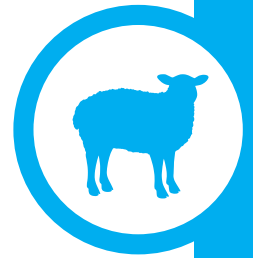




# Sheep Nutrition Programs





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Today's sheep industry is constantly improving genetics, which in turn increases the level of production achieved. To allow sheep to perform to their full genetic potential, great attention needs to be paid to nutrition. The high levels of production place heavy demands on the flock and it is our role to support the animal.

When providing sheep with supplementation there are two key points that must be considered:

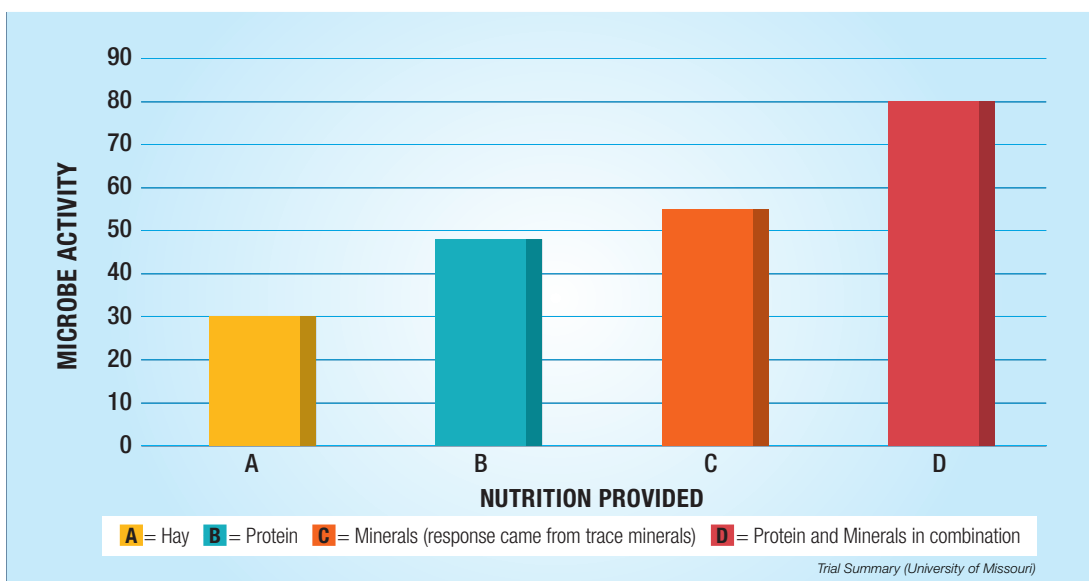
1. Choosing the right supplement; specifically, one that is formulated for small ruminants.
2. Choosing the time of supplementation to meet the critical needs of the breeding flock.

Supplying nutrients has many benefits for short-term production and long-term gains in reproductive capacity and immune status. Depending on the type of feed, either a vitamin and mineral supplement or a protein, vitamin and mineral supplement may be required with more specific products also available for critical times.

Performance Feeds' range of products are nutrient delivery systems. Proteins, minerals and vitamins are provided at concentrations designed, not only to stimulate rumen function, but to improve the overall health of the animal and therefore productivity. Improved animal performance has been shown quickly after introducing a supplement such as Anipro or FibrePro to a flock. This is followed by long-term benefits of supplementation, and it is achieved through meeting the animal's vitamin and mineral requirements. This is necessary for a high plane of production.

When supplying a protein source to sheep it is important that it is in a form that will multiply the population of rumen microorganisms. Performance Feeds uses its proprietary liquid NPN RumaPro (in Anipro) and a well-researched and safe urea alternative, Biuret (in FibrePro). By achieving increased microbial numbers and activity, the rumen is better able to process and utilise ingested plant material. The improved digestion stimulates the animal's appetite and increases the amount of ingested nutrients available to the animal.

## How Rumen Microbes are Stimulated





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## Critical Times

There are many critical times throughout the production cycle where supplementation is particularly important. Managing ewe nutrition is especially vital to not only ensure best reproductive performance of the ewe, but also best performance of their lambs.

CRITICAL TIME	INFORMATION	RECOMMENDED PRODUCT
<b>Joining</b>	Supplementing rams prior to joining helps to ensure high semen counts and sound feet. Supplementing ewes will lift ovulation rates. Supplementing through joining and for the first trimester helps support embryo survival.	Depending on feed quality, one of the following supplements would be appropriate:   
<b>Pregnancy</b>	The birth weights of lambs are determined by the level of nutrition the ewe receives throughout pregnancy. Correct nutrition in early pregnancy is important for healthy placental development. Supplementing ewes with vitamins and minerals during pregnancy also helps prevent disease in lambs. It is also important to remember the critical role that calcium is playing as the foetuses ossify bones, and therefore there needs to be an adequate amount of calcium in the diet.	Depending on feed quality, one of the following supplements would be appropriate:   
<b>Pre-Lambing/ Lambing</b>	Ewe nutrition during late-pregnancy and lambing has the largest influence on lamb survival rates.  Supplementation during the third trimester of pregnancy has been shown to reduce the number of cast ewes and difficult births. The ewe has a high requirement for vitamins and minerals to build body reserves and produce quality colostrum.  Around 70% of lamb mortality between birth and weaning occurs within the first 48 hours of a lamb's life. Therefore, successfully managing this time is critical. The survival rate of lambs is directly related to their birth weights and is strongly correlated with the nutrition of the ewes. It is important that a supplement is chosen that will stimulate feed intake, support immune health, build high quality colostrum, benefit the growing foetus and lift the survival rate of new-born lambs.	The supplement most suitable for the Lambing ewe is:  
<b>Supplementing the growing lamb</b>	Supplementing the growing lamb is important in order to maintain high levels of production through improved rumen function, and improved immunity and health in the lamb. It is important that growing lambs are provided a diet with balanced vitamins and minerals. Ideally, a supplement should aid the lamb in increasing fibre digestibility, increasing feed intake and conversion efficiency, as well as stabilising the rumen environment.	Depending on feed quality, one of the following would be appropriate    