




Feeding Sheep in a Late Break

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Today's Points

- No (or not much) feeding over summer
- Principles of feeding
 - Energy
 - Protein
 - Vitamins & minerals
- How much feed do you require?
- Sheep requirements going up!
- Feed on offer & pasture growth rates
- Making up the difference – sup feeding

Principles of Feeding

Measure to manage
Condition score

Is it OK to lose weight during lambing?

Principles of Feeding

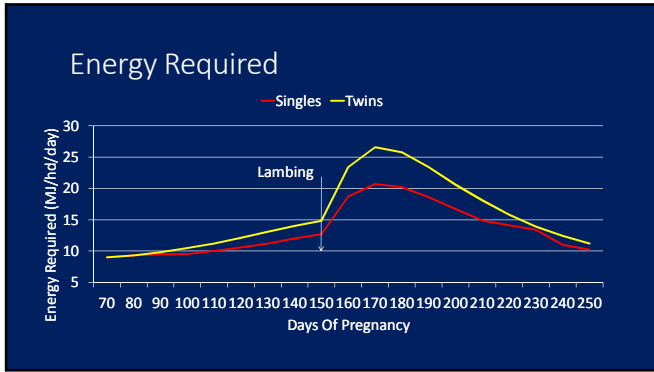
1. Energy – young & old sheep
 - Most limiting factor
 - Required for all body functions
2. Protein – young sheep
 - Balanced diet
 - Growth & muscle development
3. Vitamins & Minerals

More Feed Required?

- Depends on..
 - Nutritional requirements of the animal being fed
 - Number of animals to feed
 - Feed on offer (FOO)
 - Energy content of feed

Energy - The Single Bearing Ewe

- A 60 kg adult dry ewe requires:
 - 10 ME
- 2 weeks prior to lambing
 - 14 ME
- Day 30 lactation
 - 24 ME!



- ### What do your sheep require now?
- Preg status – single/twin/dry?
 - Day of pregnancy or lactation?
 - = Energy required

TABLE 1a. Energy Required by Ewes @ Condition Score 3 to maintain weight

Day of pregnancy	Maintenance energy (MJ/d) for ewes under drought paddock conditions				Confinement Fed	
	small frame (45kg) maintain @ CS 3	medium frame (50kg) maintain @ CS 3	large frame (60kg) maintain @ CS 3	medium frame maintain @ CS 3	single	twin
dry	7.4	8.0	9.3	6.2	6.7	
50	7.6	8.4	9.7	7.0	7.2	
70	8.0	8.7	10.1	7.4	7.9	
100	9.0	9.9	11.5	8.6	9.8	
130	11.3	12.3	14.4	10.9	14.1	
days lactating	maintain @ CS 3	maintain @ CS 3	maintain @ CS 3	ewes and lambs		
10	single	single	single	ask for advice on confinement feeding ewes and lambs		
30	17.3	18.7	21.5			
50	21.7	20.2	23.2			
	19.1	16.7	19.2			
		20.6	23.7			

- ### This season...
- What feed is in my paddock?
 - Green feed
 - Pasture growth rates
 - Remaining dry feed



300 FOO



- 6 - 9 ME

Dry Feed



- sheep are selective grazers. (10-15%)
- 2 - 5 ME

Principles of Feeding

Protein

- Low protein = limited intake
- Lupins or green feed
- Why?

Rumen cannot process the 3% bodyweight.

- The solution
 - To make up the protein deficit
- Feed Lupins if no green feed available

What energy are you getting from pasture?

- Green FOO?
 - Energy?
- Dry FOO?
 - Energy?

Pasture Growth Rates

Supplementary Feeding

Grain feeding budget
Cost effective

What's grain worth to your sheep?

	Price (\$/T DM)	Energy (MJ/kg)	Cost (c/MJ)
Oats*	\$180	10.7	1.68 c
Barley	\$220	11.9	1.85 c
Lupins	\$320	13.7	2.33 c
Pellets	\$300	12.5	2.4 c

*Much variation in Oats

Making up the difference

- What are you feeding?
- What energy level has it got?
- What rate are you feeding?
- How much energy does this supply?

Deficit MJ/day	expected loss g/h/d	CS in 30 days (45kg)	CS in 30 days (50kg)	CS in 30 days (60kg)
-1.00	-29	-0.12	-0.11	-0.09
-2.00	-57	-0.23	-0.21	-0.17
-3.00	-85	-0.34	-0.31	-0.26
-4.00	-113	-0.46	-0.41	-0.34
-5.00	-142	-0.57	-0.52	-0.43

Principles of Feeding Minerals

Selenium
Vitamin E
Calcium based licks

Why?
Short period on green feed
Long periods on cereal grains

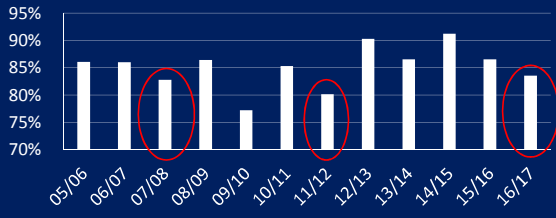
Weaners

- High Protein - 15% (depending on size?)
- Growing or dying
- No worms
- Vitamin E (If no green pick)
- Selenium
- Find ways to minimise the tail!

Other Feeding Tips

- When feeding cereals - every 2-3 days
- Remove the tail of the mob
- CS, CS, CS

Lambing Rate



Summary

- Energy, Energy, Energy
- Most important part of feeding
- Know sheep's requirements – they are increasing
- Measure your FOO
- What energy are they getting from pasture?
- Feed your sheep
- It's worth it (\$)
- Work out the correct rate
- CS to manage this process