Livestock Farm Management: Sheep and Goat Feeding, Breeding and Flock Performance

9 – 13 August 2027
Amsterdam - Zuidas business district hotel



Livestock Farm Management: Sheep and Goat Feeding, Breeding and Flock Performance

Ref: 586_17695 **Date:** 9 – 13 August 2027 **Location:** Amsterdam - Zuidas business district hotel **Fees:** 23500 SAR

Introduction:

Livestock farm management on sheep and goat holdings often runs on habit: rations are mixed without a feed budget, ewes and does enter mating in poor condition, lambing and kidding losses go unrecorded, heat stress cuts intake through the hot months and feed bills rise faster than sale prices. This Core Concept course gives people who run small ruminant flocks the routines to plan housing, water and shade, balance rations, manage the breeding calendar, keep flock records and control cost per animal. Participants build a Flock Management and Feeding Plan with a Farm Budget.

Course Objectives:

- Classify sheep and goat production systems and match breed type, stocking rate and housing layout to a hot, dry operating environment
- Formulate rations and a seasonal feed budget from available forages and concentrates, and track feed cost per head
- Apply body condition scoring and a breeding calendar to plan mating groups, lambing and kidding, and weaning
- Maintain flock records and calculate performance indicators such as weaning rate, daily liveweight gain and mortality
- Implement biosecurity, hygiene, welfare and handling routines agreed with the farm veterinarian
- Produce a Flock Management and Feeding Plan with a Farm Budget, sale plan and staff duty roster

Target Audience:

- Owners who run sheep or goat holdings and decide on stock numbers, feed purchases and sales
- Farm managers responsible for daily flock routines, feed stores and facility upkeep
- Livestock supervisors who lead shepherds and farm workers through feeding, breeding and handling tasks
- Agricultural development and extension staff who advise small ruminant producers
- Cooperative and producer group coordinators who organise feed supply and animal marketing for members

Course Outline:

Day 1: Small Ruminant Production Systems, Breeds and Flock Assessment

- Extensive, Semi-Intensive and Intensive Sheep and Goat Production Systems Compared
- Breed Selection Matrix: Meat, Dairy and Dual-Purpose Types and Heat Tolerance
- Stocking Rate and Pen Space Allowance Calculation per Animal Class
- Flock Structure Inventory: Ewes, Does, Rams, Bucks, Replacements and Growers
- Current-State Flock Assessment Checklist for a Working Holding

Day 2: Housing, Water, Heat Stress Control and Feeding Principles

- Shade Structure, Ventilation and Pen Layout Design for Hot Climates
- Daily Water Requirement Estimate and Trough Placement Plan
- Heat Stress Signs Checklist and Hot-Season Management Routine
- Ruminant Digestion and Nutrient Needs by Physiological Stage
- Forage, Hay, Silage and Concentrate Feed Value Comparison Table

Day 3: Ration Planning, Body Condition and Breeding Management

- Least-Cost Ration Formulation Worksheet for Ewes, Does and Fattening Lambs
- Seasonal Feed Budget and Feed Store Stock Control Sheet
- Body Condition Scoring Procedure on the Five-Point Scale
- Mating Plan: Ram and Buck Ratios, Flushing and Natural Service Versus Artificial Insemination
- Lambing and Kidding Pen Routine, Colostrum Intake and Weaning Schedule

Day 4: Flock Records, Biosecurity, Welfare and Farm Staff

- Animal Identification, Ear Tag Register and Individual Performance Record Card
- Key Performance Indicators: Weaning Rate, Daily Liveweight Gain and Mortality Rate
- Farm Biosecurity Plan: Quarantine of Incoming Stock, Visitor Control and Cleaning Protocol
- Working with the Veterinarian: Flock Health Calendar and Reduced Antimicrobial Use
- Low-Stress Handling, Welfare Audit Checklist and Shepherd Duty Roster

Day 5: Farm Economics Build and the Flock Management and Feeding Plan

- Modelling Build: Feed Cost per Head and Cost per Kilogram of Liveweight Sold
- Modelling Build: Annual Flock Budget with Sales, Culls and Replacement Costs
- Live Animal Marketing Channels, Sale Weight Targets and Buyer Grading
- Case: Mixed Sheep and Goat Holding Facing a Hot-Season Feed Shortfall
- Flock Management and Feeding Plan with Farm Budget Presentation and Peer Review

Skills You Will Gain:

- Small Ruminant Ration Formulation
- Feed Budgeting
- Body Condition Scoring
- Breeding Calendar Planning
- Flock Performance Recording
- Heat Stress Mitigation
- Farm Biosecurity Planning
- Flock Cost Analysis

Why Attend This Course:

- Return with a Flock Management and Feeding Plan with a Farm Budget built on the numbers of a working holding
- Cut feed waste and spot underperforming animals earlier through regular condition scoring and simple records
- Brief shepherds and farm workers with clear daily routines for feeding, handling, hygiene and the lambing and kidding pens
- Compare practice with owners, supervisors and advisers who run flocks under different systems and climates

Conclusion:

Sheep and goat holdings stay profitable when housing, water, rations, breeding and records are managed as one routine. The week moves from production systems, breeds and flock structure, through shade, water, heat stress and feeding principles, to ration formulation, feed budgets, body condition scoring and the breeding calendar. It then covers identification, performance indicators, biosecurity, work with the veterinarian, welfare and staff duties, and closes with a costing build that produces a Flock Management and Feeding Plan with a Farm Budget. Clinical diagnosis and treatment remain with the veterinarian.