

# Sheep Artificial Insemination Fact Sheet 4: Choosing and Caring for AI Ewes

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## Choosing a Ewe for AI Breeding

Ewes should be:

- An experienced ewe (not a ewe lamb)
- A good mother
- 2-6 years old
- Easier to handle (less stress for her, less work for you)
- Already have good genetics (she is half the genetics!)
- Good body condition (not too skinny or fat)
- Healthy



*Healthy ewe chosen for AI*

## Lowering Stress for AI Ewes

For optimal results in AI breeding the ewes should be kept healthy and should not be stressed

- If separating the ewes from the herd before inseminating: do so a day or more ahead of time to avoid the stress of them reestablishing a pecking order.
- Do not handle too much around the time of inseminating
- When inseminating do so as gently and stress free as possible
- Do not trailer or stress sheep from 24-48 hours after insemination to 45 days after insemination.



*Sheep chosen for AI separated from flock*