

Individual measure	Guidance on sampling
<p>1.a) Lameness</p>	<p>If the flock is split into more than one group select ONE representative group of adult breeding ewes to assess. Where possible, the representative group should contain ewes only. Record group type (e.g. ewes or ewes and lambs).</p> <p>Assess the group, tallying the number of not lame (unaffected) and lame and severely lame (affected) sheep. The aim should be to assess all animals in the group, however, it is understood that at times this may not be possible (e.g. the sheep start running or they flock and stand still). In these cases assess as many animals as possible recording all unaffected and affected animals seen.</p> <p>If the representative group is ewes and lambs together, aim to assess the ewes only in instances where lambs can be instantly identified from dams (e.g. lambs are less than 75% of dam's size). If lambs cannot be instantly identified, assess all animals in the group. Indicate when lambs have been included in the group assessment.</p> <p>3 or more sheep should to be assessed jointly with the stockperson (record assessor's score only).</p> <p>If there are a number of groups close at hand - in particular rams but also other groups of ewes, weaned lambs or hogs which can be easily observed walking – consider assessing more than one group.</p>
Flock measures	Guidance on sampling
<p>1. b) Lameness: severely lame sheep 2. Body Condition Score (Thin sheep) 3. Dirtiness 4. Fleece loss 5. Sheep needing further care 6. a) Tail docking (docked short)</p>	<p>Assessed across all groups on farm including breeding ewes, followers, lambs and rams.</p> <p>Tally the number of animals affected.</p>
Records measures	Guidance on sampling
<p>6. b) Castration, tail docking and ear notching 7. Mortality</p>	<p>From records (including flock health plan and Annual Health and Performance Review) and discussions with the farmer.</p>

1.a) Lameness

Individual measure

Sample: ONE representative group of adult breeding ewes (3 or more animals assessed jointly with stockperson)

Assess the individual sheep by watching them walk. Tally the number of not lame (unaffected) and lame and severely lame (affected) sheep. Score all animals within the group (excluding lambs if they can be instantly identified from dams) or as many as possible before losing track of which animals you have seen.

Note: It is important to make and record a judgement on individual sheep, rather than, for example, noting that in a flock of 100 you have spotted 2 lame sheep and therefore recording the remaining 98 sheep as not lame.

Scoring:

0 = Good/Imperfect mobility

Walks with even weight bearing and rhythm on all four feet, with a flat back; long fluid strides possible; or steps uneven (rhythm or weight bearing) or strides shortened; affected limb/s not immediately identifiable.

1 = Lame

Lame sheep display an uneven walking rhythm. They may also show shortened strides and obvious head nods when moving. One or more limbs may be only partially weight bearing. They may be reluctant to stand and graze whilst on their knees (but need to be seen walking to score)

Severely lame - NO weight bearing on one or more limbs

2 = One or more limbs to be bearing no weight and or rested/held up when standing. They may be reluctant to stand and graze whilst on their knees (but need to be seen walking or resting/holding limb when standing to score)

1. b) Lameness: severely lame sheep

Flock measure

In addition to scoring your representative group, tally the number of any additional severely lame (score 2) sheep observed when assessing all other groups on the farm.

2. Body Condition Score (Thin Sheep)

Flock measure

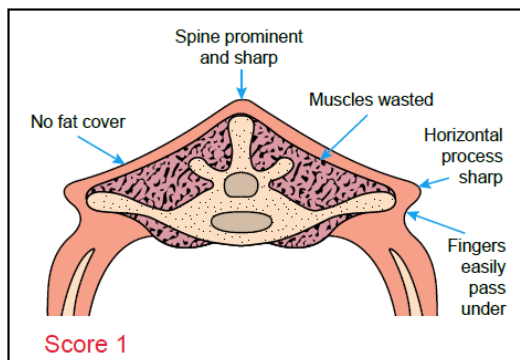
Assess the whole flock and tally the number of **thin** sheep that can be confidently identified through **visual assessment**.

It is understood that visual assessment of body condition is very difficult; this measure will only capture extreme cases if in full fleece, which are likely to then fall into 'sheep needing further care'. Visual assessment may be more or less sensitive depending on breed and how recently the animal has been shorn.

Scoring:

Thin sheep: Record if score is less than 2 (Defra scoring).

In animals with BCS less than 2, the spinous processes are sharp and prominent. Loin eye muscle has little/no fat cover. Transverse processes are sharp.



3. Dirty hindquarter (and belly)

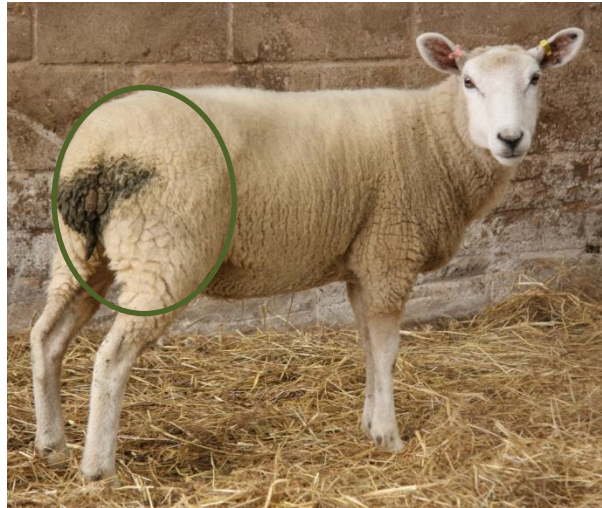
Flock measure

Assess the whole flock and tally the number of sheep seen with a dirty hindquarter. If sheep are grazing forage crops on cultivated ground additionally assess the belly and tally the number of sheep observed with a dirty belly.

Visual assessment of one side and behind of the hindquarters and on cultivated ground additionally the belly.

Scoring:

Dirty hindquarter and belly An area of dirtiness (fresh and old mud or slurry) larger than hand size (10x15cm) and/or diffuse soiling of the whole area.



4. Fleece loss

Flock measure

Assess the whole flock and tally the number of sheep seen with fleece loss.

Visual assessment of one side and the hindquarters.

Scoring:

Fleece loss One or more bald areas larger than hand size (10x15cm) in any dimension on the body



5. Sheep needing further care**Flock measure**

Assess the whole flock. Tally and comment on the number of sick or injured sheep (including those suffering from skin irritation) that would benefit from further intervention. Further interventions could include further treatment, hospitalisation (i.e. removal from the main flock) or culling.

Do not include severely lame sheep within this measure they should be recorded separately under measure 1. *b) Lameness: Severely lame sheep* with any details of treatments included under comments

Do not include sick or injured animals already receiving suitable care.

6. a) Tail docking (docked short)**Flock Measure**

Assess the whole flock and tally the number of sheep seen where the tail has been docked short, i.e. the tail is over shortened or almost not present, the vulva is not covered by the remaining tail.



image kindly supplied by AWIN

6. b) Tail docking, castration and ear notching**Records**

a) Tail docking	Record if lambs are full tailed / docked / or a mixture (at least 10% of another) Record if docking takes place within 48 hours / within 7 days Record if docking carried out with analgesia (including anti-inflammatories) or anaesthesia
b) Castration	Record if lambs remain entire, are castrated or a mixture (at least 10% of another) Record if castration takes place within 48 hours / within 7 days / older than 7 days Record if castration carried out with analgesia (including anti-inflammatories) or anaesthesia
c) Ear notching	Record if ear notching is carried out

7. Mortality**Records**

Check farm records and record the number of ewes in the last 12 months for the following categories:

- a) Number of planned culls
- b) Number of unplanned culls or casualties (died or killed on farm) in the last 12 months.

Please, when possible, also record reasons for cull / casualty ewes.

- c) Record (when possible) Scanning percentage = number of lambs scanned / number of ewes put to the tup x 100
- d) Record Rearing percentage = number of lambs reared*/ number of ewes put to the tup x 100

Please, when possible also record main reasons for lamb losses.

**reared = sold as finished or store lambs, or sold/retained for breeding*