


Firm of M. C. Henderson, Ring Farm
The Rings
Enabling holidays for all

# Possible Content for lambing experience visit

Content will vary from visit to visit depending on the questions asked, discussions, time available and interest of learners. Here are some possible aspects which can be covered.

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# 1. Farm History & Context

## 🏛 Historical Background

- Ancient settlement site, possibly an Iron Age fort **(First/Second Level / Adult)**
- "The Rings" likely named after circular earthworks or medieval archery targets **(First/Second Level)**
- Henderson family farm since 1988 **(All levels)**
- Former egg production business until 2008 **(Adult)**
- 90 acres: mixed sheep & crops **(First/Second Level)**
- Accessible holiday accommodation **(All levels)**
- 2019 MBE – Moira Henderson for Accessible Tourism **(First/Second Level / Adult)**

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# 2. Basic Sheep Facts & Vocabulary

## 🐑 Vocabulary & Scots Language

- Scots words: *tup* (ram) **(First/Second Level)**
- Terminology: ewe, ram, lamb, hogg, gimmer, *never "sheeps"* **(First/Second Level / Early/ASN simplified)**
- Wether = castrated male **(First/Second Level)**
- Yeld = barren ewe **(Adult)**






- Sheep stratification system **(Adult)**

### Breed Types

- Hill breeds, down breeds, horns determined by breed not gender **(First/Second Level)**

### Life Cycle & Development

- Born → grow → change **(Early/ASN)**
- Lambs usually born March/April; Ring Farm lamb earlier—benefits/risks **(First/Second Level / Adult)**
- Comparing lamb birth weight to human birth weight **(Early/ASN / First Level)**
- How fast lambs stand vs human infants **(Early/ASN)**

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## 3. Animal Care & Welfare

### Immediate Lamb Care

- Treat navel within 15 minutes **(Adult)**
- Keep lamb dry, ensure bonding **(First/Second Level / Adult)**
- Check suckling/colostrum intake **(First/Second Level / Adult)**
- Ensure ewe milk supply is adequate **(Adult)**
- Avoid unnecessary interference **(Adult)**
- Good hygiene practices **(First/Second Level / Adult)**

### Feeding

- Bottle-feeding orphans/triplets **(First/Second Level)**
- Heat lamp use to prevent hypothermia **(First/Second Level)**
- Colostrum importance: antibodies, immunity, heat regulation **(First/Second Level)**




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### Identifying & Handling

- Markings: tupping colours, numbers **(First/Second Level)**
- What a shepherd's crook is, history & materials **(First/Second Level)**
- Purpose of a "fank" **(First/Second Level)**

### Ailments & Health

- Watery mouth, joint ill, hypothermia **(Adult / First/Second Level simplified)**
- Zoonoses **(Adult)**
- Antibodies & disease prevention **(First/Second Level / Adult)**

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## 4. Lambing Process (What You'll See)

### Signs of Lambing

a. Udder filling
b. Nesting behaviour
c. Seeking privacy
d. "Gazing into the distance"
e. Water bag visible
**(First/Second Level)**

### Birth

f. Feet & head first
g. Umbilical cord break
h. Breech birth (back legs first)
i. Clearing airways (swinging / straw in nostril)
j. Ewe licking lamb
k. Moving ewe by carrying lamb
**(First/Second Level / Adult detail)**




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### 🏠 Housing & Management

- Singles, twins, triplets determined by scanning percentages (e.g., 165%) **(First/Second Level / Adult)**
- Gestation: 147 days (5 months, 5 days) **(First/Second Level)**
- Tail docking with rubber ring to prevent infection **(First/Second Level)**
- Turnout at 24–48 hours **(First/Second Level / Adult)**
- Prolapse rope-truss method **(Adult)**

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## 5. Breeding & Reproduction

- Puberty: ewes 5–8 months; rams 6–8 months **(Adult / First/Second Level)**
- First breeding age: 8–10 months (ews) **(Adult)**
- 1 ram serves 30–35 ewes over 60 days **(Adult)**
- Yearling/gimmer/hogg definitions **(Adult)**
- Sheep have 2 teats; cows have 4 **(Early/ASN / First Level)**
- Rams can be aggressive, may fight **(First/Second Level)**

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## 6. Farm Business, Food Chains & Ethics

### 📉 Economics of Farming

- Diversification: 90 acres not enough to pay a full wage **(Adult / First/Second Level)**
- Daniel works on other farms too **(First/Second Level)**

### 🍽️ Farm-to-Fork Journey

- Grass-fed lamb on family farms **(First/Second Level)**






- Markets, auctioneers **(First/Second Level)**
- Transport to abattoirs **(First/Second Level)**
- Processing & hygiene regulations **(Adult)**
- Retail & traceability **(First/Second Level)**
- Nutrition benefits of lamb **(First/Second Level)**
- Buying local & supporting farmers **(All levels)**

### 💭 Moral & Religious Education

- Sheep in the Bible, shepherd imagery **(First/Second Level)**
- Discussions: farming, food, animal use **(First/Second Level / Adult)**

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## 7. By-products of Sheep Farming

- Wool: renewable fibre **(First/Second Level)**
- Lanolin in cosmetics/pharma **(First/Second Level)**
- Sheepskin products **(First/Second Level)**
- Manure as fertiliser **(First/Second Level)**

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## 8. Scottish Sheep Industry

- Scotland has over 6.5 million sheep **(First/Second Level)**
- Importance to rural economy & biodiversity **(First/Second Level / Adult)**
- High-quality, welfare-focused lamb production **(First/Second Level / Adult)**

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## 9. Selling, Predators & Outdoor Life

- Lambs sold May–July depending on weight (earliest 16 weeks) **(First/Second Level)**
- Predators: foxes, badgers, birds of prey **(First/Second Level / Early/ASN simplified)**
- Turnout timing & risks **(First/Second Level)**
- Field feeding: hay vs straw; pellets vs grain; “stubble neeps” **(First/Second Level)**