



## A GUIDE TO: ROUTINE Farm Procedures

### Castration:

This is carried out on male animals for a number of reasons:

- Sterilisation to avoid breeding complications
- Manipulation of the type of meat produced
- Production of easier and safer to handle animals
- Behaviour modification – particularly in goat bucks who are prone to all sorts of unsociable behaviour if left to develop their “full masculinity”

With all three species (sheep, cattle, goats) the method that is often used in young animals is the use of rubber rings. As soon as both testicles can be felt in the scrotum a rubber ring can be applied to effect castration. A veterinarian will be required if castrating animals 6 months of age or older.

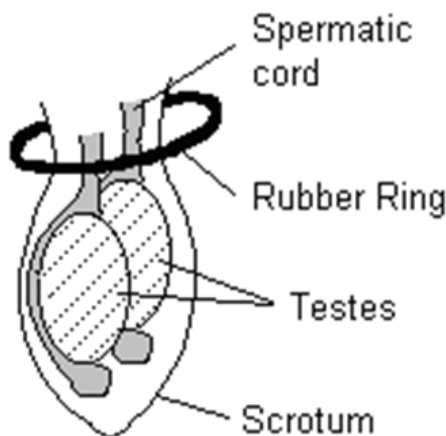
A person who castrates a cattle beast or a sheep must be experienced with, or have received training in, the correct use of the method and equipment being used; and needs to be able to recognise early signs of significant distress, injury, or ill-health so that the person can take prompt remedial action or seek advice early.

There will be discomfort felt by the animal for the first few hours. We recommend appropriate pain relief be provided.

Close monitoring of the animal for 24 hours after the procedure will be required. Any excessive swelling or pain will require immediate attention. Contact the vet if there are any issues or if you have any questions.

The scrotum and testes will shrink down and drop off after 2 - 3 weeks.

### Location of Castration Ring:



- The rubber band fits easily over the scrotum
- You avoid the animal's teats in the ring
- Both testes are within the scrotum once the rubber band is in place
- 5 in 1 clostridial vaccine is given

### Tailing (Docking Sheep):

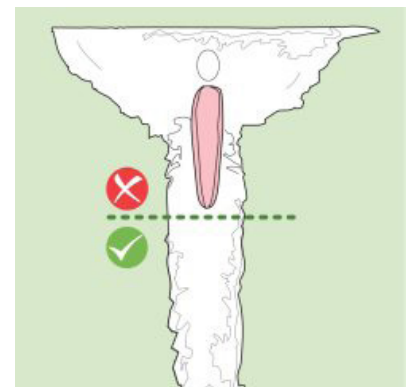
Docking of sheep is one of the most effective methods of preventing flystrike. Therefore, the procedure has

animal welfare benefits in the long

run.

It is usually done at the same time as castration and by the same method of applying a rubber ring to cut off circulation to the tail.

**For sheep under 6 months old:** The tail must not be docked any shorter than the distal end of the caudal fold. The intent is that the tail be left long enough to cover the vulva in ewes, and a similar length in rams.



*\*Image from MPI's The bottom line on tail docking*

**For sheep 6 months+** Tail-docking **MUST** be done by a veterinarian, using appropriate pain relief.



### Dagging & Crutching:

The purpose of dagging is to remove dirty wool which may predispose to flystrike and to remove excess wool to facilitate mating.

Crutching is usually done in the autumn prior to mating, or 'tupping', and removes wool to facilitate mating.

### Tagging:

Insertion of ear tags as a means of individual animal identification.

There are essentially 3 types of tags:

**1. Farm ID Tags:** These may be single or double sided and can be a multitude of colours. They are used at the farmer's / lifestylers discretion to identify animals on the property. They can be inserted in either ear.

**2. Lifetime ID Tags:** These are small brass tags that carry the animals herd code, year of birth and individual ID number. They are inserted in the left ear at the position shown.

**3. NAIT (National Animal Identification and Tracing) Tags:** NAIT is mandatory for cattle and deer and requires registration with NAIT with a NAIT number (this is in addition to your Animal Health Board number) to record stock movement and deaths.

The tags contain a radio frequency identification device (RFID) and are applied to the inner part of the right ear between the two veins with the 'female' tag facing forward.

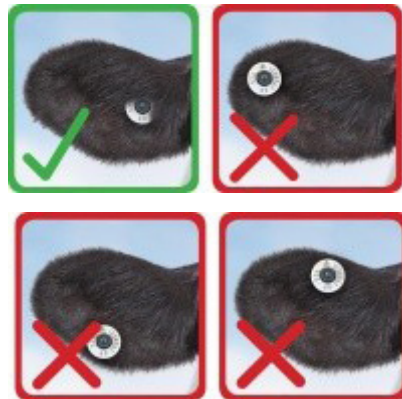
Further information is available on the NAIT website: [www.nait.co.nz](http://www.nait.co.nz)

### How to tag animals correctly with NAIT tag:

NAIT- approved RFID tags come in 2 parts - a female and male part. The male part sits behind the ear and the female part sits in front.

Apply the tags to:

- The right ear - this helps meat processors and salesyards who usually set up their scanners to record from the right side of the animal
- The central or inner part of the ear between the 2 veins.



If you apply the tags correctly they are less likely to be lost or damaged.

