



National Sheep Association

Guidance notes for NSA members using the Lambing List Updated for the 2021/2022 lambing season in light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic

During the application process

- Once NSA has verified the information you have provided, it will be published on the NSA Lambing List in the 'work experience' area of the NSA website at www.nsanextgeneration.org.uk. This is an open-access page that all students can view.
- Please note, adverts can be submitted anytime but are manually published on the NSA website and can only be added Tuesday-Friday (9am-5.30pm).
- The Lambing List is aimed at students seeking a **work experience placement** and NSA does everything it can to make it clear that farmers using the list are not offering paid or permanent positions.
- All placements are agreed between farmer and student; NSA is only responsible for registering and publishing your details, so it is up to you to decide if a student is suitable.
- Do not feel you have to take the first student who applies. Lots of students use the list and it is unlikely that you'll only be approached by one. Ask prospective students questions to see if they will suit your system.
- Once you have found a suitable student, **please notify NSA and your advert will be taken down so no one else contacts you.**

Looking ahead

- Once you've placed an advert on the NSA Lambing List one year, you will receive notification the next year to let you know the service has gone live again.
- The NSA Lambing List is growing each year, so to make sure NSA is providing you with the best possible service, please email any thoughts or feedback to enquiries@nationalsheep.org.uk.

Data protection

- Data will be stored securely by NSA and used in accordance with our Privacy Policy. By choosing to use the NSA Lambing List you are consenting to participate in our Wider Interest Group and we may contact you in the future.
- Information will be publicly available on NSA website for non-members to freely access in the form of the lambing list.
- If you have any questions about how NSA uses your data relating to the Lambing List, email enquiries@nationalsheep.org.uk.

- 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.**

Tips to increase your chances of finding help via the NSA Lambing List and suggested procedures to gain the best from your lambing students.

How to attract more students:

- Provide as much information as you can in your advertisement – students are more likely to apply to positions where they know more detail about the farm set up and the requirements of the job
- Don't be too particular over what type of student you are looking for. It is fine to state preference over acceptance of under 18 year olds or whether they have had experience previously, but you should not state preference for a particular sex or other personal details.
- If you are able to, be prepared to welcome the student into your family home (Covid-19 rules allowing – please see below) or your existing team of staff. Consider offering to cook meals and provide the use of washing facilities.

When the student arrives to start their lambing placement:

- Introduce students to your farm as soon as they arrive, giving them an overview of their tasks and what is expected of them. To prevent problems further down the line, agree hours, accommodation, provision of meals, clothing requirements, washing facilities, breaks and days off, and wages/payment if this is something you intend on providing.
- Explain how to use medicines, injection sites, husbandry procedures (e.g. castration and tail docking) and giving supervision until you are sure they are competent. Even if a student advertises themselves as experienced, farms they've previously worked on might have had different systems and practices.
- Remember, students are there to learn so review their progress periodically and be prepared to provide additional training if it's needed. Be prepared to answer questions at appropriate times and explain procedures, even if they seem obvious to you.

Covid-19 advice when inviting students to your farm

- In line with current Government advice, NSA reminds members that if they have tested positive for Covid-19 then they should self isolate for 10 days from the day the symptoms started.
- Understandably self-isolation could be difficult during the busy lambing period but NSA urges members wherever possible to follow this guidance for the safety of their own and others physical health.
- If you are symptom free then you should request any students coming onto your farm are also. If they have been in contact with others experiencing symptoms then you may wish to ask them to take a PCR test to prove Covid-19 status before coming on to farm.
- Remind all working on farm to follow guidance to regularly wash their hands and social distance when possible. You may choose to ask students to wear a face covering.
- Please be mindful of the possibility that Covid-19 Government regulations could change at any time and affect your opportunity to host students in your own home, with this in

mind you may wish to try and provide alternative accommodation such as a caravan if possible.

- Due to the ongoing outbreak NSA has been advised that some universities have reduced the length of time they ask students to undertake for a lambing placement. This may need to be considered and could mean that multiple students are required to help members manage workload over the lambing period. If this is the case, thorough cleaning of facilities including accommodation between students departing and arriving on farm is strongly encouraged.
- **If you are experiencing heightened levels of stress or anxiety due to the current Covid19 situation or for other reasons, NSA reminds members to reach out to those offering support at this difficult time. The Farming Community Network offers confidential support 24 hours a day. Contact them on 03000 111 999 or email help@fcn.org.uk**

For other information and advice relating to the use of the NSA lambing list please contact enquiries@nationalsheep.org.uk or call 01684 892661.