

# Sheep - Early Lambing Planning Budget

**Table 1. Missouri hair sheep planning budget for 2022: Early lambing, sell at weaning (50 ewes, 175% lambing rate).**

	Head per ewe	Quantity	Unit	Dollars per unit	Dollars per ewe	Dollars per enterprise
<b>Returns</b>						
Heavy lambs	0.32	70	pound	2.52	56.45	2,822.40
Light lambs	1.32	60	pound	2.62	207.50	10,375.20
Culled ewes	0.14	120	pound	1.28	18.43	921.60
Culled rams	0.02	170	pound	1.12	3.81	190.40
Total returns					286.19	14,309.60
<b>Operating costs</b>						
Ewe replacement	0.15		head	200.00	30.00	1,500.00
Ram cost, breeding supplies	0.04		head	350.00	8.00	400.00
Pasture		0.34	acre	35.00	6.81	340.60
Hay		462.0	pound	0.042	19.41	970.48
Supplement		30.0	pound	0.102	3.09	154.61
Mineral		4.5	pound	0.40	3.56	178.14
Animal health					6.47	323.40
Guard dog replacement and food					9.17	458.65
Bedding and stock supplies					2.75	137.50
Marketing		7.5	percent		21.46	1,073.22
Machinery fuel, lube, repair					18.26	913.03
Facility maintenance					3.90	195.00
Operating interest		4.9	percent		2.85	142.66
Operator and hired labor		4.53	hour	17.50	79.24	3,962.00
Total operating costs					214.99	10,749.30
<b>Ownership costs</b>						
Business overhead (professional fees, utilities, miscellaneous)					4.50	225.00
Property taxes and insurance					3.51	175.60
Economic depreciation, facility and equipment					21.12	1,056.17
Opportunity interest on capital investment		4.9	percent		24.10	1,204.79
Total ownership costs					53.23	2,661.55
Total costs					268.22	13,410.85
<b>Return over operating costs</b>					<b>71.21</b>	<b>3,560.30</b>
<b>Return over total costs</b>					<b>17.97</b>	<b>898.75</b>
			Return to labor and management		97.21	4,860.75
			Shut-down lamb price, all else equal, \$ per pound		1.90	
			Break-even lamb price, all else equal, \$ per pound		2.42	

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**Table 2. Production rates for 2022: Early lambing, sell at weaning.**

Rates	Quantity
Lambings, per ewe per year	1
Ewe numbers, start of breeding season	50
Rams for breeding	2
Lamb crop (live birth per exposed), percent	175
Lamb crop (raised to sale weight), percent	164
Adult death loss, percent	3
Lamb death loss, pre-weaning, percent	4
Lamb death loss, post-weaning, percent	2

**Table 3. Feed and labor estimates for 2022: Early lambing, sell at weaning.**

	Unit	Units per head, adults	Units per head, lambs	Total units per ewe	Weighted price (dollars per unit)	Total dollars per ewe
Pasture	acre	0.165	0.1	0.34	35.00	11.92
Hay	pound	443.8	0.0	462.0	0.042	19.41
Supplement	pound	27.5	1.0	30.2	0.102	3.09
Mineral	pound	8.0	0.3	8.9	0.40	3.56
Labor	hour	3.0	0.8	4.53	17.50	79.24

**Table 4. Land and capital investment estimates for 2022: Early lambing, sell at weaning.**

	Unit	Quantity	Dollars per unit	Enterprise total dollars	Dollars per ewe
Pastureland	acre	17	2,500	42,575	852
Breeding stock unit	ewe	50	231	11,560	231
Buildings and facilities				11,500	230
Machinery, equipment, and pickup				9,800	196
			<b>Total</b>	<b>75,435</b>	<b>1,509</b>

Note: Building and machinery investment is allocated across multiple enterprises.

The sheep budget is designed to reflect the economic costs and returns of a 50 ewe, winter lambing flock (December/January) with lambs marketed between 60 to 70 pounds in April/May. This management system takes advantage of expected seasonally high market prices for light lambs. However, this management system also has relatively high production risk due to summer breeding challenges and winter lambing.

Farmers can also customize this budget to fit their own operations by using the [Missouri Sheep Enterprise Tool](https://extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pro/AgBusinessPolicyExtension/Docs/EweEarlyLambingBudget.xlsx) (<https://extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pro/AgBusinessPolicyExtension/Docs/EweEarlyLambingBudget.xlsx>). Download the spreadsheet tool to keep an electronic copy of your cost and return estimates for sheep in Missouri.