

Friday August 8 2008

Hi all Marshall Ball here I am reporting the news about our meeting July 30th....Our meeting was held at Laura Dorrell's home. Our meeting began with the minutes reported from our last meeting then the floor was open to discussion about what we wanted to do as a fun raiser. We all decided on a bottle drive in the town of Englehart on August 4th. We would just like to take the time to thank CJBB for running the ads on air about the bottle drive and we would like to thank all the people in Englehart for there generous donations of pop cans and bottles..Thankyou all very, very much from the Sheep Showers and the Goat club {Just Kidding Around}.

The meeting was then turned over to Laura and she told us about the nutrition basics....Water,, Energy,,Protein,,Minerals,,and Vitamins.

Water: All sheep like fresh clean water. In the winter if there is no water supply available then snow is just as good..Ewe's will drink more when they are milking or pregnant. Fresh grass and silage contains more water than dry hay.

Energy: Sheep need energy to run all body functions like: moving muscles, circulating blood, digesting food, breathing and keeping warm. Grains like barley and corn are good energy sources. To little energy will cause ewes to have early births of week lambs and would cause them to have a poor milk supply. To much energy could cause them to get to big causing them to have difficulty with births.

Young lambs would need more energy to help them grow to a nice market weight.

Protiens: Are made up of 24 or more amino acids. They are digested by the microbes in the rumen amino acids break apart and are absorbed into the digestive system. The microbes and amino acids eventually move into the intestines where they are both absorbed. Adult sheep need a large quantity of proteins but do not have to be top quality. Young lambs need the high quality proteins.

Lambs need a ewe's milk or a high quality milk replacer and lamb starter around 18 o/o protein. Other sources of proteins are Soybean meal {44-48 o/o protein}...Rapeseed meal {38-40 o/o protein}..Good hay{12-20 o/o protein} ... Grains {8-12 o/o protein}

Minerals: Are needed for normal bodily functions. Minerals needed in small amounts are called Microminerals....and minerals needed in large amounts are called Macronutrients. It is very important to buy mineral for sheep....do not buy cattle mineral because cattle mineral contains copper and it could be deadly to your sheep...A blue salt lick is good or you can give loose salt with there grain.

Vitamins: Are needed in small quantities..Vitamin A,D,E and K are fat soluble,,,that means they are stored in the fat or liver until they are needed. Vitamins B complex and C can not be stored by their body because they are water soluble. Vitamins can be given by injections.

We then talked about feeding sheep for production stages.Ewes that are dry and are not fat nor thin need to be fed to maintain their body weight. Flushing is when you increase the ewe's feed 2-3 weeks before breeding..this might help increase chances for multiple births. after flushing ewes return to a normal diet. when a ewe is feeding her babies or baby she needs good quality feed to maintain her milk supply. To help a ewe weaning you can reduce her feed quality to reduce her milk supply.

There is sure alot of stuff to learn about feeding your sheep...Thats why I like our 4-H Club. Our next meeting is on August 6th at Laura's.