



National Sheep Association

Guidance notes for students using the NSA Lambing List Updated in light of the current Coronavirus Covid-19 outbreak

It is essential that all students read the following guidance notes, even if you have used the NSA Lambing List in previous years.

- **Applying for a position:**
 - The NSA Lambing List is intended to assist students looking for work experience placements; **please do not use the list if you are looking for full-time/paid employment.**
 - All farmers on the list are NSA members but no checks are carried out on individuals and any placement is agreed between the farmer and the student. NSA is only responsible for registering farmers' basic details and circulating the list to students and educational facilities. NSA does not take any responsibility for any placements that take place.
 - Some universities/colleges require students to carry out their lambing work experience placement within a certain radius of the campus – please check with yours before applying for any positions.
 - Students should be aware that farmers heavily rely on the NSA Lambing List for help during lambing time, one of the busiest times of the year. For that reason, **pulling out of a position you have committed to last minute is not an option, apart from in exceptional circumstances.**
 - Farmers do not expect you to know it all, so be totally honest about your experience and what you are capable of during the application process.
 - Given that the list is aimed at students in Higher and Further Education, we do not recommend students under the age of 16 use the list.
- **Check and agree before you start your placement**
 - Agreements between farmers and students are purely to enable students to gain valuable work experience. Therefore, there is no obligation for farmers to provide a wage, although some choose to. It is advisable to agree terms before beginning a placement so you and the farmer are on the same page from the beginning.
 - Also discuss and agree in advance the hours you will be required to do, and whether flexibility is required. Hours may be during the day or night.
 - Accommodation, provision of meals, clothing requirements, washing facilities, breaks and days off will all vary from farm to farm, so check what is available.

- **During your placement:**
 - Be honest. If you are not confident in being left on your own, especially during on night shifts, say so from the start.
 - Never be afraid to ask for help. Always say if you don't feel confident to tackle certain aspects of the work unsupervised, even if other students appear to be able to do the things you can't. Farmers would rather be aware of inexperience and spend time supervising and teaching you than risk the welfare of sheep by leaving you in a position you're not comfortable in.
 - Never be afraid to ask for tuition and supervision. You are there to work but you are also there to learn so ask for help and guidance at appropriate times when it is needed.
 - Systems on all farms are different. Be sure to find out what is required of you for all tasks you are required to undertake, even if you've done it a certain way on a different farm. Don't be afraid to ask and discuss why if you aren't sure of the thinking behind the system.
 - Working as a team. If you are part of a team of students, farmers will appreciate you getting on in a cheerful and positive attitude - but remember you are there to work and a lack of concentration can often lead to mistakes so ensure you take care and fully understand the tasks you're given.

Coronavirus Covid-19 advice when completing lambing work experience:

- If a farm requests you do not join them to assist with lambing due to the Coronavirus please be understanding, remember they are trying to protect themselves as well as others from the virus.
- In line with current Government advice, NSA reminds students that if they are experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19 such as a cough or fever then they should self isolate for 7 days. If you share your home / farm with others then all those you have access with should self-isolate for 14 days. This may mean you are unable to complete your lambing placement, if this is the case please inform the farm, do not just fail to turn up.
- NSA urges students wherever possible to follow this guidance for the safety of their own and others physical health.
- Remember to follow guidance to regularly wash your hands and not to touch your face wherever possible – general good measures to follow during lambing.

Data Protection

Data will be stored securely by NSA and used in accordance with our Privacy Policy. By choosing to submit your details to NSA you are consenting to participate in our Wider Interest Group and we may contact you in the future.

NSA Privacy Policy and full terms and conditions are available at www.nationalsheep.org.uk. For more information, please write to: **Data Protection Manager, The Sheep Centre, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 6PH.**