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National procedures and guidelines for intensive sheep and lamb feeding systems

Planning and management checklists: a review tool for producers

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Contents

1. Approval process and planning	3
2. Construction and establishment process	4
3. Personnel.....	7
4. Commencement and every 6 months	8
5. Feed consignments	9
6. Induction.....	10
7. Daily tasks	12
8. Sheep and lamb sale	15

Introduction

This review tool is designed to assist producer's benchmark and assess their intensive feeding system against the National Procedures and Guidelines for Intensive Sheep and Lamb Feeding Systems (Edition 1). This tool is presented as a series of easy to follow checklists to assist with the establishment of intensive feeding systems and also their ongoing best practice operation.

These checklists are designed to be completed by producers not an external auditor and as such the questions reflect this purpose.

Each module should be completed at specific times during the planning, establishment and ongoing operation of an intensive feeding system.

1. Approval process and planning

The following checklist is designed to be completed before the development of an intensive feeding system and should be used to ensure all necessary information has been sought, developed and detailed within an approval application to the relevant authority(s).

You are encouraged to contact your local council or approval agency prior to submitting an application.

	Checklist	Date
1.1 Applicant and site information	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.2 Description of subject land	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.3 Locality plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.4 Climatic information	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.5 Intensive feeding system information	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.6 Soil and groundwater information	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.7 Solid waste utilisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.8 Liquid waste management information	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.9 Odour, noise, dust and pest control information	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.10 Animal welfare	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.11 Composting	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.12 Environmental management plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Notes:

Name: Signature:

2. Construction and establishment process

The following checklist is designed to be completed during the construction and establishment process to ensure alignment with the current National Procedures and Guidelines for Intensive Sheep and Lamb Feeding Systems.

	Checklist	Date
General		
2.1	The site can be accessed in all weather	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2	Fire fighting equipment is available at all times	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.3	Fences, laneways and facilities have been constructed so as to minimise the risk of injury to sheep	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.4	Measures are in place to protect sheep and lambs from predation	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.5	Contingency plans are formed and in place in the event of:	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.5.1	water supply or quality failure	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.5.2	feed supply or quality failure	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.5.3	disease outbreak	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.5.4	extreme weather conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.5.5	personal accident or injury	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.5.6	fire or flood	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.6	Measures are in place to minimise dust creation within the intensive feeding system	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.7	Emergency contact details of the responsible officer are clearly displayed on the site	<input type="checkbox"/>

Environmental protection			
2.8	Underground water resources present	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2.8.1	If yes, protective safeguards against contamination have been put in place	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.9	Site runoff cannot contaminate water resources (eg rivers and streams)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.10	Site developed within flood prone area	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2.10.1	If yes, safeguards are in place to prevent site from flooding	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**National procedures and guidelines for intensive sheep and lamb feeding systems
Planning and management checklists**

	Checklist	Date
Soil		
2.11 Appropriate soil types are used for outdoor feeding systems		
2.11.1 Pens and manure stockpile area – smooth, stable, compactable soil types to prevent infiltration	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.11.2 Effluent ponds – impermeable and suitable for dam construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.11.3 Manure spreading area – sufficient buffering capacity to sustain long term applications	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Waste management		
2.12 Where manure and effluent are to be spread on land, sufficient area is available to accommodate the amounts produced without deleterious build up of waste constituents	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Drainage system		
2.13 Pen slope is adequate for drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.13.1 Any waste water within pens (eg from trough cleaning) drains directly into drainage system and is utilised effectively, for example to water trees/shrubs for shelter or shade	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.14 Runoff from composting areas is controlled and managed	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Feeding area pens		
2.15 Outdoor pens are aligned across the slope and follow contour of land	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.16 Feeding areas are located on the high side of outdoor pens	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.17 Water troughs are well separated from feeding areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.18 Stocking rate is appropriate for the feeding system and class of stock	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Shade and shelter		
2.19 Shade and shelter is used to minimise heat and cold stress	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.20 Shade or shelter does not substantially impede the drying of the pen surface or access for pen cleaning	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.21 Shade or shelter materials do not pose a potential fire risk or if so, systems are in place to manage this risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.22 Trees or shrubs used for shade and shelter within pens are fenced off from sheep and lambs	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**National procedures and guidelines for intensive sheep and lamb feeding systems
Planning and management checklists**

	Checklist	Date
<i>Feed and water</i>		
2.23 Feeds are stored in a clean, dry, secure environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.24 Feeding equipment delivers feed efficiently and with minimal wastage and potential for outside contamination	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.25 Adequate length of feed and water troughing is available	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.26 Water pressure and/or flow rates and capacity is sufficient to supply water at all times	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<i>Additional points for shedded operations</i>		
2.27 Adequate ventilation (natural or mechanical) to maintain appropriate air quality and temperature	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.28 Adequate light is available to inspect lambs	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.29 Shed design and/or management if effective in managing pests such as birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Notes:

Name: Signature:

4. Commencement and every 6 months

The following checklist is designed to be completed prior to the first feeding cycle then every 6 months of operation thereafter.

		Date:	/	/
4.1	Effluent and manure is being contained and sustainably utilised			<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2	Fire fighting equipment is available at all times			<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3	Water pressure and/or flow rates and capacity is sufficient to supply water at all times			<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4	Dogs are under control at all times when working sheep and lambs			<input type="checkbox"/>
4.5	Dogs are muzzled while working			<input type="checkbox"/>
4.6	All personnel are aware of their responsibility for the welfare of sheep and lambs in their care			<input type="checkbox"/>
4.7	The use of electric prodders is monitored and are used in line with the current National Procedures and Guidelines for Intensive Sheep and Lamb Feeding Systems			<input type="checkbox"/>
4.8	Emergency contact details of the responsible officer are clearly displayed on site			<input type="checkbox"/>
4.9	All staff and visitors on site are made aware of workplace health, safety, emergency and biosecurity procedures			<input type="checkbox"/>
4.10	Humane destruction of animals is conducted in the correct manner by a competent person or under the supervision of a competent person			<input type="checkbox"/>
4.11	Contingency plans are reviewed and operational in the event of:			
4.11.1	water supply or quality failure			<input type="checkbox"/>
4.11.2	feed supply or quality failure			<input type="checkbox"/>
4.11.3	disease outbreak			<input type="checkbox"/>
4.11.4	extreme weather conditions			<input type="checkbox"/>
4.11.5	personal accident or injury			<input type="checkbox"/>
4.11.6	fire or flood			<input type="checkbox"/>

Notes:

Name: Signature:

5. Feed consignments

The following checklist is designed to be completed on arrival of each new consignment of feed to be used in the system.

Date: / /						
Feed type / description:						
Quantity.....						
5.1	Ensure an appropriate vendor declaration form (commodity, by-product or fodder) is provided with all bought in feed	<input type="checkbox"/>				
5.2	All feed bought in is inspected for contamination from mould, pests and weeds	<input type="checkbox"/>				
5.3	All feed bought in is free from restricted animal materials (RAM)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
5.4	Feed test available from supplier	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
5.4.1	If no, sample is collected on arrival and sent for analysis purposes	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
5.5	All feed bought in is stored appropriately in a clean dry area	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Feed storage location						

Notes:

Name: Signature:

**National procedures and guidelines for intensive sheep and lamb feeding systems
Planning and management checklists**

Notes:

Name: Signature:

7. Daily tasks

The following checklist is designed to be completed daily from the date that sheep or lambs first enter an intensive feeding system.

Week ending: / /							
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
7.1 Check and clean feed and water troughs <small>(gloves should be worn when cleaning troughs)</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.2 Check that feed and water is available <small>(feed meets the nutrient requirements of animals)</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.3 Check for sick and/or injured animals and treat appropriately	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.4 Has medication(s) been administered?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Details:							
Treatment: Date:.....							
WHP of treatment: ESI of treatment:							
Expiry date of WHP: / / Expiry date of ESI: / /							
Medications have been administered in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or under veterinary supervision <input type="checkbox"/> If more treatments need to be recorded please attach an additional sheet							
7.5 All pen gates are closed and secured	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.6 Infrastructure (fencing, gates, feeders, water troughs) checked for any necessary repairs / maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daily / weekly monitoring (as required):							
7.7 Dust is minimised within the intensive feeding system	<input type="checkbox"/>					
7.8 Pests are controlled within intensive feeding systems	<input type="checkbox"/>					
7.9 Measures are in place to protect sheep and lambs from predation	<input type="checkbox"/>					

See over page for recording details of faecal consistency scores and mortalities.

**National procedures and guidelines for intensive sheep and lamb feeding systems
Planning and management checklists**

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Faecal consistency scores							
7.10 Pen number or description	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7.11 Are any faeces greater than score 2? <small>(Score 1 – hard pellets, score 5 – diarrhoea. For descriptions and illustrations see Appendix 1 of the National Procedures and Guidelines)</small>	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
7.12 If yes, what percentage?	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7.13 Have potential causes been reviewed and acted upon if necessary?	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7.14 Pen number or description	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7.15 Are any faeces greater than score 2?	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
7.16 If yes, what percentage?	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7.17 Have potential causes been reviewed and acted upon if necessary?	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mortalities							
7.18 Total mortalities	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7.19 All mortalities removed from pen(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.20 Cause of death:	..... Cause confirmed <input type="checkbox"/> Cause confirmed <input type="checkbox"/> Cause confirmed <input type="checkbox"/> Cause confirmed <input type="checkbox"/> Cause confirmed <input type="checkbox"/> Cause confirmed <input type="checkbox"/> Cause confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>
7.21 Number of deaths due to this cause	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7.22 Pen number or description	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7.23 Cause of death:	..... Cause confirmed <input type="checkbox"/> Cause confirmed <input type="checkbox"/> Cause confirmed <input type="checkbox"/> Cause confirmed <input type="checkbox"/> Cause confirmed <input type="checkbox"/> Cause confirmed <input type="checkbox"/> Cause confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>
7.24 Number of deaths due to this cause	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7.25 Pen number or description	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

**National procedures and guidelines for intensive sheep and lamb feeding systems
Planning and management checklists**

If more than two pens are to be monitored please copy these pages for other pens and attach as many as required.

Notes:

Name: Signature:

8. Sheep and lamb sale

The following checklist is designed to be completed prior to dispatch of each consignment of sheep or lambs leaving the property.

Date: / /										
8.1	All stock are identified with NLIS ear tags	<input type="checkbox"/>								
8.2	The loading, transport and unloading of stock is conducted in accordance with the current Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals: Land Transport of Livestock.	<input type="checkbox"/>								
8.3	The following <u>total</u> (not on-farm curfew) time off water is not exceeded:	<input type="checkbox"/>								
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>Class of stock</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>Maximum total amount of time off water</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lambs less than four months of age</td> <td>28 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sheep and lambs greater than four months of age</td> <td>48 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ewes more than 14 weeks pregnant, excluding the last two weeks</td> <td>24 hours</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			<i>Class of stock</i>	<i>Maximum total amount of time off water</i>	Lambs less than four months of age	28 hours	Sheep and lambs greater than four months of age	48 hours	Ewes more than 14 weeks pregnant, excluding the last two weeks	24 hours
<i>Class of stock</i>	<i>Maximum total amount of time off water</i>									
Lambs less than four months of age	28 hours									
Sheep and lambs greater than four months of age	48 hours									
Ewes more than 14 weeks pregnant, excluding the last two weeks	24 hours									
(Ewes in the last two weeks of pregnancy should not be deprived of water)										
8.4	Feed curfews (on-farm) for transport do not exceed 24 hours	<input type="checkbox"/>								
8.5	National Vendor Declarations (NVD) and National Sheep Health Statements (where required) are completed and despatched with all livestock movements off-farm with copies retained for 7 years	<input type="checkbox"/>								
8.6	Where necessary the NLIS database is updated to record the movement of stock	<input type="checkbox"/>								

Notes:

Name: Signature: