

Lamb early weaning protocol.

A complete feeding program for early weaning of lambs.



Pre weaning

Lambs need to be trained to eat. Educating while ewe and lambs are still together is critical for success.

The delivery of ProWear S is best done in raised troughing.

Elevated troughs bring feed up to a similar level as the ewes udder. Providing feed that is elevated helps to successfully transition weaned lambs.

- Elevation reduces feed waste and spoilage. Ideally the diet provided during the training period is the same feed the lambs will receive once weaned. This diet has a high nutritional value so minimising waste is essential.
- Repeat the feeding process 4-5 times in the days leading up to weaning. As little as 100gms/ewe/lamb unit per day will be sufficient to imprint. Ideally 80-90% of lambs will be trying to feed at the troughs with the ewe prior to weaning.
- Water - if lambs are being transitioned from dams to troughs, make sure they are exposed to the trough while still on the ewe. Dehydration has a profoundly negative effect on early weaned lambs. Efforts to engage lambs with water troughs are paramount.

Day of weaning

Controlling the space available to lambs, immediately post weaning and maintaining their close proximity to feed and water, is critical. Smaller confined areas with shelter to reduce the impact of poor weather are preferred. Reducing the impact of wind helps to maintain lambs feed intake and minimise energy loss.

Lambs should be at least 10 kilograms in liveweight at weaning.

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It's important to seek advice from your animal nutritionist to ensure animals are not suffering from nutritional stress or health issues.

Diet

The ProWear S feed crumble is designed to be fed with a roughage source. Ensure animals have access to a quality fibre source such as cereal, vetch or medic hay.

Do not feed ProWear S at 100% of the diet, fibre is required. Induct animals carefully onto feed. Increase intake of ProWear S by following the protocol to minimise risk of digestive upset.

Animal health treatments

Vaccinating for clostridial disease is critical. (5 in 1 or 6 in 1). Young lambs in a tough season may have struggled to obtain adequate antibodies provided through the ewes' milk in the early stages of lactation. (vaccination prior to 6 weeks old is not recommended)

Supporting the immune system of lambs is critical to minimise their risk of respiratory disease, pink eye and nasal discharge. An injection of vitamin A, D and E can help maximise lambs immunity.

The use of vitamin B12 injections can help with increasing appetite and energy utilisation.

Important management

- Access to trough space is critical - all lambs must have access to troughing at the same time.
- Clean water troughs daily.
- Inspect feeders daily to ensure feed is not fouled.
- Remove shy feeders and maintain their feeding.
- Continually assess faecal score.

- Take the time to hold lambs on feed during the early days of weaning. Effective imprinting leads to a successful weaning program.
- Split lambs into groups on weight first and sex second. Once lambs are all feeding well, mobs can be boxed.
- Always maintain high quality palatable hay, watch for spoiling and replace hay if it becomes unpalatable.
- Once terminal intake has been achieved maintain a consistent quantity of feed delivered



Lamb weaning protocol.

Weaner feeding program.



Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
<p>PROVIDE ACCESS TO ADLIB PALATABLE HAY</p> <p>PROVIDE ACCESS TO COOL CLEAN WATER</p>	<p>PROVIDE ACCESS TO ADLIB PALATABLE HAY</p> <p>PROVIDE ACCESS TO COOL CLEAN WATER</p>	<p>PROVIDE ACCESS TO ADLIB PALATABLE HAY</p> <p>PROVIDE ACCESS TO COOL CLEAN WATER</p>	<p>PROVIDE ACCESS TO ADLIB PALATABLE HAY</p> <p>PROVIDE ACCESS TO COOL CLEAN WATER</p>	<p>PROVIDE ACCESS TO ADLIB PALATABLE HAY</p> <p>PROVIDE ACCESS TO COOL CLEAN WATER</p>	<p>PROVIDE ACCESS TO ADLIB PALATABLE HAY</p> <p>PROVIDE ACCESS TO COOL CLEAN WATER</p>	<p>PROVIDE ACCESS TO ADLIB PALATABLE HAY</p> <p>PROVIDE ACCESS TO COOL CLEAN WATER</p>
<p>AM</p> <p>Feed</p> <p>75gm/hd</p> <p>of diet, observe</p>	<p>AM</p> <p>Feed</p> <p>100gm/hd</p> <p>of diet</p>	<p>AM</p> <p>Feed</p> <p>125gm/hd</p> <p>of diet</p>	<p>AM</p> <p>Feed</p> <p>150gm/hd</p> <p>of diet</p>	<p>AM</p> <p>Feed</p> <p>175gm/hd</p> <p>of diet</p>	<p>AM</p> <p>Feed</p> <p>200gm/hd</p> <p>of diet</p>	<p>AM</p> <p>Feed</p> <p>225gm/hd</p> <p>of diet</p>
<p>PM</p> <p>IF 80% OF DIET CONSUMED, FEED 75G/HD OF DIET</p> <p>IF 80% OF FIRST FEED NOT CONSUMED AND REMAINS UNSPOILT LEAVE AVAILABLE FOOD AND ADD NO MORE.</p> <p>PERSIST WITH 75G/DIET PER HEAD UNTIL CONSUMED</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>If AM diet consumed, feed</p> <p>100gm/hd</p> <p>of diet</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>If AM diet consumed, feed</p> <p>125gm/hd</p> <p>of diet</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>If AM diet consumed, feed</p> <p>150gm/hd</p> <p>of diet</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>If AM diet consumed, feed</p> <p>175gm/hd</p> <p>of diet</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>If AM diet consumed, feed</p> <p>200gm/hd</p> <p>of diet</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>If AM diet consumed, feed</p> <p>225gm/hd</p> <p>of diet</p>

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