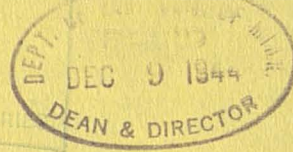


Your Sheep Business

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Winter will soon be here and with it the winter feeding of the breeding flock. The harvest of wool and lambs next spring will depend on how the flock is handled this winter. We are convinced from reports which come to us each spring that much of the lambing trouble reported, such as weak or dead lambs at birth and poor milking ewes, can be attributed to inadequate winter rations.

Much of this trouble can be corrected by feeding a ration which will keep up the strength of the ewe, allow her to grow the lamb she is carrying and then milk well after the lamb is born. A ewe cannot subsist on wild slough hay and accomplish her purpose. I feel very sure that a person who will try good feeding during the winter will be so well pleased with the results that he will never go back to the belief that a flock of breeding ewes can be carried thru on stuff that no other animal will eat. There are many flocks in the state getting that kind of treatment. Sheep are a very profitable type of livestock if properly handled, but they can be equally unprofitable if neglected. We urge producers to make an extra effort this winter to provide the nutrients the breeding flock needs.

We would suggest one of two rations, depending on the roughage available on the farm. If legume hay is available, we recommend feeding one-half a pound of grain with legume hay, plus other roughage that may be on the place. Where legume hay is not available, we suggest one-half pound of grain plus one-fifth pound of linseed or soybean oil meal, together with whatever roughage may be on the place and a simple mineral mixture self-fed. These may look like heavy rations, but we feel sure that anyone using them, beginning about the first of January, will get results which will justify their use. Such rations will mean stronger lambs at birth and better milking ewes. As a result, more lambs will be saved. Furthermore, with this ration the wool will grow better and there will be more pounds to sell.

As a safeguard for the lambs the flock should be treated during the winter with phenothiazine to free the sheep of parasites and to protect the pastures from infestation of stomach worms and nodular worms in the spring. Two treatments during the winter is the common recommendation--one given about the first of the year and the other given a couple of weeks before the sheep go on pasture. Pregnant ewes should not be treated within one month before lambing.

Powdered phenothiazine can be given in the feed at the rate of one ounce per head. This treatment does not require starving the sheep. The only precautions that need to be taken are to have plenty of trough space so that all sheep can eat at the same time and to separate any weak sheep in the lot and feed them this dose separately. When the pasture season opens, the phenothiazine-salt mixture should be used at the rate of one pound of phenothiazine and nine pounds of salt and kept continuously before the sheep.

This combined program of winter feeding and parasite control will get the results every sheep grower wants.