



HOW TO STUN/KILL SHEEP AND GOATS ON-FARM

Sheep and goats unable to be transported must be killed on-farm. They may also be killed on-farm for other reasons, such as illness or slow growth. Prior stunning is compulsory in all cases. Stun them to make them unconscious and **kill within 15 seconds** so that death is painless. Good handling and restraining are vital for effective stunning. This information does not override **national rules** that may forbid or restrict any of these practices.

Stunning and killing must be carried out by workers with an appropriate level of competence.

ABOUT SHEEP AND GOATS

- ◆ Sheep and goats are herd animals that like to stay in groups and get anxious when separated
- ◆ **Dairy sheep/goats** are usually calm, but **sheep/goats kept for meat/wool** can be more anxious
- ◆ **Rams/bucks** can be unpredictable and should be handled with care
- ◆ **Nanny goats/ewes** can get aggressive if split up from their kids/lambs
- ◆ Each sheep or goat can respond in a different way

BEFORE STUNNING

Prepare the sheep or goat

- ◆ Make sure the animal's **wool is dry**
- ◆ Check the **electrode pins are wet** or alternatively, remove wool from the area where electrodes will be placed
- ◆ Make sure the area where electrodes will be placed is wet
- ◆ Check the **tongs are right size/not corroded**
- ◆ Wear rubber gloves and boots

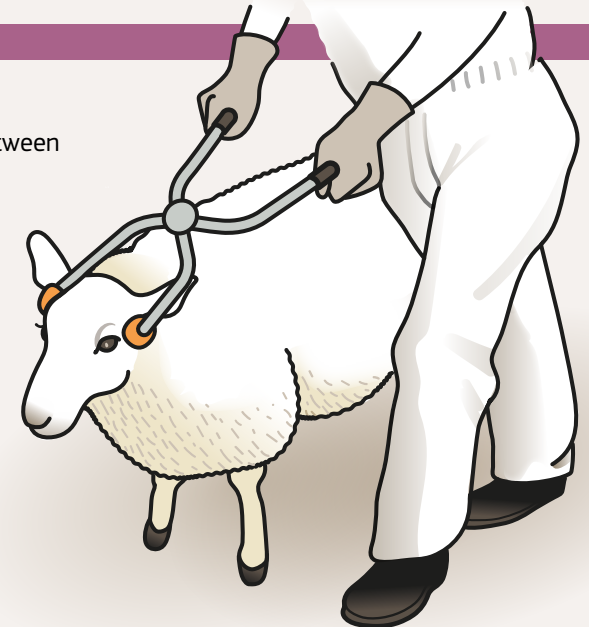
ELECTRICAL STUNNING/KILLING

Once you have restrained the sheep or goat, the simplest method to kill them with electrical tongs is to first stun the head, followed by applying current on the heart (fibrillation).

PHASE 1: HEAD-ONLY STUNNING

Place the electrodes

- ◆ If using hand pliers: place the electrodes between corners of eyes and base of ears
- ◆ If using head-to-back handset: put handset between ears with electrodes on top of head
- ◆ **Never place behind the ears**

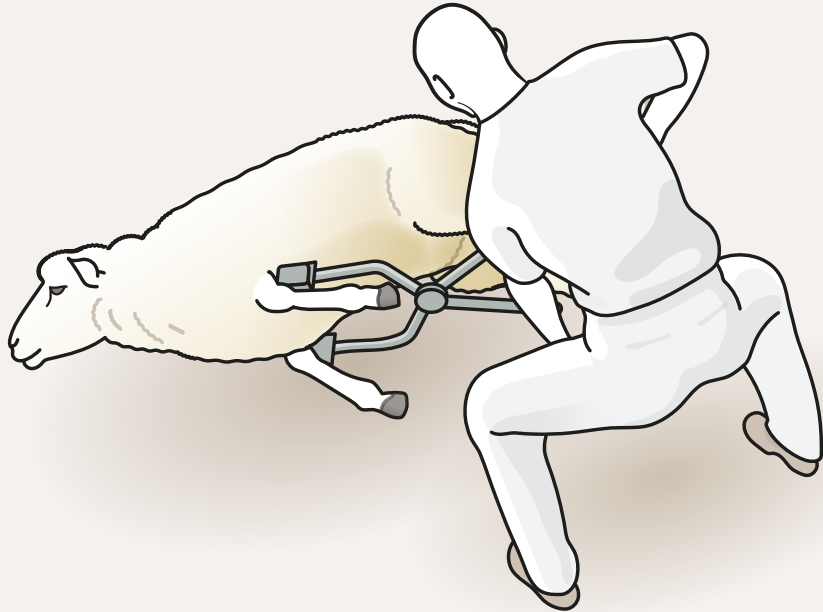


PHASE 2: FIBRILLATION AND STOPPING OF THE HEART

This will stop the sheep/goat's heart and kill it. Check the sheep/goat is unconscious before you begin phase 2.

Check the positioning

- Apply current that spans the heart on either side of chest, just behind front legs



AFTER STUNNING

If the sheep or goat is still conscious:

- Don't apply the current on the heart (phase 2)
- Stun it again in another position and with another device
- See what went wrong
- Put it right before resuming stunning

Kill the sheep or goat

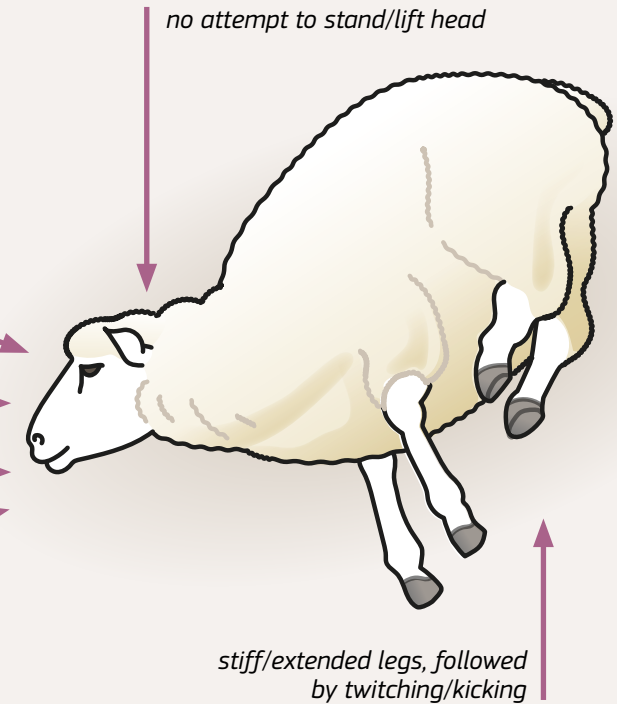
Apply phase 2 **within 15 seconds** of stunning.

no blinking (spontaneous or when eyes are touched)

no response to pinching/pricking of nose/ear

no regular breathing

no noise



CONFIRM THE DEATH

Check for:

- No spontaneous movement
- Limp/permanently collapsed body
- No response to pinch/prick on nose/ear
- No noise/panting
- No breathing
- Dilated pupils
- Bleeding stopped
- No heartbeat

RECOMMENDED PARAMETERS FOR ELECTRICAL STUNNING/KILLING

Minimum voltage (volts – V)	Minimum current (amperes – A)	Frequency (hertz – Hz)	Minimum duration head-only (seconds)	Duration body stun (seconds)
>150	1.0	50	2	3

