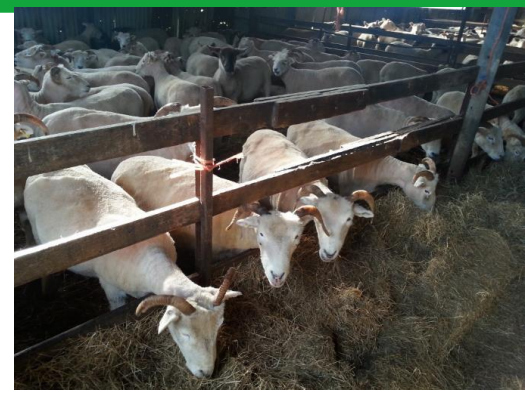

Pre and Post lambing nutrition

Feeding the ewe through late pregnancy and beyond

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NADIS Animal Health Skills

Plan for health – ask your vet for a veterinary health plan

Principles of feeding – late pregnancy and post lambing

- Assess body condition score
- Group accordingly
- Analyse forage
- Assess ewes – metabolic profiles
- Quality of supplement
- MAXIMISE dry matter intake
- Post lambing nutrition
- Grazing cover, forage, supplements

Assess body condition score

- Ewe nutrition – year round importance
- Aim – optimum body condition score at lambing
- Lambing ease
- Minimal risk of disease – metabolic, dystocia, prolapse
- Colostrum quality/quantity

Body condition score targets

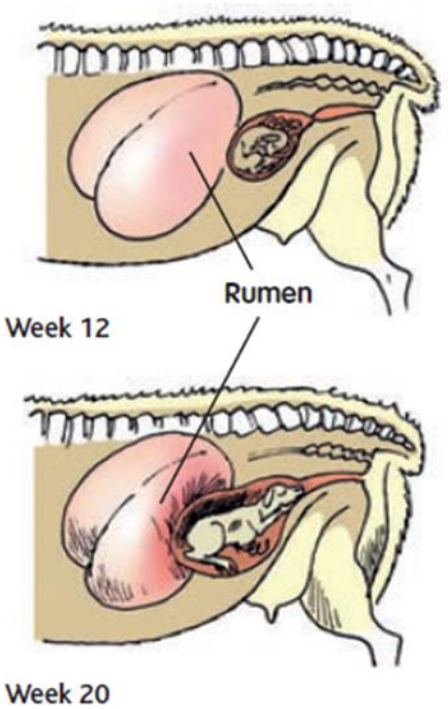
- Targets at lambing
- Lowland Ewe – 3-3.5
- Hill ewe – 2.5
- Achieving the correct BCS provides adequate mobilisation body reserves
- Ewes can lose -75-200g/day contributing to energy/protein supply

Body condition Score	Vertical Processes	Horizontal Processes	Eye Muscle	Fat Cover
1	Sharp & prominent	Sharp. Fingers easily pass under.	Wasted	None
2	Prominent & smooth	Rounded. Fingers go under with pressure.	Medium depth	Thin
3	Smooth & rounded	Smooth & rounded. Fingers find ends with hard pressure.	Full	Moderate
4	Detected only as a line	Cannot be felt	Full	Thick
5	Not detectable but fat dimples down to spine	Not detectable	Very full	Dense

Effective feeding during late pregnancy

Optimise feeding by grouping ewes according to:

- Raddle mark, number of lambs expected, BCS and age
- Energy and protein demand increase
- Promote optimum lamb birth weights and colostrum quality



Analyse your forage

Analysis (Dry Matter)		Result	Low	Normal	High	Target
Dry Matter	%	41.2				
Protein	%	11.3				
D Value	%	64.6				
ME	MJ/kg	10.3				
pH		4.2				
NH3-N of total N	%	2.5				
Sugars	%	2.6				
Ash	%	7.2				
NDF	%	48.8				
ADF	%	33.6				
Oil (Process B)	%	2.8				
Vitamin E	mg/kg	50.0				
FiM Metabolisable Protein						
MPB	g/kg	18.4				
MPN	g/kg	75.2				
MPE	g/kg	84.2				
Fermentation Characteristics						
VFA's	g/kg	10.7				
Lactic Acid	g/kg	23.4				
Intake	g/kg ML	101.7				
Rumen Stability Value		303.7				
FAPAL	meq/kg	691.2				
Comments						

- ME, FME, DUP and ERDP
- Aim 80% requirements from forage
- Metabolic profiles – 3 weeks pre lambing
- Sufficient energy and protein – last 3 weeks drives colostrum quality/volume and foetal growth
- Inadequate energy – pregnancy toxaemia
- Harvested roots – rumen function, energy
- Quality of supplement? ME higher than forage

Maximise dry matter intake (DMI)

- The limiting factor
- Late pregnancy – decreases by up to 30%
- Maximise DMI
- Trough space should be 45cm per ewe

with 15-23cm ok for forage or TMR

Water availability

- Clean – remove straw/hay/muck
- 4.5 litres/ewe
- Up to 10 litres – lactating

Post lambing nutrition

- Energy and protein increases by 60% and 44%
- VFI increases slowly – capacity to eat 3-3.5% BW
- Mobilise reserves
- Negative energy balance
- Lactation peaking 3-4 weeks

Matching requirements

- Availability of spring grass
- Early lambing or housed due to weather = supplementary forage and feed needed
- Levels of feeding – depending upon ewe BCS and how much condition loss can occur?
- Grass availability (sward height)
- 4cm< supplementary feed. 3cm< supplementary feed and forage (fodder beet, hard feed)