

2026 Lambing School

January 16-18, 2026
Hopland Research and Extension Center

Schedule

Friday, January 16 - Session 1 (12pm – 4pm) - Lambing Barn

- Welcome and Introductions.
- Tour of HREC lambing facilities and headquarters pastures: *what do we have, what works for your operation and what doesn't.*
- Infrastructure – Fencing, Barns, and Other Equipment Needs: *how to adapt your operation to prepare for lambing, either indoors or out.*
- Stages of labor and lambing problems. What to be aware of when you leave until the next check.
- Before lambing comes breeding. How to prepare for successful lambing.

Saturday, January 17 – Session 2 (8:00am – 11:00 am) – Reports from the Barn

- What Happened Overnight? *How did our night go? Observations and questions.*
- Typical Morning Rounds: *Essential things to look for and problems typically encountered.*
- Processing New Lambs: *What we do and how other operations may do it differently, or better!*

Saturday, January 17 – Session 3 (8:00am – 11:00 am) – Reports from the Barn

- What Happened Overnight? *How did our night go? Observations and questions.*
- Typical Morning Rounds: *Essential things to look for and problems typically encountered.*
- Processing New Lambs: *What we do and how other operations may do it differently, or better!*

Saturday, January 17 - Session 3 (11:00am-12:30pm) - Shippey Hall

- Ewe nutrition: What every shepherd needs to know about lactation.
- Production Calendars: Examples of two different lambing season schedules.
- Body condition scoring.
- Lamb nutrition and weaning practices.

Break for lunch 12:30pm – 1:00pm

Saturday, January 17 – Session 3 cont'd (1:00pm – 3:00pm) With Guest Dan Macon, Livestock Advisor

- Shed Lambing vs. Pasture Lambing: *Is it more work or different work?*
- EZ Care System – *Creating Good Ewes*
- Post-Lambing Management: *Managing disease, weather, and other problems*
- Predator Protection: *Livestock Guardian Dogs, pros and cons and other deterrents/*
- Working with virtual fences
- Question and Answer Session

Saturday, January 17 – Session 4 (3:00pm – 4:00pm) – Goodnight to the Barn

- One last look in at the girls: *Observations and questions*

Sunday, January 18 – Session 5 (8:00am – 12:00pm) – Reports from the Barn

- What happened overnight?
 - What's in Your Lambing Kit? *What are essential tools and what are just really helpful to have?*
 - Lambing Problems
 - Necropsy - lamb demonstration
 - Mothering Ability – What Makes Ewe a Good Mother?
 - Troubleshooting Problems (Entropion, Dummy Lambs, Failure to Thrive, Tube Feeding, etc.)
Review lambing kit.

Instructors

Dr. Roselle Busch, UC Davis Sheep and Goat Extension Veterinarian – rcbusch@ucdavis.edu
Alison Smith, Shepherd – UC Hopland Research and Extension Center - almsmith@ucanr.edu Dan
Macon – UCCE Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor – dmacon@ucanr.edu