

Sheep Nutrition

THE NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF EWES

STAGE OF PRODUCTION

Nutrient requirements for ewes vary by age, weight, and level of production. A ewe that is nursing or pregnant is in a stage of higher demand compared to the nutrients she needs for maintenance.

A 130 lb dry ewe requires 1.23 lb TDN and 0.17 lb CP.

EARLY GESTATION first 90-100 days

During the entire gestation period an ewe requires up to 43% more nutrient requirements. The ewe should gain at a rate of 0.10 lbs per day. A 130 lb ewe requires 1.76 lb TDN and 0.27 lb CP.



LACTATION

Lactation requires high nutrient demands especially from energy and protein sources. High quality forage should be allocated during this time. Ewes should be fed 1 lb of grain supplementation for each nursing lamb. An ewe nursing 1-3 lambs requires 2-3 lb TDN and 0.44-0.71 lb CP respectively.



BREEDING

During breeding ewes experience a 10% increase in nutrient requirements. A 130 lb ewe requires 1.34 lb TDN and 0.19 lb CP.



LATE GESTATION last 50 days

During the final days of gestation calcium requirements double and energy is likely to be deficient. Selenium and vitamin E are critical. A 130 lb ewe pregnant with twins and triplets requires 2.4-2.75 lb TDN and 0.36- 0.4 lb CP respectively.