score, check colour of mucous membranes, jaws, teeth and toenails. Look for evidence of mites. • Shear alpacas that have not been sheared. Trim nails. Sort and skirt the fleece ready for processing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed pregnant & nursing females extra energy & protein and offer to young cria • Weigh new-born cria, record the birth, weight and other details. • Clostridial vaccination³ of cria is essential - follow datasheet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue matings for births in May/June next year. • Select and send fleece samples for analysis (taken from animal).
Jul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Health Checks: Body score, check colour of mucous membranes, jaws, teeth and toenails. Look for evidence of mites. • Shear alpacas that have not been sheared. Trim teeth including fighting teeth if necessary and also nails. Sort and skirt the fleece ready for processing. • Watch out for fly strike. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed pregnant & nursing females extra energy & protein and offer to young cria (a creep pen is really useful) • Weigh any later newborn cria, record the birth, weight and other details. • Clostridial vaccination³ of cria is essential - follow datasheet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue matings for June births next year. • Scan pregnant females who have reached 45-60 days gestation. • Finish skirting your fleece, have the fleece processed or store securely. • Select and send fleece samples (from sheared fleece) for analysis. • Continue to clear fields of poisonous plants.

Month	Husbandry: ALL camelids	Husbandry: Breeding Females & Cria	Other Activities
Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Health Checks: Body score, check colour of mucous membranes, jaws, teeth and toenails. Look for evidence of mites. • Watch out for fly strike. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed nursing females extra energy & protein and offer to young cria • Clostridial vaccination³ of cria is essential - follow datasheet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scan pregnant females who have reached 45-60 days gestation. • Consider applying autumn fertiliser(s), if appropriate. • 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.
Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Health Checks: Body score, check colour of mucous membranes, jaws, teeth and toenails. Look for evidence of mites. • Start your whole herd winter Vitamin D supplementation² programme (as appropriate) • Give a fluke drench⁶ to high-risk animals. • Watch out for fly strike. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed nursing females extra energy & protein. • Start to establish a proper feeding routine with cria (in preparation for weaning). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scan pregnant females. • Buy in and ensure you have enough hay to last through the winter months.
Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed ad lib hay¹ • Monthly Health Checks: Body score, check colour of mucous membranes, jaws, teeth and toenails. Look for evidence of mites. • Continue whole herd Vitamin D supplementation² (as appropriate). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed nursing females extra energy & protein. • Establish a proper feeding routine with cria (in preparation for weaning). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure your winter shelter(s) are safe and do necessary repairs
Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed hay¹ ad lib. • Monthly Health Checks: Body score, check colour of mucous membranes, jaws, teeth and toenails. Look for evidence of mites. • Continue whole herd Vitamin D supplementation² programme (as appropriate). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed nursing females extra energy & protein. • Wean and microchip cria who are now 6 months old (or 5+ months if dams are thin and supplemental feeding is established), register with BAS. • Continue with feeding routine for cria that are not weaned. 	
Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Health Checks: Body score, check colour of mucous membranes, jaws, teeth and toenails. Look for evidence of mites. • Feed hay¹ ad lib. • Continue whole herd Vitamin D supplementation² programme (as appropriate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed nursing females extra energy & protein. • Wean and microchip cria who are now 6 months old (or 5+ months if dams are thin and supplemental feeding is established), register with BAS. 	

Notes:

- 1. Hay** should be offered all year round (this is just a reminder to feed in greater quantities outside the grazing season and ad-lib over winter).
- 2. Vitamin A,D & E** should be given to your entire herd from September to March. Oral supplements should be given at 4 weekly intervals, injectable supplements should be given at 8 weekly intervals. Dark fleeced animals may benefit from all year round dosing instead. This should be done at 3-monthly intervals, regardless of product type.
[An ADE booster should be given to pregnant females 4-6 weeks before birthing, which will supplement the levels in colostrum and milk for the crias' benefit.](#)
The dose of ADE will depend on the product type and your herd status.
- 3. Clostridial Vaccination** is essential for ALL animals. Adults and growing animals require an annual vaccination. [Protection in newborn cria is best achieved by giving a booster to pregnant females 4-6 weeks prior to birthing, which provides antibodies in the colostrum. This will cover cria until they start their own vaccination course, the timing of which will depend on the datasheet of the product selected.](#)
The gold standard recommendation is Bravoxin / Covexin 10, at the sheep dose.
- 4.** A basic **soil test** for PH, N, P & K will tell you whether you need to lime and what N:P:K fertiliser, if any, you will need. Consider a broader minerals test (to highlight any major deficiencies which could cause health problems) if not tested in past 3-5 years.
- 5.** A camelid specific **oral drench of iodine, cobalt and selenium around 8 months gestation** is recommended to support the developing cria. The need and frequency of additional mineral and vitamin drenches will depend on your herd status and location, and should be discussed with your vet.
- 6.** A **fluke drench** containing Triclabendazole at 1.5 times the sheep dose should be given to high-risk animals in Autumn - care with dosing due to toxicity.