



Pre-Program Management

1. **Stress decreases fertility!** During the 6 weeks before mating and 5 weeks after, avoid transport, rough handling and abrupt change in diet or location. Hauling the day of the breeding and/or transfer day is the only acceptable time to transport and will not negatively impact conception rates.
2. **Body Condition Score** Begin preparing for the breeding season with an accurate evaluation of the body condition of your rams and ewes. Below a score of 2 and at or above a score of 3.5 your animals will have a reduced conception rate.
3. **Shear ewes** in the month of March for summer/fall breeding programs. Fleece length of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch will help reduce body temperature and reduce surface area for mosquito bites and the affect of viral infections.
4. **Nutrition/Mineral**
 - a. Nutrition is a year-round commitment to excellence. Ideally, you will begin graining your ewes **two weeks** prior to CIDR insert with RSG Nutrition 12% Ewe. However, some may need more and others less grain along the way. Ideally, ewes will be at a BCS of **2.5-3/5** going into the day of the LAI/ET, helping them maximize results. When graining begins, offer lick tubs as well if additional energy is needed. Overall, you want your ewes peaking in health and condition on surgery day, not past.
 - b. High quality free choice mineral balanced with high bio available ingredients is vitally important to a successful breeding program. Lick tubs are not a substitute. RSGI uses and recommends RSG Breeder Mineral to be fed year-round for optimum results.
5. **By 45-60 days prior to your program**
 - a. Body Condition Score (BCS) your ewes. Standard BCS is on a 1 to 5 scale with 1 being too thin and 5 being obese. Ideal BCS is 2.5-3 out of 5 going into the breeding program. Below a score of 2 and at or above a score of 3.5 your animals will have a reduced conception rate.
 - b. Trim feet. Eliminate foot rot and foot scald. Protocols are available if needed. Recommended antibiotics include Nuflor, Oxytetracycline, LS50 or Zactran.
 - c. Administer Chlamydia, Vibrio, CD & T and any other necessary vaccines.
 - d. Ewes need placed in their breeding groups and not remixed until after the program. This will cut down on stress.
 - e. Teaser rams are introduced 60 days prior to the program to ensure ewes have cycled at least once prior to the program. It is important that a natural cycle has occurred. Well cared for teasers will perform at a higher level.
 - f. Begin training ewes to the working chute system. Ewes need to be comfortable going in and out to reduce stress while in the program and giving injections.
 - g. At 45 days prior to your program administer 1 ml Estrumate IM and 8 ml Nuflor SubQ.
6. **Synchronization** At CIDR insert, administer 3 ml Vitamin A & D.
 - a. Walk through your breeding groups daily to acclimate ewes to you and evaluate health status.
7. **CIDR INSERTION** Insert Cidrs in a clean dust free area using extreme care to avoid injury to the ewe. Cut ball tip off from the CIDR string. Apply a dab of lubricant to the tip of the Cidr prior to insertion. Wash applicators in clean water and betadine solution. Do not wash Cidrs in disinfectant.
8. **CIDR REMOVAL** It is important to remove Cidrs according to the program time. Pull strings can be inside the ewe's vagina. Insert finger to locate. Mark any ewe that has lost a Cidr and have them checked at AI. Collect and dispose of all Cidrs.
9. **Mixing PG 600** It is okay to mix up the night before in a clean environment and put in the refrigerator until morning. Using a sterile 10ml syringe and a 21 gauge needle, withdraw 3mls of diluent from the pack and carefully inject into the small bottle of dry PG 600 powder at the other end of the box and dissolve. Withdraw the mixture from the powder bottle and inject back into the diluent bottle. Rock diluent bottle back and forth to ensure mixing.

***Estrumate should NOT be handled by pregnant women or individuals with asthma, this can cause serious health problems.
Read all warning labels on product.***