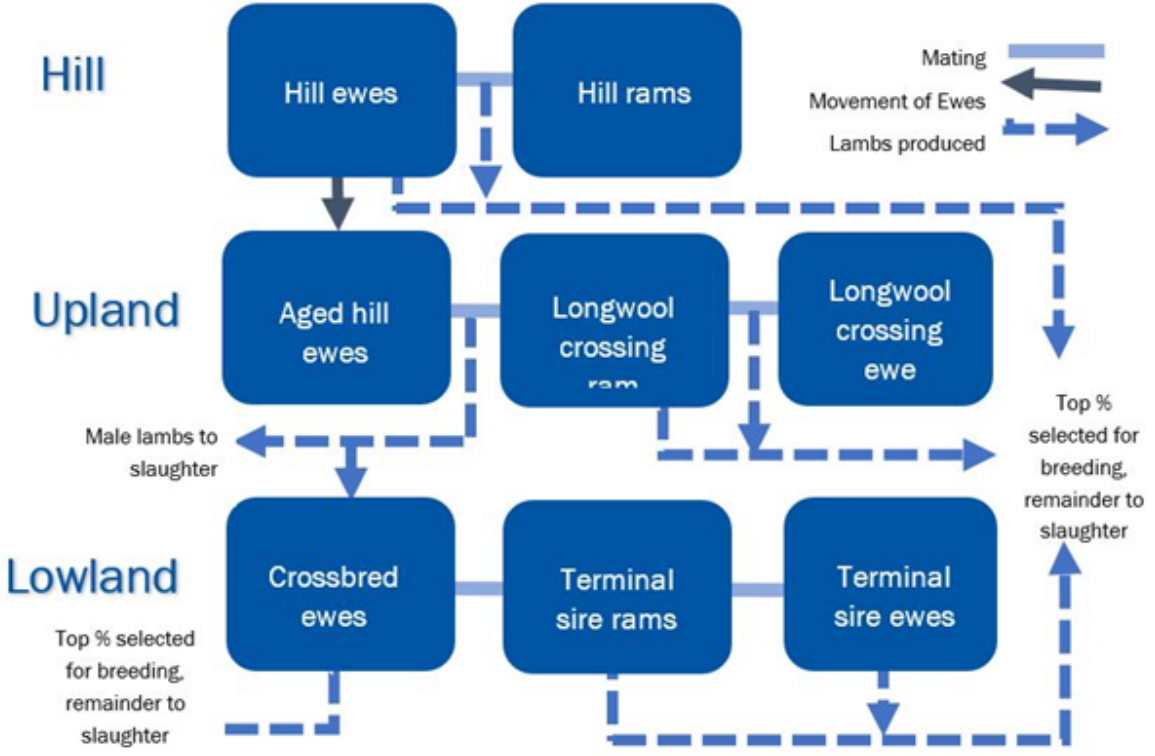


Policy Case-Study: Castration case study in sheep

1. Description of policy change	<p>The panel should score three scenarios for this case study.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Current practice in sheep production with castration2. Mandatory pain management during castration3. No castration (unless under veterinary advice on welfare grounds)
2. UK animal populations affected (species, systems)	Sheep, primarily lambs

<p>3. Current different main systems of production</p>	 <p>The diagram illustrates three levels of sheep production systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hill: Includes 'Hill ewes' and 'Hill rams'. A solid arrow points from Hill ewes to Aged hill ewes. A dashed arrow points from Hill rams to Longwool crossing ram. A legend indicates 'Mating' (solid arrow) and 'Movement of Ewes' (dashed arrow). 'Lambs produced' are shown as a dashed arrow from Hill ewes to the Upland level. Upland: Includes 'Aged hill ewes', 'Longwool crossing ram', and 'Longwool crossing ewe'. A dashed arrow points from Aged hill ewes to 'Male lambs to slaughter'. A dashed arrow points from Longwool crossing ram to 'Top % selected for breeding, remainder to slaughter'. A dashed arrow points from Longwool crossing ewe to 'Top % selected for breeding, remainder to slaughter'. Lowland: Includes 'Crossbred ewes', 'Terminal sire rams', and 'Terminal sire ewes'. A dashed arrow points from 'Top % selected for breeding, remainder to slaughter' (from Upland) to Crossbred ewes. A dashed arrow points from Crossbred ewes to 'Top % selected for breeding, remainder to slaughter'. A dashed arrow points from Terminal sire rams to 'Top % selected for breeding, remainder to slaughter'. A dashed arrow points from Terminal sire ewes to 'Top % selected for breeding, remainder to slaughter'. <p>Source: NSA</p>
<p>4. Proportion of the different systems in the UK at current time and likely post-policy</p>	<p>Unknown, sheep pass through multiple different systems</p>
<p>5. Likely impacts foreseen as a result of the policy change</p>	<p>Increased pain management usage, reduced use of castration. Unclear what other side effects there will be.</p>
<p>6. Any linked recent policy changes (are there any other policy changes or policy directions which may also impact this same area?)</p>	<p>n/a, but anaesthetics would need to be licenced before this scheme came into effect.</p>
<p>7. Legal basis for current systems (of the</p>	<p>"Under the Protection of Animals (Anaesthetics) Act 1954, as amended, it is an offence to</p>

system(s) under consideration) - a statement of current regulation around castration	<p>castrate lambs which have reached three months of age without the use of an anaesthetic. Furthermore, the use of a rubber ring, or other device, to restrict the flow of blood to the scrotum, is only permitted without an anaesthetic if the device is applied during the first week of life. Under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, as amended, only a veterinary surgeon may castrate a lamb which has reached the age of three months.”</p> <p>Sheep welfare code</p>
8. Animal ‘lifecycle’ information specific to the system(s) under consideration – e.g relevant information on common management practices for the system(s) under discussion	
9. Any other available detail about the policy change proposed	<p>Sheep pain management in relation to castration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written agreement from a vet that castration is necessary, with reasons given • A burdizzo or a ring must be used for castration, but ideally short scrotum castration will be used • Must be applied before 7 days of age • Anaesthesia must be given (e.g. Lidocaine or procaine - assume that they’ve been licensed), ideally administered 10-15 minutes before the ring is applied. • Analgesia/NSAIDs (e.g. Meloxicam - assume that it’s been licensed, but only after 14 days of age) must also be given. • Clipfitter and Numnuts are eligible once they are licensed <p>Actions farmers may take if avoiding castration (not mandated)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaving single-born lambs and reared lambs which are born in the beginning of the lambing period entire on farms that are capable of finishing lambs. These lambs are likely to be finished pre-weaning or before achieving sexual maturity. • Manage entire ram lambs as a distinct management group.