

Sheep Nutrition



Discussion assumes your interest
is to lower feed costs and increase
profits

- Feed costs account for 45-60% of total costs



Feedstuffs

- Energy
 - Corn, oats, barley, beet pulp, molasses, fat
- Protein
 - Soy bean meal, distillers grains, sunflower meal, commercial protein supplements > 20%
- Combinations
 - Pasture, alfalfa, some sweet feeds,



Energy Feeds

	Crude Protein,%	TDN,%
Corn	8.5	82
Oats	12-14	60
Barley	10-14	80
Beet pulp	10	75

Protein Feeds

	Crude Protein,%	TDN,%
SBM	44	82
Distiller Grains	28	85
Sunflower meal	35	73
Com. Supp	20-40	50-80

Commercial Feeds

	Crude Protein,%	TDN,%
Sweet Feeds	10-16	65 - 75
Creep Feeds	16-20	70 - 75
Grower feeds	14	65 - 75
Lick Tubs	19 - 22	60-80

Pelleted verse textured ?

Economical Feeds in NE



Corn and Alfalfa



Value of Feeds - Cost/Nutrient

	Cost/ 100 lb	% CP	\$/ lb CP	% TDN	\$/lb TDN
Corn	11.2	9	1.24	83	.13
Alf	8.75	18	0.49	60	.15
Sweet Feed	28	12	2.33	70	.40
Tubs	26	20	1.30	65	.40

Can I lower feed Costs?

- 2 lb of Sweet feed = .24 CP and 1.5 TDN and cost \$.56

or

1.4 lb alf and .6 lb corn = same nutrient
Costs \$.19 if hay is \$175/T and corn at
\$6.25 bu

If 25 ewes for one month = \$420 verse \$143



The Eye of the Master Fattens the Flock

- Body Condition
 - Scores 1-5
 - 1 the Thinnest



Feeding Late Preg Ewe

Requirements				0.5		3.5
Feed	LB/	\$/cwt	CP%	CP/d	%TDN	TDN/d
Alf	5	\$8.75	17.0	0.9	60%	3
Corn	0.6	\$11.2	8.5	0.1	83%	0.5
Total	5.6			0.9		3.5
\$/da	0.50					



Feeding Lact ewe - twins

Requirements				1	4.5	
Feed	LB/d	\$/cwt	CP%	CP/d	%TDN	TDN/d
Alf	6	\$8.75	17.0	1.0	60%	3.6
Corn	1.25	\$11.2	8.5	0.1	83%	1.0
Total	7.25			1.1		4.6

\$/da 0.67

Feeding lambs

- Marketing plan
- Start on Commercial creep -18-20% Prot
- Wean
 - 18 to 14%protein
 - 50 – 60 lb or 4 months
 - Select replacement less than 80 – 90 lb if on high concentrate ration.



Processing Feeds

- No advantage of cracking corn for ewes and lambs over 40 lbs.
 - Young lambs will consume cracked corn sooner
- Only advantage of grinding hay is to reduce waste and ease of mixing feed.



Minerals

- Salt – iodized
- Calcium and phosphorus - ?
- Trace minerals
 - Copper – adequate in feeds
 - Cattle and goat minerals can be toxic
 - Selenium – if needed



Feed Additives

- Only FDA approved non script feed additive for sheep is Bovatec
- Many other additives that are usually based on testimonials



Additional Information

- <http://www.sheep101.info/201/index.html>
- Feel free to text or email:
 - irush1@unl.edu



Questions or Comments ?



Annual Costs

State	Variable	Fixed	Total	Profit
ND	143	14	157	16
Wyo	138	21	159	-15
Indiana			163	

Deprecation on a \$220 ewe lamb is \$7 – assumes 5 yr life and \$50 salvage

