



# **Enzootic Abortion of Ewes (EAE)**

**ACCREDITATION SCHEME  
RULES & CONDITIONS**

The Premium Sheep and Goat Health Schemes (PSGHS) are run by SRUC Veterinary Services (SRUCVS). The testing programme outlined below identifies flocks that are free from enzootic abortion of ewes (EAE).

1. An annual blood test of ewes will be carried out by your veterinary surgeon during the 3 months after lambing. This **MUST** include aborted ewes and ewes that failed to lamb. Ewes barren at scanning do not need to be tested. The number of blood samples collected is a statistical proportion of the number of breeding ewes in the flock (see Appendix 1).

In the first year up to a maximum of 90 ewes will be tested. If the results are negative then in the second and subsequent years a maximum of up to 45 ewes will be tested. Lambed ewes are tested to make up the total number of samples required. Those known to have produced stillborn or weak lambs, second crop ewes and purchased replacements should be preferentially selected.

2. Hill flocks may have very high barren rates due to the environment rather than infectious disease. If your flock does not scan, cannot identify aborted ewes **AND** has a high annual barren rate then you should first sample 20 lambing ewes and make up the total number of samples required with barren ewes. Second crop ewes and purchased replacements should be preferentially selected in both cases. Unexpectedly high barren rates should be discussed with your veterinary surgeon.
3. If you keep flocks on more than one holding they should be sampled individually. E.g. If you have 700 ewes on one farm and 300 on a second farm then 44 and 42 samples should be collected respectively.
4. SRUCVS reserves the right to carry out additional testing at their discretion.
5. EAE supervised status is awarded after 1 clear test. EAE accredited status is awarded after 2 clear tests. Health status reports will be produced by SRUCVS annually following clear tests and either posted out or can be downloaded from [www.psghs.co.uk](http://www.psghs.co.uk) (You need to register to use the download facility).
6. Health status reports must be completed and exchanged when buying and selling ewes.
7. Only ewes of a similar or higher status may be introduced to a flock - EAE accredited flocks must only purchase EAE accredited ewe replacements. EAE supervised flocks must only purchase EAE supervised or accredited replacements. (See Appendix 2 if you are unable to source EAE accredited/supervised ewes as replacements.)
8.
  - a) EAE accredited or supervised ewes must not be kept on the same premises as ewes of a lower status
  - b) Away wintered hogs must not come into contact with any other sheep on the holding to which they are sent
  - c) Lambs for fostering must come from EAE accredited flocks
  - d) Shared rams must only have been used in EAE accredited flocks
  - e) EAE accredited or supervised ewes should not share transport with ewes of a lower status
  - f) EAE accredited or supervised ewes should pass through sale rings before ewes of a lower status

Points **e** and **f** must be applied during the month before and after lambing. Wherever possible they should also be applied at ALL other times of the year.

9. Livestock movement records must be kept up to date for inspection by your veterinary surgeon or SRUCVS at any time.
10. The use of EAE vaccine is not permitted and EAE vaccinated ewes must not be purchased.
11. The cost of testing abortion material submitted to SRUCVS is included in your membership.
12. If EAE is diagnosed the flock will be removed from the EAE Accreditation Scheme immediately.
13. As goats can be infected with EAE, any goats on the holding are subject to the same rules as the sheep flock.
14. Farmers without breeding ewes who purchase and retain EAE accredited ewe lambs can apply to be registered as a gimmering flock. The ewe lambs can retain their status and be sold as EAE accredited gimmers provided that:
  - a) No other breeding sheep and goats are kept on the holding
  - b) They do not come into contact with any other sheep and goats
  - c) An annual declaration confirming compliance with the rules must be signed and returned to the PSGHS office. Health status reports will be produced annually without any requirement for blood testing
15. 'Designated areas' are areas where the risk of EAE being introduced is very low. The boundaries must either present a physical barrier to the movement of sheep, (e.g. river, forestry, main roads, lochs etc.), OR be adjacent to other EAE accredited flocks. Any number of neighbouring flocks (one or more), can apply to SRUCVS to form a designated area. Once flocks within a designated area are awarded EAE accredited status, blood testing is carried out every second year. In non-test years a declaration confirming compliance with the rules must be signed and returned to the PSGHS office. Abortions **MUST** be investigated on an annual basis. Health status reports are produced annually.
16. Failure to adhere to the rules of the EAE health scheme or failure to settle fees will result in the removal of the flock from the EAE accreditation scheme.
17. SRUCVS will maintain a register of flocks in the scheme with EAE accredited stock which can be accessed on **[www.psghs.co.uk](http://www.psghs.co.uk)**
18. A client may advertise his membership of the scheme provided the status of the flock is accurately described. SRUCVS reserves the right to require the withdrawal of any advertising which they consider to be inaccurate.
19. SRUCVS shall not be liable for any expense, loss or damage arising out of any requirement made under the health scheme. No compensation shall be paid under the health scheme but this shall not affect a member's rights to claim damages for negligence.

## APPENDIX 1

### EAE – Flock Test Numbers

FIRST YEAR TEST		ANNUAL FLOCK TEST	
Number of Breeding Ewes	Number to Test	Number of Breeding Ewes	Number to Test
1 – 41	ALL	1 – 35	ALL
42 – 50	42	36 – 50	30
51 – 60	47	51 – 70	34
61 – 70	51	71 – 100	37
71 – 90	57	101 – 200	41
91 – 120	63	201+	45
121 – 180	71		
181 – 300	78		
301 – 1000	86		
1000+	90		

**Note:**

1. Blood samples will be collected by your veterinary surgeon
2. The numbers to test in the second and subsequent years are reduced – use annual flock test numbers
3. Ewes must be blood tested within the 3 months after lambing
4. Test ewes that have been mated/tupped
5. There is no need to test ewes that scanned barren
6. Aborted ewes must be identified and tested prior to disposal or retention

SRUCVS have the discretion to require a greater percentage of the flock to be tested if considered necessary.

## APPENDIX 2

### Buying Non-EAE Accredited Stock or Non-Tested Stock

1. If you have been unable to source accredited replacements and supervised ewes have been added to the flock, accredited status will be lost unless the following steps are carried out:
  - a) Carry out your annual flock test collecting the correct number of samples from your existing breeding flock as per the testing table
  - b) If up to 35 supervised ewes have been added they should all be sampled
  - c) If more than 35 supervised ewes have been added a proportion should be sampled as per the testing table for the annual flock test
  - d) For points **b** and **c** added ewes from different sources should be sampled separately. For example if 25 ewes have been added from one source and 55 from a second source, 25 plus 34 ewes should be tested

If the results are negative then accredited status will be maintained.

2. If replacements have been purchased from a flock with no status (i.e. neither EAE accredited nor EAE supervised) then accredited status will be lost. The following steps should be carried out:
  - a) Carry out your annual flock test, collecting the correct number of samples from your existing breeding flock as per the testing table
  - b) If up to 41 animals have been added they should all be sampled
  - c) If more than 41 animals have been added a proportion should be sampled as per the testing table for the first qualifying test
  - d) For points **b** and **c** added ewes from different sources should be sampled separately. For example if 25 ewes have been added from one source and 55 from a second source, 25 plus 47 ewes should be tested

If the results are negative then supervised status will be awarded.

Visit our website at [www.sheepandgoathealth.co.uk](http://www.sheepandgoathealth.co.uk)

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

**Premium Sheep and Goat Health Scheme Office:**

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**SRUCVS Disease Surveillance Centres (for submissions of abortion material only):**

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*EAE Rules, amended April 2020*

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