

Recommended tail docking guidelines approved by BLU



Recommendations: The following are general guidelines for docking tails of BFL lambs.

- Dock only healthy lambs. Method of docking used is subjective to husbandry and veterinary guidance
- Dock the tail no shorter than the distal end (farthest from the body) of the caudal fold to maintain the function of the caudal folds. (see photo examples)
 - A portion of the tail should remain after docking so when the tail is lifted during defecation, the caudal folds effectively direct the feces away from the body.
 - Example positioning a band 2-3 intervertebral spaces from caudal fold end.
 - Caudal folds are the flaps of skin located near the rectum that attach to each side of the tail, and are most visible from the underside of a lifted tail.

**These guidelines are based on research and recommendations by the American Veterinary Medical Association, The Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC), and a White Paper written on Welfare Concerns: Tail Docking of Sheep written by: Carolyn Stull, PhD, School of Veterinary Medicine University of California, Davis

	<p>Image left shows bands placed</p> <p>Image right shows the end result</p>	
	<p>Image showing the caudal fold, and that the docking leaves some tail beyond the end of the fold.</p>	