Photographic Sequence of Winter Lambing

part 1

Prepared by David Kennard of Wellscroft Farm for the New Hampshire Sheep & Wool Growers Association’s 2009 Lambing Clinic.

Edited for use in the Cornell Low Input Lambing/Kidding Handbook by Katie Roberts and tatiana Stanton
Ewes need to be well bedded and have room to go off and lamb
Hoggets waiting to lamb
Ewe will go off by herself, call for her unborn lamb and her abdomen will drop
The ewe’s water breaks
Head and Front Feet often show first
Pull membrane away from nose and mouth. Women and girls of child bearing age should always wear gloves if possibly pregnant.
Gently assist by pulling downward on the front feet.
Note lamb comes out in an arc towards the udder.
If the lamb is breathing, put it next to the ewe to lick off.
Check for 2nd lamb; Note, two feet showing
Check that head is also presenting and gently pull lamb’s front feet down in an arc and assist the head if necessary.
Use straw up nose to stimulate breathing if necessary
Use a suction device if the lamb has aspirated mucous in its airway.
Or hang it upside down to let fluids drain out
Note: Umbilical chord still attached
Strip the teats
Switch lambs to be licked off if ewe does not get up
Have kit with sterile scissors, 7% iodine or chlorhexidine, suction device, and other supplies prepared
Cut the umbilical chord 1” away from the body using sterile scissors or pull it slowly apart with two hands and dip cord in 7% iodine or chlorhexidine.
Are there more lambs? Is the fluid clearish (amniotic fluid) or dark with bloody nodules and chords (placenta)?
Sometimes the placenta will be accompanied by some folds of amniotic fluid even though all the lambs have already been delivered.
Give her time to own her lamb
Lead ewe and lambs to the jug