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Creep Fed Lambs
E. K. Faulkner, University of Wyoming

Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station. Recent tests to compare creep-fed vs. non-creep-fed lambs. Here are the results of these tests:

Creep-fed lambs reached a market weight of 90 lbs., 51 days earlier than the non-creep fed lambs.

Due to higher prices received in June creep-fed lambs brought an average of $5 more per cwt.

Singles reached 90 lbs., 24 days earlier than the twins.

Net returns after feed costs averaged $14.71 for creep-fed lambs and $13.20 for non-creep-fed lambs.

Feed Consumption and Daily Gains
Summary of the lamb feeding trials showed that:

By weaning time, creep-fed lambs averaged nearly 1/2 lb more daily gain per head than non-creep-fed lambs.

The average lamb will consume about 1 1/2 lb. of feed daily--from 10 to 120 days of age. He will eat about 1 1/2 lb. of feed per day at 3 weeks and 3 lbs. per day at weaning time.

Lambs will average about 3 lbs. of feed per lb. of gain prior to weaning, but require over 8 lbs. after weaning.

As the feeding period progresses the rate of gain decreases and feed consumption increases.

Will It Pay?
Creep feeding will usually pay when:

The twinning percentage is high.

Lambs have the inherited ability to gain rapidly.

Lambs are dropped prior to March 1. (These lambs should hit the May-June market.)

May and June lamb prices are higher than summer or fall prices.

Pasture acreage is limited (use pasture for ewes only).
Creep-feeding may not pay when:

- Lambs do not have inherited ability to gain rapidly.
- Lambs are dropped after March 1.
- Lambs receive low-energy, bulky rations.
- Creep management is poor.
- May and June lamb prices are low.
- There is plenty of available pasture not otherwise used.

Management

Good Creep Management Pays:

- Use self-feeders if possible. Keep a clean fresh supply of feed available at all times.
- Put the creep in the most comfortable, well-protected area in the barn.
- Supply clean, fresh water in the creep at all times.
- Use a small light over the creep to attract the lambs. In cold weather use a heat lamp.
- Be sure all lambs are using the creep. Pen them in the creep for short periods, especially when they start to eat.
- Wean and remove lambs as they get too large to enter the creep.