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Creep Fed Lambs
E. K. Faulkner, University of Wyoming

Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station. Recent tests to compare creep-fed vs. non-creep-fed lambs. Here are the results of these tests:

Creep-fed lambs reached a market weight of 90 lbs., 51 days earlier than the non-creep fed lambs.

Due to higher prices received in June creep-fed lambs brought an average of \$5 more per cwt.

Singles reached 90 lbs., 24 days earlier than the twins.

Net returns after feed costs averaged \$14.71 for creep-fed lambs and \$13.20 for non-creep-fed lambs.

Feed Consumption and Daily Gains

Summary of the lamb feeding trials showed that:

By weaning time, creep-fed lambs averaged nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ lb more daily gain per head than non-creep-fed lambs.

The average lamb will consume about $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of feed daily--from 10 to 120 days of age. He will eat about $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of feed per day at 3 weeks and 3 lbs. per day at weaning time.

Lambs will average about 3 lbs. of feed per lb. of gain prior to weaning, but require over 8 lbs. after weaning.

As the feeding period progresses the rate of gain decreases and feed consumption increases.

Will It Pay?

Creep feeding will usually pay when:

The twinning percentage is high.

Lambs have the inherited ability to gain rapidly.

Lambs are dropped prior to March 1. (These lambs should hit the May-June market.)

May and June lamb prices are higher than summer or fall prices.

Pasture acreage is limited (use pasture for ewes only).

Creep-feeding may not pay when:

Lambs do not have inherited ability to gain rapidly.

Lambs are dropped after March 1.

Lambs receive low-energy, bulky rations.

Creep management is poor.

May and June lamb prices are low.

There is plenty of available pasture not otherwise used.

Management

Good Creep Management Pays:

Use self-feeders if possible. Keep a clean fresh supply of feed available at all times.

Put the creep in the most comfortable, well-protected area in the barn.

Supply clean, fresh water in the creep at all times.

Use a small light over the creep to attract the lambs. In cold weather use a heat lamp.

Be sure all lambs are using the creep. Pen them in the creep for short periods, especially when they start to eat.

Wean and remove lambs as they get too large to enter the creep.