

Sheep - Late Lambing Planning Budget

Table 1. Missouri hair sheep planning budget for 2023: Late lambing, sell at weaning (50 ewes, 185% lambing rate).

	Head per ewe	Quantity	Unit	Dollars per unit	Dollars per ewe	Dollars per enterprise
Returns						
Heavy lambs	0.20	70	pound	2.20	30.80	1,540.00
Light lambs	1.56	60	pound	2.40	224.64	11,232.00
Culled ewes	0.14	120	pound	1.60	23.04	1,152.00
Culled rams	0.02	170	pound	1.45	4.93	246.50
Total returns					283.41	14,170.50
Operating costs						
Ewe replacement	0.14		head	200.00	28.00	1,400.00
Ram cost and breeding supplies	0.04		head	350.00	8.00	400.00
Pasture		0.35	acre	30.00	7.03	351.60
Hay		466.0	pound	0.051	23.56	1,177.85
Supplement		30.0	pound	0.154	4.69	234.46
Mineral		4.5	pound	0.80	7.16	358.05
Animal health					5.86	292.91
Guard dog replacement and food					10.65	532.38
Bedding and stock supplies					3.25	162.50
Marketing		7.5	percent		21.26	1,062.79
Machinery fuel, lube, repair					14.55	727.37
Facility maintenance					3.90	195.00
Operating interest		6.5	percent		4.14	206.83
Operator and hired labor		4.61	hour	17.92	82.58	4,128.77
Total operating costs					224.61	11,230.49
Ownership costs						
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		5.0	percent		24.49	1,224.38
Total ownership costs					53.62	2,681.14
Total costs					278.23	13,911.64
Return over operating costs					58.80	2,940.01
Return over total costs					5.18	258.86
					Return to labor and management	87.75 4,387.63
					Shut-down lamb price, all else equal, \$ per pound	1.83
					Break-even lamb price, all else equal, \$ per pound	2.33

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Table 2. Production rates for 2023: Late 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	185
Lamb crop (raised to sale weight), percent	176
Adult death loss, percent	2
Lamb death loss, pre-weaning, percent	3
Lamb death loss, post-weaning, percent	2

Table 3. Feed and labor estimates for 2023: Late 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	0.35	30.00	10.55
Hay	pound	448.1	0.0	466.0	0.051	23.56
Supplement	pound	27.5	1.0	30.4	0.154	4.69
Mineral	pound	8.0	0.3	9.0	0.80	7.16
Labor	hour	3.0	0.8	4.61	17.92	82.58

Table 4. Land and capital investment estimates for 2023: Late lambing, sell at weaning.

	Unit	Quantity	Dollars per unit	Enterprise total dollars	Dollars per ewe
Breeding stock unit	ewe	50	229	11,460	229
Buildings and facilities				11,500	230
Machinery, equipment, and pickup				9,800	196
			Total	32,760	655

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, spring lambing flock (March/April) with lambs marketed between 50 to 60 pounds in July/August. This management system takes advantage of spring forage production and the natural breeding season. However, this management system has high price risk during summer marketing.

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