

# RAISING LAMBS

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## Keys to Success

- Lambs must be fed every few hours to insure proper milk consumption and reduce the chance of digestive issues.
- Keep lambs penned in a safe, clean area where they are free to move about but are easily accessible to you. Lambs should be protected from potential predators.
- Milk can be fed using bottles or buckets.
- Feed an 18-20% protein creep feed that is formulated for lambs. Be cautious of copper toxicity in sheep.
- Work with your veterinarian to develop a vaccination plan.

Age	Weight	%CP	%TDN	Targeted Wt Gain	Lb Feed/Day
Young Nursing	20-45 lb	18-24%	72-80%	0.4-0.65 lb/day	Ewe's milk, <i>ad libitum</i> creep feed and high quality forage
Growing	45-80 lb	14-18%	73-78%	0.5-0.8 lb/day	2.5-3.5% body weight
Finishing	>80 lb	12-14%	73-78%	0.6-1.0 lb/day	3-4% body weight

Source: Ohio State University, Kuber & Osborne

## THE ESSENTIALS

- It's important your lamb consume adequate amounts of colostrum within the first 24 hours of life. Colostrum replacement can be used if the dam does not produce colostrum.
- If the lamb is not able to suckle the dam, use a lamb specific milk replacer.
- Feed replacement milk at a temperature of 40F. Cold milk will prevent overheating, bloat, and other digestive issues.
- Lambs need to consume 10-15% of their bodyweight in milk a day. Break amount into multiple, frequent feedings.
- Fresh, clean water should always be accessible to the lamb.
- After 1 week of age, offer a free-choice creep feed to begin acclimating lambs to the weaning process.
- Six weeks is the common age to wean lambs. Lambs should be 25-30 pounds before weaning.

