

South Dakota State University
**Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional
Repository and Information Exchange**

South Dakota Sheep Field Day Research Reports,
1967

Animal Science Reports

1967

Feeding After Lambing

A. L. Pope
University of Wisconsin

Follow this and additional works at: http://openprairie.sdstate.edu/sd_sheepday_1967

Recommended Citation

Pope, A. L., "Feeding After Lambing" (1967). *South Dakota Sheep Field Day Research Reports, 1967*. Paper 21.
http://openprairie.sdstate.edu/sd_sheepday_1967/21

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Animal Science Reports at Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in South Dakota Sheep Field Day Research Reports, 1967 by an authorized administrator of Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. For more information, please contact michael.biondo@sdstate.edu.

Feeding After Lambing
A. L. Pope, University of Wisconsin

There are two practices that are essential for efficient and economical feeding at this time. First, the ewes with single lambs should be fed separately from those with twins. The single-rearing ewes should receive approximately 1 lb. of grain per head daily. Those with twins should be fed $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 lbs. each per day, depending on their size and condition. Shelled corn and oats are satisfactory and again the protein shall be supplied by the hay.

The second important practice is to feed the same ration after 2 months lactation that was fed 1 month before lambing. This is because the ewe begins to taper off in milk production after 60 days, and because the lambs should be eating well from the creep feeder. If lambs are weaned before pasture, the ewes should receive only a very little hay for a week in order to dry them up. If ewes and lambs are pastured, it is usually best to do a little barn feeding for a few days until they are adjusted to pasture.

Very young lambs will do better if they can feed on grain and hay in addition to the ewe's milk. Place a suitable mixture in a creep feeder so that the lambs can slip in and help themselves. Lambs should be creep-fed starting at 2 weeks of age, even if they are to be finished on pasture.

Lambs prefer the same grain ration as the ewes are getting when they begin to eat, although creep ration should be much different from the ewe's ration. To get them started, sprinkle a little of the ewe ration on top of the creep mixture. Lambs will begin eating ground feed before pellets. The following grain mixture is popular for creep-feeding:

RATION NO. 1

Grind at first; feed whole later	
Corn (no cob).....	60.5 lbs.
Oats.....	20.0 lbs.
Wheat bran.....	10.0 lbs.
Linseed or soybean meal	10.0 lbs.
Trace mineralized salt..	1.0 lb.
Bonemeal or dicalcium phosphate.....	1.0 lb.

Feed the best quality alfalfa hay in a separate rack. Supply fresh hay and grain twice daily.

Another popular creep mixture, that can be self-fed in pellet or ground form and contains antibiotic and vitamins, is as follows:

RATION NO. 2

Alfalfa hay--2nd cutting or dehydrated alfalfa meal.....40.0 lbs.

Shelled corn.....20.0 lbs.
Oats.....20.0 lbs.
Soybean meal.....10.0 lbs.
Molasses..... 8.5 lbs.
Steamed bonemeal..... 1.0 lb.
Trace mineralized salt .5 lb.
Vitamin A..5,000,000 units/ton
Vitamin D.. 625,000 units/ton
Vitamin E.. 10,000 units/ton
Antibiotic.....50 gm/ton

This ration is somewhat more expensive than No. 1 because of the antibiotics and vitamins. Usually it does a better job, offsetting the additional cost. The lambs are not fed any additional hay or grain.

Many details are omitted in the above review of management, but if all these steps were to be followed it would go far towards increasing income from lamb production.