**Sheep, Beef & Deer Calendar**

**January**

* Get your rams palpated and blood tested prior to mating (8 weeks prior)
* Get dogs vaccinated prior to the dog trial season
* Take out lighter ewes for preferential feeding before mating
* Reproductive vaccines (Toxo and Campy) can be started now
* Get Teaser rams prepared by your vet
* Clostridial booster (or sensitiser if not already done) should be given to replacement hoggets, lambs, and calves
* Continue with preventative drench programme in lambs
* Remove bulls after 3 cycles (63 days) for mixed age cows, and 2 cycles (42 days) for heifers

**February**

* Ensure mineral levels are adequate going into mating, especially Iodine and Selenium
* Palpate udders and condition score ewes one month after weaning. Cull poor animals to increase lamb survivability
* Weigh 2 tooths to ensure they are on track to reach target mating weights
* Reproductive vaccines (Toxo and Campy) should be started/ boosted if not already done. This should be started in hoggets if hogget mating. 4 tooths should receive a Campy booster again the following year after starting the programme as a 2 tooth.
* Consider re-applying fly product
* Annual footrot inspection when conditions are dry will help remove the pool of infectious animals going into the Autumn
* Continue with preventative drench programme in lambs
* Clostridial booster (or sensitiser if not already done) should be given to replacement hoggets, lambs, and calves if not already given

**March**

* Continue with preventative drench programme in lambs
* Get your final drenches, vaccines, and supplements into ewes prior to mating (abortion vaccines, footvac, minerals, drench)
* Lambs may benefit from a B12 booster, as liver stores are often running out by now
* Plan your AI programmes in stud flocks
* Book your beef cow pregnancy testing to enable dating of pregnancies, marking of third cycle cows, and culling of dry cows before Winter
* Blood test 15 cattle at pregnancy testing to determine the BVD status of your herd
* Fawns should be given their Yersiniavax sensitiser vaccination
* Drench weaner deer with an oral combination drench

**April**

* Teasers out with hoggets
* Cross-bred hoggets should be 40kg in early April
* Exit drench remaining trading lambs and ewe hoggets – discuss options with your vet
* Toxo and Campy vaccination should be completed now
* Target condition score of 3.0 for ewes at mating
* Cattle should be in peak body condition by the end of April to ensure they winter well
* Drench calves and vaccinate with clostridial vaccine if not already done
* Fawns should be given their Yersiniavax booster vaccination
* Copper bullets should be given to calves and fawns prior to Winter

**May**

* Cross-bred hoggets should be 45kg at Mating
* Set your farm up for Winter by performing a Winter feed budget
* Remove rams
* Avoid stressing ewes that are less than 30 days pregnant
* Capacity test your bulls for insurance and pre-sale purposes
* Cattle will benefit from a lice pour-on treatment
* Copper bullet calves and fawns if not already done

**June**

* Give sheep a lice treatment off-shears
* Perform a faecal egg count at scanning time to assess levels, and assist in pre-lamb worm control decision making
* Book in your TB testing if your deer are due this year
* Scan hinds 35-40 days after stag removal
* It is a good time to administer a long acting Selenium product to cows (which should last over mating)

**July**

* Give sheep a lice treatment off-shears
* Review your drenching plan for the pre-lamb period with your vet
* Book in your conveyer for pre-lamb capsule, clostridial vaccination, and drench treatments
* Carry out a pre-lamb feed budget for twin bearing ewes
* Carry out a footrot inspection to reduce the pool of infected animals present during the lambing period

**August**

* Give sheep a lice treatment off-shears
* Ewes will need a clostridial vaccine (5 in 1 or Covexin) booster 2 weeks pre-lamb
* Drench your yearling heifers and consider giving them a mineral boost

**September**

* Cows, heifers, and bulls should receive their BVD sensitiser vaccination
* All bulls should be tested for BVD prior to their first mating season (and vaccinated)

**October**

* Cows, heifers, and bulls should receive their BVD booster vaccination
* Capacity testing off bulls should be carried out prior to mating
* A selenium boost should be given to cattle prior to mating if not already administered
* Scabine vaccination should be given to lambs at docking on infected properties

**November**

* A preventative drenching programme should be started in lambs
* Scabine vaccination should be given to lambs at docking on infected properties
* Watch lambs for development of pre-weaning scour as this may indicate Nematodirus burden. Get a Faecal Egg Count done if concerned
* Be on the lookout for flystrike in humid weather, especially once grass goes to seed

**December**

* Discuss a fly and parasite prevention plan with your vet
* Lambs and calves should receive their clostridial vaccination (5 in 1 or Covexin) sensitiser vaccination
* Lambs may benefit from B12 at weaning
* Weaning, or soon after is an ideal time to perform a faecal egg count reduction test, contact your vet to establish if egg levels are adequate for testing
* Beef cows should be gaining weight throughout mating to maximise conception rates and calf growth rates
* Ensure adequate bull numbers and that bulls are rotated if single sire mating