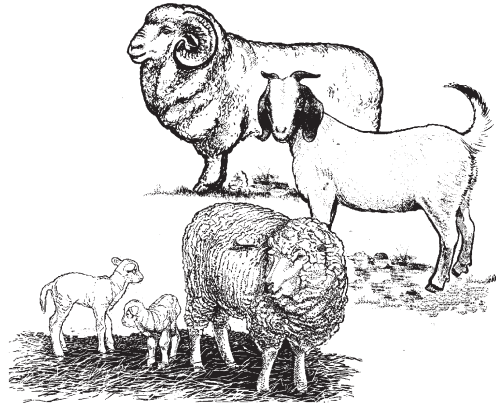


Feeding of sheep and goats



How to improve sheep production

- Improve the available grazing.
- Provide supplements in the case of nutrient deficiencies.
- Provide supplementation during feed shortages.

Supplementation

Deteriorating veld usually first displays a protein deficiency. Energy and protein are the most important forms of supplementation during feed shortages and must be provided in combination.

Energy sources

Maize, barley, triticale, wheat fodder, oats and rye.



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Protein sources

Lucerne hay, lupins, oilcake meal and fish-meal

Nonprotein nitrogen source

Urea is used in licks, together with other ingredients. Small stock can be poisoned by taking in too much urea. Sheep and goats should not eat more than 10 to 14 kg of urea per day. Salt (20-40 %) is added to regulate intake. If rain falls on urea licks provided in open, water-tight containers, and animals drink from the containers, they are poisoned and die.

Bear the following in mind

- Grains can cause acid stomach in sheep and goats. This can be prevented by adding slaked lime to the grain (1 kg lime to 100 kg grain). Lime-treated grain will also improve utilisation of the grain. Provide small quantities of grain at first so that the animals gradually become used to it.
- Sheep and goats that are fed, must have access to sufficient roughage.

Lick in times of drought—late-pregnant and lactating ewes

The lick must contain the following:

Grain meal	570 kg
Fish-meal/oilcake meal	143 kg
Lupin meal/oilcake meal	78 kg
Urea	37 kg
Slaked lime	15,5 kg
Molasses/molasses meal	15 kg
Sulphur	1,5 kg
Salt	140 kg

On veld or on pastures this lick can be provided at 200 g per ewe per day to pregnant ewes and at 400 g per ewe per day to lactating ewes.

Hints to prevent nutritional deficiencies

During mating season

Mate ewes so that they lamb when grazing is plentiful. At that time lambs have a better chance of survival. It also limits the purchase of expensive fodder and lambs can be marketed earlier.

During the gestation period

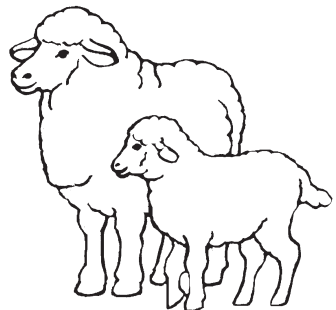
Limit the mating season to six weeks so that it covers two oestrus cycles. An over-long mating season makes flock management difficult (vaccination, dipping and dosing).

Prevent malnutrition, stress (as a result of dipping and shearing), or driving of animals over long distances within the first three weeks after mating because this can cause resorption of the foetus.

Sufficient feed for late-pregnant ewes (last 6-8 weeks) ensures strong lambs.

During lambing

- Lambs should suckle as soon as possible after birth to ingest colostrum in order to build up a natural resistance to diseases and to take in feed.
- Provide suitable shelter against wind and rain.
- Ensure that ewes with lambs remain in good condition. The lambs of ewes that



produce plenty of milk grow rapidly and can be weaned sooner. This will give the ewe time to reach an acceptable mass after weaning before she becomes pregnant again. If a ewe loses too much condition during lambing, she does not conceive easily during the next mating season.

Contact the Animal Production Division of the
Department of Agriculture: Western Cape for further information
Tel: 021 808 5111

or

The Resource Centre, Department of Agriculture
Tel: 012 319 7141 or 012 319 7085

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