

Montana Ag Safety Program



Lambing and Kidding Safety

- Remember, sheep and goats react differently when stressed. Utilize low stress handling techniques.
- Inspect facilities prior to lambing/kidding.
 - Ensure all necessary equipment and facility space is prepared and in good repair.
 - Adequate lighting is crucial, add temporary lighting to areas that are lacking.
- Exercise caution when utilizing heat lamps. Consider constructing a “lamb/kid hotel”. made from wood or a barrel with a sturdy hanger for the heat lamp. Lamps pose a significant fire danger and hazard to both livestock and handlers when used improperly.
- Face the ewe or doe whenever possible, avoid turning your back to her. While smaller than other livestock and not usually aggressive, they are powerful enough to knock even the strongest individual over. Sheep and goats will jump and headbutt, when frightened or threatened.
- Avoid putting yourself between the ewe/doe and her lamb(s)/kid(s).
- Allow for an adequate number of sufficiently sized and properly constructed jugs.
- Use extreme caution in confined areas and at night.
- Know your escape routes.
- Ice and mud greatly affect your ability to move, give yourself extra time and space.
- Alert others to your location and provide an approximate time of return.
- Lambing/kidding is extremely physically demanding; utilize proper lifting techniques and avoid simultaneously lifting and twisting.
- Dress for the weather! Layers are ideal.
- Take time to rest and properly nourish yourself.
- Keep good records – taking note of disposition can be extremely helpful in preventing future incidents.
 - Consider culling animals with extremely poor disposition.