



# Heads up on tail-docking!

**From 9 May 2021, new rules for  
tail-docking sheep come into effect.**



Tail-docking is done for cleanliness and to reduce the risk of flystrike. If you tail-dock your sheep, make sure you know about the new requirements from 9 May 2021.

## For sheep under 6 months old

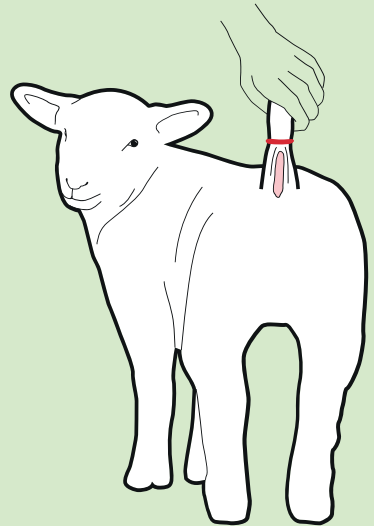
You must use a hot iron or rubber ring.

Otherwise you can be fined \$500

The tail must not be docked any shorter than the distal end of the caudal fold.

Otherwise you can be fined \$500 (or \$1500 for the business). Alternatively, you could face court proceedings for serious offending, such as when multiple sheep are involved.

The intent is that the tail be left long enough to cover the vulva in ewes, and a similar length in rams.



## For sheep over 6 months old

Tail-docking must be done by a veterinarian, using pain relief.

Otherwise you could face a criminal conviction and fine of up to \$3000 (or \$15,000 for the business)

For more information on regulations and the codes of welfare please visit [www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs)