Getting Facilities Ready for Lambing and Kidding

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https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/lincolnmcpherson/nebraska-extension-sheep-and-goat/

EXTENSION

Kidding Jugs and Housing

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Corfield Goat Kidding Barn

Lambing Jugs

4 ft by 4 ft pens small ewes
4 ft by 6 ft or 5 ft by 5 ft for large ewes & multiple births

Lambing Records

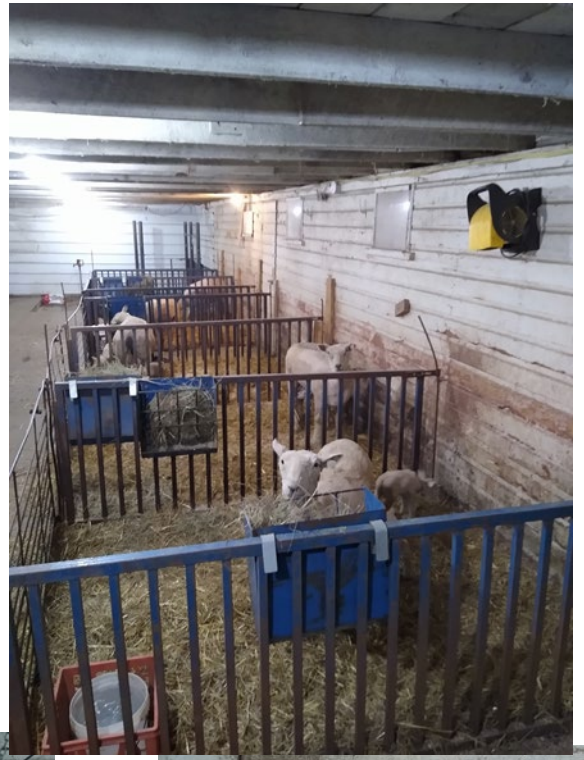
Lambing Supplies

Barn Camera

Creep Area

Bruns Family

Drop pen



Lamb and Ewe Paint brand

Bruns Family

Jug Heater

Video of Cleaning Sheep Housing

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8F1-ZfqvSo0

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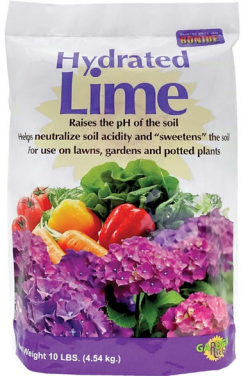
Facilities Preparation

- Thorough cleaning of facilities before kidding and lambing season
- After cleaning bedding out of stalls disinfect with a disinfectant
  - You can wash with a disinfectant solution or treat the floor with lime before putting down clean bedding (Hydrated lime more effective)
- Place portable pens in the sun for a couple of days
  - All these things will reduce your pathogen load
- Shelter should be free of drafts but have good ventilation
- Check heat lamps to make sure they are working and out of mom's reach



Facilities Preparation Continued

- Construction of kid or lamb Incubator should be done before kidding & lambing
  - A structure that holds the heat lamp is called an incubator and can be made of wood or an old plastic barrel
  - It helps keep the heat lamp clear of hay and prevents the doe from getting her horns into the bulb
- Keep ewes with their lambs in jugs (pens) for two to five days.
- Bedding provides warmth, insulation, and comfort to housed animals. Various materials can be used for bedding for sheep, depending upon cost and availability: straw, hay, dried corn stalks, corn cobs, peanut hulls, cottonseed hulls, oat hulls, sawdust, wood shavings, wood chips, pine shavings, sand, paper products, peat, hemp, and leaves. Each type of bedding has advantages and disadvantages.
- Creep for sheep no wider than 7”

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Livestock Bedding Alternatives

Bedding Material	Absorption Rate*
Wheat straw	2.1
Barley straw	2.0
Oat straw	2.4 to 2.5
Hay	3.0
Sawdust	1.5 to 2.5
Savings	1.5 to 2.0
Corn stover	2.5
Sand	0.3
Peat moss	10.0
*Weight of water held per unit of dry material. Assumes initial moisture content of bedding < 10%	
Source: Livestock Bedding Alternatives, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, 1997.	

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Ewe and lamb space requirement

Ewe/lamb Barn Space Requirements

Pen space allowance (ft2) / 100 ewes lambing			
Lambing Rate	160%	190%	220%
Ewes with singles (15ft)	435	300	165
Ewes with twins (22ft)	1,320	880	902
Ewes with triplets + (30ft)	330	1,200	1,440
Total space needs	2,085	2,380	2,507

Note - Space requirements listed do not include feeder and water space needs.

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Prepare Kidding and Lambing Kit

- Identification tags
- Record sheet
- Kid/lamb puller
- Latex gloves
- Iodine
- Oxytocin

- Feeding tube and syringe
- Selenium shot
- Towel to dry kids if necessary
- Emergency phone numbers
- Scale for taking birth weights
- Plastic nipples for supplementing

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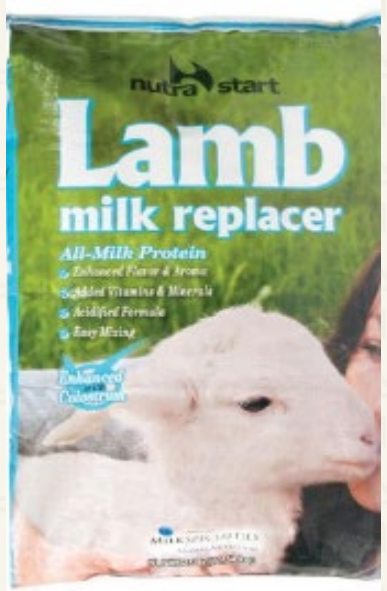
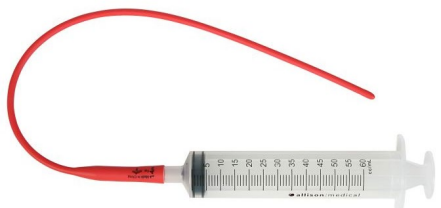
More suggestions on lambing and Kidding supplies

Suggested Lambing and Kidding Supplies

Propylene glycol or molasses
Calcium borogluconate
50% dextrose
Syringes and needles
Bearing retainer (spoon) or prolapse harness
Rubber gloves, protective sleeves, or latex gloves
OB lubrication
Nylon rope, snare, or leg puller
OB S-curve needle
Towels and rags
Antibiotics
Oxytocin
Thermometer
Gentle iodine (or other disinfectant)
Frozen colostrum (ewe, doe, or cow)
Esophageal feeding tube
Milk replacer
Bottles and nipples
Scale and sling
Halter
Ear tags
Pocket record keeping book





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High Intensity Kidding

- Move doe to jugs before kidding
- Iodine Navel, Give BoSe
- Make sure they have clean bedding, hay, feed and water
- Ear tag kids on the way to their nursery pens
- Deworm all does out of kidding pens
- In the nursery pen give does 5lbs of alfalfa hay plus 2 lbs. of grain per day
- Make sure pasture has had nothing on it for 60 days
- Provide colostrum in the first 12 hours at a rate of 5 percent of body weight – e.g., a 10-pound lamb should receive 8 ounces.
- Check each ewe's udder to be sure lamb(s) are using both sides.

Goat Kid and Lamb Nursery

Lamb Nursery

- 9 lambs per bucket
- No more than 3 lambs per nipple
- Group by age, not size, until older
- Docking tails and castration can wait until 3 weeks or older to minimize stress
- Inhalation pneumonia is our biggest cause of un-thrifty orphans
- RX and mark any lambs that are treated so they can be watched.

THANKS!

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Lincoln-Logan-McPherson Counties