

Differences in Feeding Market Lambs vs Replacement Ewe Lambs

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Developing Replacement Ewe Lambs

- Different objectives than market lambs
- Want to grow them- muscle and skeleton, not finish
- Need a different management and nutrition program than finishers
- Program will be different if they are to be bred or not
- If bred, want them to lamb from 12 to 14 months of age

Developing Replacement Ewe Lambs cont.

- Advantages of breeding ewe lambs
 - Should be valuable genetics
 - Generate income in first year
 - Higher lifetime production, even when first year production removed
- Disadvantages of breeding ewe lambs
 - More labor and problems at lambing time
 - More nutrition and management
 - More facilities and ability to separate group

Developing Replacement Ewe Lambs cont.

- If going to breed, they need to be about 70-75% of mature weight at ram introduction
- Reach puberty at 5 to 7 months of age- depending on breed type and nutrition program
- A few weeks after weaning (90-100 d) separate from wether/ram counterparts

NRC req't's for Replacement Ewes

<u>Wt.</u>	<u>DMI</u>	<u>TDN</u>	<u>CP</u>
66 lbs	3.9%	65%	15.8%
88 lbs	3.5%	65%	12.8% **
110 lbs	3%	57%	9% **
132 lbs	2.5%	57%	9% **
154 lbs	2.1%	57%	9% **

NRC reqt's- early weaned lambs, DMB

<u>Wt</u>	<u>ADG</u>	<u>TDN</u>	<u>CP</u>	<u>Ca</u>	<u>P</u>
22 lbs	.55 lbs	80%	26.2%	.82%	.38%
44 lbs	.66 lbs	78%	16.9%	.54%	.24%
66 lbs	.72 lbs	78%	15.1%	.51%	.24%
88- 130 lb	.88 lbs	78%	14.5%	.55%	.24%

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Feeding Replacement Ewe Lambs

- Want to grow them at an acceptable rate
- Prevent them from getting over conditioned- fit, not fat
 - Decreased lifetime milk production
 - Increased dystocia problems
- Base the diet on forage and supplement with adequate grain to get target growth rate
 - 150 days after weaning until breeding
 - Targeted growth rate of .35 to .5 lb/d- depending on mature size and breed type

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Managing repl ewe lambs

- Don't run with mature ewes. Simply can't compete
 - Size and maturity
 - Social maturity
 - Teeth
 - More susceptible to health and parasite problems

Separate group:

- Growing period
- Breeding season
- Lambing
- Lactation
- Evaluate and sort after weaning

Finishing lambs

- Traditional market vs ethnic market
- Different end points
- Different nutrition programs

Ethnic market has been good for the U.S. industry

- Is it right for you?
 - Total size of check vs price per lb
 - Cost per pound of gain
 - Breakeven price

Sell or Feed?

- Have to know what it costs to feed to heavier weights
 - Feed efficiency or F:G
 - Price of feed
 - Optimum weight to slaughter

Sell or Feed?

- Feed efficiency
 - Feed intake usually between 3.5 to 4.0% of body weight regardless of size
 - So, biggest factor in feed efficiency is ADG
 - ADG is largely influenced by frame size
 - Frame size also is the biggest factor in optimum slaughter weight



Example:

Prices from week of 9/23/16

130 lb finished lambs @ \$1.50/ lb

60-70 lb lambs worth \$2.00 per lb (\$1.70- 2.10)

- ADG of .75 lbs
- F:G of 5:1
- Feed cost of \$.10 per lb (\$200 per ton)
 - \$.06/lb for corn, \$.32/lb for 40% suppl

- 70 lb lambs @ \$2.00 per lb = \$140
- 130 lb lambs @ \$1.50 = \$195
- Can we feed lambs to 130 lbs for less than \$55?
 - 60 lbs of lamb gain x 5 (F:G) = 300 lbs feed
 - 300 lbs of feed x \$.10 per lb = \$30 cost of feed to feed lambs to 130 lbs based upon current prices
- So, yes, \$195-30= \$165 compared to \$140
- \$25 per lamb to feed vs sell as light lambs

Other costs

- Example only
 - Change price of feed
 - Change price of light lambs
 - Change price of finished lambs
 - Change F:G or ADG
- % death loss (0.5 to 1% home raised, 2% if purchased)
- Interest
- Health costs
- Shearing
- Labor
- Marketing & transportation

Marketing Considerations

- Take stock of resources
 - Time & lifestyle
 - Feed- grazing or harvested, cost
 - Facilities
 - Breed types
 - Frame size
 - Marketing options
 - Calculate cost of gain and breakeven price

Problem is, what will market be when lambs are 130 lbs?

To get to 130 lbs from 70 lbs at .75 lbs/day takes 80 days.

We can figure a breakeven price for 130 lb lambs

- \$30 feed cost for 60 lbs of gain
- 70 lb lambs worth \$140
- $\$140 + \$30 = \$170$ / 130 lbs of lamb to sell
- \$1.31 per lb break even for feed costs only



Different Frame Score Lambs

135 lb finished weight

- 70 lbs @ 2.00 = \$140
- 1.0 ADG
- F:G of 4.5, \$200/ton
- 65 lbs gain x 4.5 F:G = 292 lbs feed
- 292 lbs feed x \$.10 per lb = \$29.20 cost of feed
- Breakeven price of $\$29.20 + 140 = \$169.20/135 \text{ lb} = \mathbf{\$1.25 \text{ per lb of lamb}}$

115 lb finished weight

- 70 lbs @ 2.00 = \$140
- .6 ADG
- F:G of 6, \$200/ton
- 45 lbs gain x 6 F:G = 270 lbs feed
- 270 lbs feed x \$.10 per lb = \$27 cost of feed
- BE price of $\$27 + 140 = \$167/115 \text{ lb lamb} = \mathbf{\$1.45 \text{ per lb of lamb}}$

Can also add weight to ethnic lambs using same principles

- Maybe sell at 75 lbs instead of 50-60 lbs
- Opportunity to "background" light lambs, similar to feeder calves
- Pasture based, add value to forages

Summary

- Replacement ewe lambs have much different nutritional and management reqts than finishing lambs
 - Different growth or endpoint objectives
 - Grow not finish
 - Especially if not bred
 - Take more management and facilities
 - Keep separate from mature ewes



Summary

- Feed or sell lambs
 - Know ADG potential- frame score
 - Know feed costs and other costs
 - Know current price of different classes of lambs
 - Calculate breakeven prices
 - Make an informed decision