

Recommendation schedule for sheep vaccination in Kenya (Narok and Kajiado)

The timetable for vaccinating your sheep depends on your region and the diseases prevalent in your area. It also depends on the animal's age and use. Your veterinarian can help you devise the best vaccination schedule. Even if you give your vaccinations for your livestock, **always** follow your vet recommendations.

No matter where you live or the age of your sheep you should vaccinate your flock regularly for tetanus and two types of enterotoxaemia, commonly called overeating disease. The three in one vaccine known as CD-T provide protection against these potentially fatal ailments caused by clostridium bacteria. Lambs must receive this vaccine within a few days of birth as overeating disease is a leading cause of death in lambs. They need another CD-T shot a few months later, at weaning.

There are 4 main types of vaccines;

1. Live-attenuated vaccines
2. Inactivated vaccines
3. Subunit, recombinant, polysaccharide, and conjugate vaccines
4. Toxoid vaccines

Age	Vaccinate against	Application	Remarks
2 weeks and above	PPR (Peste des Petits Ruminants) Goat plague	S/C Properly done once in a lifetime will do. Newborns should be vaccinated as a routine	Came to Kenya in 2006 - related to rinderpest. If no vaccination the disease can kill all your goats and sheep.
2 weeks and above	Sheep and Goat pox	S/C Annual vaccinations	If no vaccination this disease may kill lambs and kids. In serious cases mortality may be high.
2 weeks and above	Enterotoxemia + tetanus	S/C Every 6-8 months. Disease is common with lush pastures. Do a booster after a month for effective coverage	Pregnant animals should be vaccinated at least a month before giving birth. Vaccination for tetanus should always follow tail docking
1 month and above	Orf	Scarification method. If there is a risk of outbreak or In endemic areas routine vaccination is recommended	Orf may be more common in goats due to their feeding habits as browsers of thorny bushes. Mortality of young can be high. Repeat vaccination should be done 2-3 months after the initial one. The vaccine is live and can affect people, so HANDLE WITH CARE .
	Brucellosis		Vaccine not available in East Africa in 2010.

1 month and above	Blue tongue	Yearly vaccination of sheep with a live attenuated vaccine containing six strains of Bluetongue virus.	Available from KEVEVAPI, Nairobi
1 month and above	Foot and Mouth Dse	Yearly vaccination is recommended	Available from KEVEVAPI, Nairobi

Common sheep disease found in Kajiado and Narok

1. Helminthiasis – Gastrointestinal parasites are commonly found in sheep/goats worldwide. Parasites cause disease when they are present in large numbers or when the host animal is weakened by another disease or by poor nutrition. Have a well-defined deworming schedule in your farm with guidance by a veterinarian
2. Pneumonia – It affects all ages of sheep. Most significant sign is labored breathing with an occasional cough. Consult your veterinarian for treatment,
3. Anthrax – It is transmitted by feed and water contaminated with spores which can last in the soil for many years. Most significant sign is sudden death, often with bloody discharges. Managed by vaccination
4. Sheep/goat pox – vaccination
5. Peste des petits ruminants – viral disease of goats and sheep characterized by fever, sores in the mouth, diarrhea, pneumonia and sometimes death. Vaccination
6. Black quarter (Blackleg) – is an acute, febrile, highly fatal disease of sheep caused by clostridium chauvoei and characterized by emphysematous swelling, commonly affecting heavy muscles (clostridium myositis)
7. Foot rot – An infectious, contagious disease of sheep that causes severe lameness and economic loss from decreases flock production (Bacteroides nodosus + Fusobacterium = Foot rot)
8. Brucellosis – Causes abortion and udder infection in sheep and goats. Its zoonotic in nature.

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