Example of Decision Tree for Euthanasia

Animal is identified as Sick, Injured or Unthrifty

Moribund or unfit for slaughter

- Immediate euthanasia

Treat and record

- Poor response to treatment; unlikely to recover
- Assess if further treatment is required
- Immediate euthanasia

- Positive response to treatment; condition improves
- Send for slaughter

No medication given or withdrawal time met; fit for transport

- Unfit for transport
- Medication given, withdrawal time not met
- On-farm slaughter or immediate euthanasia
- Immediate euthanasia

Examples of criteria for euthanizing sheep

- Weak, unable to stand
- Unable to eat or drink
- Severe injury (e.g., from predator attack)
- Broken leg with exposed bone
- Exposed internal organs
- Moderate to severe lameness
- Rectal or vaginal prolapse (persistent or damaged)
- Severe body weight loss (20% or greater)

Refer to sections 7.0 Euthanasia, 4.4 Sick, Injured or Cull Animals and 6.1.1 Fitness for Transport.