Government of Jammu and Kashmir Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir Urgent Advisory for Sheep Farmers in Kashmir

Due to the ongoing heavy rainfall and subsequent rising water levels across the region, the Sheep Husbandry Department issues the following urgent guidelines to protect your sheep during this critical period. Adhering to these precautions can significantly mitigate risks to your livestock.

Water Body Safety: Keep sheep and other livestock away from streams, rivers, and ponds where water levels are high or rising. Floodwaters can rapidly become dangerous, and swift-moving water can sweep animals away.

Feed Management: Provide only clean, dry feed to your animals to prevent health issues. Wet conditions can cause feed to mold quickly, which is harmful if ingested. Regularly check your feed supplies and discard any that show signs of spoilage

Foot Health Measures: Implement regular foot baths using a 10% solution of either Copper Sulphate or Zinc Sulphate to prevent diseases such as foot rot, which is prevalent in wet conditions. This concentration has been found effective in managing and preventing the spread of disease.

Protection for Young Lambs: Extra care should be given to young lambs, who are particularly vulnerable to cold and damp conditions. Hypothermia can occur rapidly in young animals; thus, providing a warm, dry shelter is critical for their survival.

Shelter Integrity: Inspect and reinforce all livestock shelters to ensure they are secure and waterproof. Effective shelter can prevent a range of weather-related issues, including hypothermia and diseases caused by damp environments.

Emergency Preparedness: Develop and maintain a clear plan for moving livestock to higher ground or other safe locations in case of imminent flooding. Ensure all individuals involved in farm operations are familiar with this plan and can act quickly if needed.

Implementation: We urge all sheep farmers to implement these guidelines immediately and to maintain vigilance as long as the rainy conditions persist. Regular updates and additional advisories will be issued as necessary.

For assistance, additional information, or to report emergencies, please contact your local District Sheep Husbandry Office or your block's Veterinary Assistant Surgeon.

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