Getting Facilities Ready for Lambing and Kidding

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https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/lincolnmcperson/nebraska-extension-sheep-and-goat/
Kidding Jugs and Housing
Lambing Jugs

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

Bruns Family

Lamb and Ewe Paint brand

Jug Heater
Video of Cleaning Sheep Housing

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8F1-ZfqvSo0
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”
# Livestock Bedding Alternatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bedding Material</th>
<th>Absorption Rate*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat straw</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley straw</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oat straw</td>
<td>2.4 to 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawdust</td>
<td>1.5 to 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings</td>
<td>1.5 to 2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn stover</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peat moss</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Weight of water held per unit of dry material.
Assumes initial moisture content of bedding < 10%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ewe/lamb Barn Space Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pen space allowance (ft²) / 100 ewes lambing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambling Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ewes with singles (15ft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ewes with twins (22ft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ewes with triplets + (30ft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total space needs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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