

Sheep Feeding Guidelines

- Always provide a commercial salt/mineral mixture designed for sheep free choice.
- Provide clean fresh water. Preferably free choice at all times.
- Feed good quality feeds.
- Balance rations to meet the needs of each class of sheep. Make all ration changes gradually.
- Remember that all flocks have differing conditions. Nutritional recommendations may need to be adjusted for variations in breed, size, age, weather, housing, feed available, and management.
- Consider using ammonium chloride, ionophores, antibiotics, implants, etc. to reduce problems and/or maximize profits.

EWES

Two Months Prior to Breeding

- Condition score ewes.
- Feed grain as needed to condition. Usually 1/2 to 1 pound daily for 6 to 8 weeks before breeding.
- Feed good quality forage.

During Breeding Season

- Continue feeding grain if needed.
- Feed good quality forage.

After Breeding/First Two Trimester of Gestation

- Manage ewes for slight weight gain.
- Feed good quality forage and minimal grain.
- 10 to 11% crude protein in total ration on a dry matter basis.

Last Trimester of Gestation

- Feed 3/4 to 1 1/2 pound of grain daily.
- Feed good quality forage.
- Provide clean, fresh, ice-free water at all times.
- 11 to 12% crude protein in total ration on a dry matter basis.

Lambing

- Reduce grain day of lambing.
- Increase grain gradually after lambing.

First Two Months of Lactation

- Feed approximately 1 pound of grain daily per each lamb raised with the ewe.
- Feed good quality hay free choice.
- Provide clean, fresh, ice-free water at all times.
- 15 to 16% crude protein in total ration on dry matter basis.



After Two Months of Lactation

- Reduce the amount of grain fed to the ewe.
- Weaning
- Stop feeding grain to the ewe one week before weaning.

After Weaning

- Manage ewes to gradually recover body condition lost during lactation.
- Good quality forage should be adequate.

LAMBS

Birth to Weaning

- Use a commercial lamb milk replacer for orphan lambs and lambs not getting adequate milk from the ewe.
- Offer a high quality creep feed in a suitable creep feeding area. Usually a 16 to 20% crude protein feed.

After Weaning

Market Lambs

- Free choice grain.
- Feed 1/2 to 3/4 pound baled hay daily.
- 12 to 16% crude protein in total ration dry matter depending on age and weight.

Replacement Lambs

- Feed 1 to 3 pounds of grain daily to maturity.
- Feed good quality forage free choice.
- Do not allow replacement lambs to become over conditioned.
- Feed bred ewe lambs separately from mature ewes.
- Be sure to feed ram lambs adequately during breeding season, allowing for growth and breeding activity.
- 12 to 16% crude protein in total ration dry matter depending on age and weight.

RAMS

Two Months Prior to Breeding Season

- Condition score rams.
- Feed grain as needed to condition. Usually 1/2 to 1 1/2 pounds daily.
- During Breeding Season
- Continue feeding grain during breeding season. Usually 1 to 3 pounds daily.
- Be sure to feed ram lambs adequately during breeding season, allowing for growth and breeding activity.

After Breeding

- Manage rams to gradually recover body condition lost during breeding season.
- Good quality forage should be adequate.

