

## Lesson 4: Management of the Breeding Flock Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Year-long Management Practices

**Objective:** Design a table of management practices for a flock of sheep that reflects production periods throughout the year.

**Directions:** Work alone or in pairs. First, arrange the production periods in order and then identify two important management practices for each period. Use the Internet, information from sheep associations, or other resources for additional information. Answer the discussion questions and discuss your findings with the class.

**Procedure:**

1. Begin the sheep production cycle with lambing, which typically occurs from February to April. Listed below are seven production periods. Number each of them in the correct order beginning with the period that follows lambing. Then indicate during which months each production period usually occurs. Write the number and months in the blanks provided.

	Number	Months
a. Before breeding	_____	_____
b. Breeding time	_____	_____
c. Early gestation	_____	_____
d. Growing	_____	_____
e. Lactation	_____	_____
f. Late gestation	_____	_____
g. Weaning	_____	_____

2. In the table below, arrange each production period in order. Write the name of the production period on the line provided. Lambing is already included as the first production period. Beneath each production period, list two management practices that should occur during that time.

1. <u>Lambing</u>	2. _____
3. _____	4. _____
5. _____	6. _____
7. _____	8. _____

*Discussion Questions:*

1. Choose any management practice related to a breeding flock. How might it affect the operation if a producer failed to perform that task?

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2. When caring for a breeding flock, which management practice do you think is the most important? Why?

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3. What are three reasons a producer should keep records at breeding time?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

4. (a) What is “flushing”? (b) When is it performed? (c) How does it benefit the operation?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_