Feeding For Sheep and Goats

Why protein and vitamin supplementation are sometimes essential in Smallstock breeding
MOLATEK MASTER 20
MAKES PROFITABLE STOCK FARMING EASY

- GROWING OUT OF CALVES
  - Master 20 kg: 280
  - Salt kg: 50
  - Total kg: 330
  - Feed mixed concentrate at 1.5 – 2 kg/heifer/day
  - Master 20 can be fed as is at 1.5 – 2 kg/heifer/day

- RUMINANT GAME LICK
  - Master 20 kg: 200
  - Salt kg: 50
  - Total kg: 250
  - Small game: 250 – 300 g/day
  - Large game: 500 – 600 g/day

- PRODUCTION LICK FOR COWS, CALVES AND FINISHING ON VELD
  - Master 20 kg: 280
  - Maize meal kg: 280
  - Salt kg: 100
  - Total kg: 660
  - Feed mixed concentrate at 1.5 – 2 kg/cow/day

- SUMMER PHOSPHATE LICK
  - Master 20 kg: 40
  - P12 kg: 50
  - Salt kg: 50
  - Total kg: 140
  - Sheep: 22 – 25 g/ewe/day
  - Cattle: 150 – 200 g/cattle/day

- LATE PREGNANT AND EARLY LACTATING EWES
  - Master 20 kg: 200
  - Maize meal kg: 150
  - Molatek Bypass kg: 100
  - Salt kg: 50
  - Total kg: 500
  - Feed mixed concentrate at 350 and 450 g/ewe/day for single and twin lactating ewes respectively

- FLUSH FEEDING FOR EWES
  - Master 20 kg: 600
  - Maize meal kg: 300
  - Salt kg: 100
  - Total kg: 1000
  - Feed mixed concentrate at 300 g/ewe/day
  - Feed Master 20 as is at 250 – 300 g/ewe/day

ENSURES IMPROVED ANIMAL PERFORMANCE

MOLATEK
• We are the animal feed department of Progress Milling.
• We have all varieties of poultry feed.
• We are agents for Molatek and Epol feeds to assist cattle and sheep farmers.
• We sell all maize and homony chop products.
• We sell lusern and grass bales.
Why we need to supplement

• Grass nutritional value changes when air gets cold.
• Nature automatically protects grass by transferring essential proteins from leaves to roots.
• This causes a protein shortage with animal intake.
• If not supplemented, animal will loose condition.
• During the rainy season when grass is green, there is a phosphorous shortage and then a phosphate supplement should be fed.
• Also when farms have an oversupply of lime in the soil and water, phosphate licks should be fed to balance the ration.
Grazing isn’t always enough!
Sheep vs goats
Sheep vs Goat

• Goats are browsers, which means they are selective eaters and will tend to pick leaves from shrubs, twigs and vines. Don’t forget that goats do graze too.

• Sheep are grazers, sheep love to graze on grass, clovers and forbs.

• Sheep and goat’s nutritional requirements are based on size (weight), age, stage and level of production, so remember to weigh your animals at least once a year.
When is grazing enough?

- Mature male and dry females do not have very high nutritional requirement so grass almost always meets their nutritional needs.
- It is always important to remember that sheep and goats are ruminants which means their digestive system is designed to eat tough plant material.
Body condition scoring

- It is important to know the condition of the ram, ewe and lambs.
- What is condition scoring?
  Condition scoring estimates fat and muscle on a scale of 1 to 5. You should aim for a body score of 3 to 3.5 at the time of breeding and lambing.
  The best times to do body condition scoring is before breeding, late gestation and weaning.
Example of body condition scoring

- 1 - emaciated
- 2 - thin
- 3 - average
- 4 - fat
- 5 - obese
Ram
Ram

- What do I want in a ram?
- Excellent and active libido (sex drive)
- Good scrotum circumference
- Good body condition (not over fat or under weight)
Ram fertility check

- Rams are expected to service at least 50 and possibly as many as 80 ewes during a six week period.
- If any of the rams underperform, farm profits take an immediate hit.
- Sperm production is directly correlated to testicular width.
- Evaluate your rams by measuring the scrotal circumference...
Scrotal circumference

• Measure the width of the testicles at the widest point.
• Ram **lambs** with a scrotal circumference of less than 30cm and **adult** rams with a scrotal circumference of less than 32cm should probably not be used for breeding.
• Scrotal Circumference (cm)

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Questionable</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Exceptional</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ram lambs, 8-14 months</td>
<td>&lt; 30</td>
<td>30 - 36</td>
<td>&gt; 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mature rams, &gt;14 months</td>
<td>&lt; 30</td>
<td>32 - 40</td>
<td>&gt; 40</td>
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What causes ram fertility problems?

• Over fat rams - fat rams are less active (lazy) to breed and generally not heat tolerant.
• Underfed rams - ram might not recover after the mating season, he will lose at least up to 15% of his body weight.
• Disease
• Poor libido
• Physical defect
• Age
• Heat stress
Ewe
Ewe

Factors influencing the feed requirements in an ewe:

• **Maintenance time**
  Feed her the required nutrients to maintain her body condition.

• **Breeding**
  Ewes nutritional requirements do not generally change in breeding season.

• **Gestation**
  The ewe’s nutritional requirements during early and mid-gestation is only slightly above maintenance.

• **Lactation**
  a ewe’s nutritional requirements are at the highest during lactation, especially if the ewe is nursing multiple lambs.

• **Weaning**
  this takes place when ewes are still producing large amounts of milk, grain should not be fed a week or two prior to weaning. Ewes can be fed low quality grass.

• **Other factors**
  weather, shelter, activity and body condition.
Maintenance

- Pasture or grass hay is all needed to maintain themselves, but the quality of grass needs to meet the nutritional requirements, otherwise supplementation will have to be provided.
- Such as Ram, Lamb and Ewe pellets or Master 20 (*versatile protein energy supplement*) that is.
- This period is normally used for the sheep to maintain her body weight or slowly recover the condition she lost during lactation.
- Multi Block (Molatek) can be put into the veld to aid in body maintenance.
- Can also include an Energy Block.
Breeding

• Feeding the ewe about 2 weeks before breeding to gain weight is called Flushing.

• Flushing isn’t necessary if your ewe is in good body condition such BCS of 3

• Mixing instructions: For flushing
  • Molatek Master 20 – 42 %
  • Maize or chop – 42%
  • Salt – 15%

• Remember with supplements there must be enough roughage and access to water.
Gestation

• Ewes requirements in mid-gestation increase on slightly above maintenance.

• At late gestation, her requirements increase substantially, because this is when approximately 70% of foetal growth occurs.

• Mixing instructions:
  • Molatek Master 20 – 40%
  • Maize or chop – 30%
  • Salt – 10%
  • Molatek Bypass – 20%

• Ensure enough roughage is supplied
Lactation

• The ewe needs to produce milk
• Ewes with twins produce 20 to 40 percent more milk than those ewes not nursing twins.
• Suggest to use Ram, Lamb and Ewe pellets.
• Mixing Instructions:
  • Molatek Master 20 – 42%
  • Maize – 42%
  • Salt - 15%
• This supplement is not a replacement feed, ewes must continue to graze.
Weaning

• Ewes are now taken of grains and put completely on grass. Ewes are now on their dry period where lambs are removed and her udders are to dry up.
• Weaned lambs are fed creep feed, the protein must be between 18 to 20 percent. Can use Molatek Master 20 as a creep feed.
• Recommended to supply Lucerne and Molasses.
• Suggested intake – 250 to 300g per day of creep feed.
• Please note that lambs still need to graze.
Finisher lambs

- Excellent pasture and grazing management is required to finisher lambs on pasture.
- Depending on the type and quality of the pasture, the lamb growth rate can vary greatly, which why the use of Epol Sheep Finisher pellets is recommended.
- Use Epol Finisher pellets until the lamb reach the weight of 25kg.
- Then return to Epol Ram, Lamb and ewe pellets.
What forms of supplements are available

- Protein Licks (Meal)
- Protein Lick Blocks
- Protein Concentrates
- Complete Ration (TMR)
- Maintenance Feeds
- Salt blocks
How to feed licks

• Licks are not complete feed and therefore can only be fed in conjunction with grazing/rougahage.

• Feed at the same time and place every day.

• Use of salt to limit intake but keep in mind licks already have high volume of salt.

• Don’t let lick get wet as urea get poisonous.

• Do not feed licks and complete feed together.
Difference between high protein lick and complete feed (TMR)

- Licks have very high protein content (30-50%)
- Complete balanced feed protein (10-18%)
- Licks substitute lack of protein content in grazing consumed.
- Complete feed replace grazing to a limited effect with high maize/chop content.
- Licks stimulate dry grass intake.
- Complete feed assist volume of grazing.
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Questions??

• Thank You.