

When will my ewe lamb?



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Sign	Description	Timeline
Gestation length	How long a ewe is pregnant.	144-154 days (avg. 148) after breeding.
Bagging up	Most unreliable sign for predicting due date (but will confirm pregnancy). Udder will begin to fill with milk. Closer to lambing the udder may get firm and the teats may fill with milk.	0-30 days.
Swollen vulva	Ewe may start to swell and look “soft” and shiny under her tail.	Up to several weeks before lambing. Usually last week.
Vaginal discharge	Ewe may have slight light colored or clear discharge. *Dark, blood-tinged, foul-smelling, or profuse discharge may be a sign of abortion.	Up to several weeks before lambing.
Hollowed flanks	Ewe that suddenly stops looking pregnant and is sunken in front of hip bones. Often difficult to see unless the sheep is shorn.	The lambs have moved into the birth canal. Ewe will lamb within 12 hours
Skipping a meal	Ewe shows no interest in feed, but is active and alert. *If ewe is not alert or misses more than one meal, this could be sign of pregnancy toxemia.	Ewe may be within several hours of lambing. However, some ewes will chow down and then pop out their lambs minutes later!
Restlessness	Ewe in corner by herself, pacing, pawing the ground, repeatedly lying down and standing up, baaing or bleating.	Beginning stages of labor. Lambs should arrive within couple hours.
Water bag visible	“Bag” of dark fluid will be visible.	Lambs should follow within ½ to 1 hour.