



Pre and Post lambing nutrition

Feeding the ewe through late pregnancy and beyond

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NADIS
Animal Health Skills

Plan for health – ask your vet for a veterinary health plan

Principles of feeding – late pregnancy and post lambing

- Assess body condition score
- Group accordingly
- Analyse forage
- Assess ewes – metabolic profiles
- Quality of supplement
- MAXIMISE dry matter intake
- Post lambing nutrition
- Grazing cover, forage, supplements



Assess body condition score



- Ewe nutrition – year round importance
- Aim – optimum body condition score at lambing
- Lambing ease
- Minimal risk of disease – metabolic, dystocia, prolapse
- Colostrum quality/quantity



Body condition score targets

- Targets at lambing
- Lowland Ewe – 3-3.5
- Hill ewe – 2.5
- Achieving the correct BCS provides adequate mobilisation body reserves
- Ewes can lose -75-200g/day contributing to energy/protein supply



Body condition Score	Vertical Processes	Horizontal Processes	Eye Muscle	Fat Cover
1	Sharp & prominent	Sharp. Fingers easily pass under.	Wasted	None
2	Prominent & smooth	Rounded. Fingers go under with pressure.	Medium depth	Thin
3	Smooth & rounded	Smooth & rounded. Fingers find ends with hard pressure.	Full	Moderate
4	Detected only as a line	Cannot be felt	Full	Thick
5	Not detectable but fat dimples down to spine	Not detectable	Very full	Dense

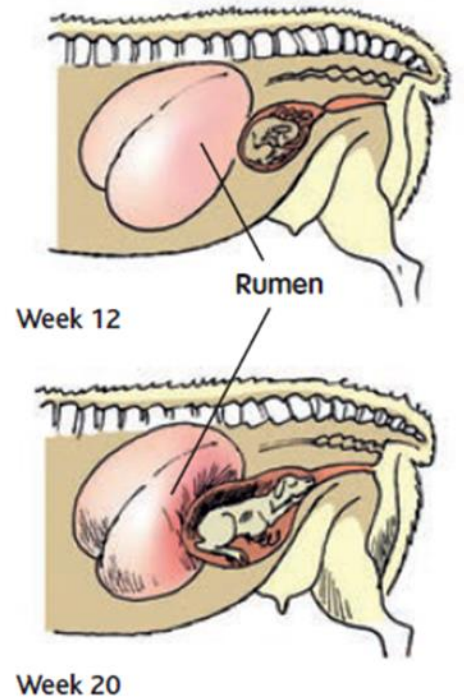
Proven benefits lambing to weaning



Effective feeding during late pregnancy

Optimise feeding by grouping ewes according to:

- Raddle mark, number of lambs expected, BCS and age
- Energy and protein demand increase
- Promote optimum lamb birth weights and colostrum quality



Analyse your forage



Analysis (Dry Matter)	Result	Low	Normal	High	Target
Dry Matter	% 41.2	[Red bar]			[Red icon]
Protein	% 11.3	[Green bar]			[Green icon]
D Value	% 64.6	[Green bar]			[Green icon]
ME	MJ/kg 10.3	[Green bar]			[Green icon]
pH	4.2	[Green bar]			[Green icon]
NH3-N of total N	% 2.5	[Blue bar]			[Blue icon]
Sugars	% 2.6	[Green bar]			[Green icon]
Ash	% 7.2	[Green bar]			[Green icon]
NDF	% 48.8	[Green bar]			[Green icon]
ADF	% 33.6	[Green bar]			[Green icon]
Oil (Process B)	% 2.8	[Blue bar]			[Blue icon]
Vitamin E	mg/kg 50.0	[Green bar]			[Green icon]

Grade: Fries 05/776, Lipen 6/52kg

FIM Metabolisable Protein	g/kg	Low	Normal	High	Target
MPB	18.4	[Blue bar]			[Blue icon]
MPN	75.2	[Blue bar]			[Blue icon]
MPE	84.2	[Red bar]			[Red icon]

Notes: 1*4*0.05, 1*4*0.05, 1*4*0.05, 1*4*0.05, 1*4*0.05, 1*4*0.05, 1*4*0.05, 1*4*0.05, 1*4*0.05, 1*4*0.05

Fermentation Characteristics	g/kg	Low	Normal	High	Target
VFA's	10.7	[Blue bar]			[Blue icon]
Lactic Acid	23.4	[Blue bar]			[Blue icon]
Intake	g/kg ML 101.7	[Green bar]			[Green icon]
Rumen Stability Value	303.7	[Green bar]			[Green icon]
FMPAL	mg/kg 891.2	[Blue bar]			[Blue icon]

Comments



- ME, FME, DUP and ERDP
- Aim 80% requirements from forage
- Metabolic profiles – 3 weeks pre lambing
- Sufficient energy and protein – last 3 weeks drives colostrum quality/volume and foetal growth
- Inadequate energy – pregnancy toxaemia
- Harvested roots – rumen function, energy
- Quality of supplement? ME higher than forage

Proven benefits lambing to weaning



Maximise dry matter intake (DMI)

- The limiting factor
- Late pregnancy – decreases by up to 30%
- Maximise DMI
- Trough space should be 45cm per ewe with 15-23cm ok for forage or TMR

Water availability

- Clean – remove straw/hay/muck
- 4.5 litres/ewe
- Up to 10 litres – lactating



Post lambing nutrition

- Energy and protein increases by 60% and 44%
- VFI increases slowly – capacity to eat 3-3.5% BW
- Mobilise reserves
- Negative energy balance
- Lactation peaking 3-4 weeks



**Proven benefits
lambing to weaning**



Matching requirements

- Availability of spring grass
- Early lambing or housed due to weather = supplementary forage and feed needed
- Levels of feeding – depending upon ewe BCS and how much condition loss can occur?
- Grass availability (sward height)
- 4cm < supplementary feed. 3cm < supplementary feed and forage (fodder beet, hard feed)

