



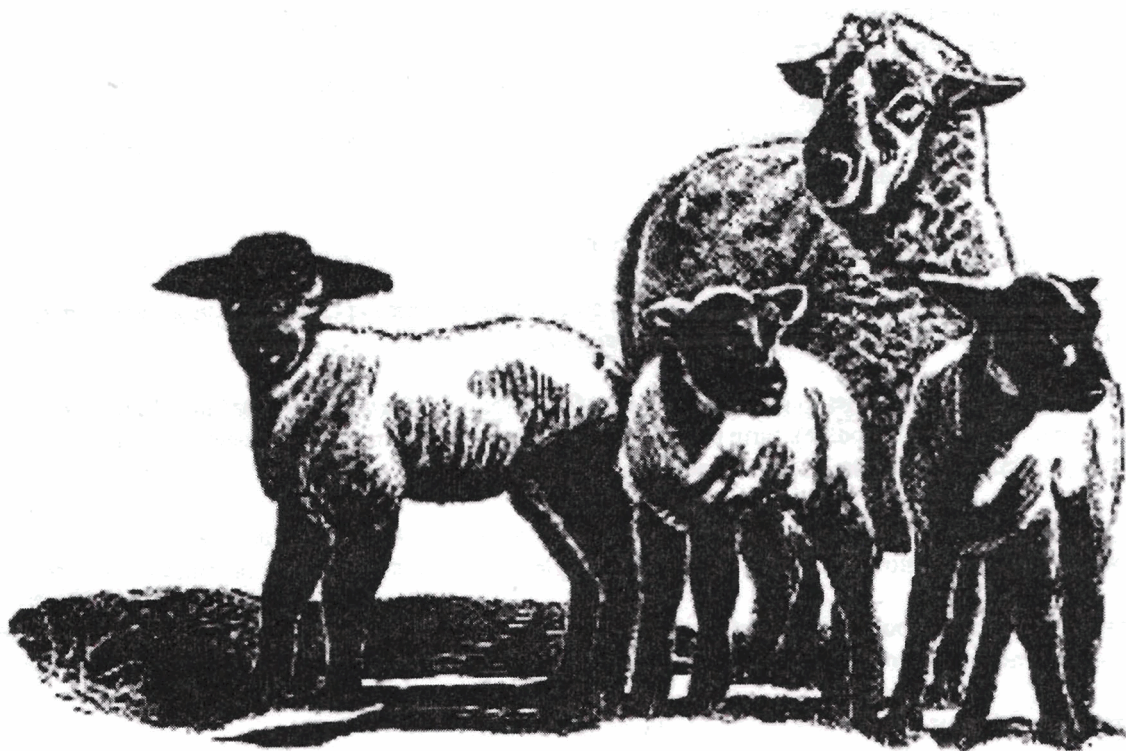
# **NUTRIFAX**

**Nutrition News and Information Update**



# **Shepherd's Jargon**

**(USEFUL FACTS AND FIGURES)**



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## **SHEPHERD'S JARGON** **(USEFUL FACTS AND FIGURES)**

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**A & B lambs** - Lambs 80 to 110 lbs, youthful, well muscled and finished with a light cover of fat. Canada A lambs are carcasses that are wide in proportion to length, plump full legs and thick wide backs. Canada B are carcasses that are narrower with less width and leg thickness.

**Accelerated lambing** - Lambing ewes more than once a year. Lambing 3 times every 2 years (every 8 months) or the star system, lambing 5 times every 3 years (every 7.2 months; the Cornell system).

**Annual lambing** - Lambing once per year. Most lambs are born in January and sold into the Easter market. Lambs are also born from March to mid May onto summer pasture reducing production and feeding costs.

**Breed types** - Generally split into meat or wool types. Some breeds are dual purpose.

**Meat Breeds** - Suffolk, Hampshire, Oxford, Shropshire, Southdown and Dorset.

Wool breeds are classified by length and type of wool.

**Fine Wool Breeds** - Rambouillet and Merino. Have dense, wavy and heavy fleece.

**Medium Wool Breeds** - North Country Cheviot, Border Cheviot, Montadale, Romnellet, Columbia and Corriedale. Wool is shorter and coarser than fine wool breeds.

**Long Wool Breeds** - Leicester, Lincoln, Cotswold and Romney. Heavy fleece & long coarse wool.

**Brown fat layer** - Lambs energy reserve at birth and will provide energy for about 4 hours till nursing starts. Adequate brown layer depends on proper nutrition of the late gestation ewes.

**Bummer lambs** - Lambs that need supplementing from a bottle.

**Claiming pen** - Small 4 x 4' or 4 x 5' pens where the ewe and lamb(s) are kept after birth to get acquainted for 2 - 3 days. This is often used with poor bonding between ewes and their lambs.

**Clip, dip, strip & sip** - A process to ensure a good start for lambs. Clip the umbilical cord to 3/4 inch. Dip the cord and navel with disinfectant (iodine). Strip the ewe to ensure that there are no blocked teats. Assist the lamb to take the first sip (drink) of colostrum as soon as possible.

**Cross fostering** - Mating a new born lamb with another ewe other than his / her own mother. This is the result of ewes with limited milk, moving lambs from twins and triplets to even out the number of lambs ewes raise.

**Crutching** - Trimming wool from the inside of the leg, udder and rear end wool prior to lambing. This allows for clean lambing and easy access to the udder for the lambs.

**Culling** - Cull poorest 20% of ewe flock. Flock turned over every 5 years.

**Down / mutton breeds** - Traditional terms for meat breeds: In the UK, meat production took place on the lowlands or downs.

**Estrus cycle** - Is 14 - 19 days and heat period is 20 - 42 hours.

**Ewe** - The female sheep kept for breeding, selected for mothering ability, milk production, prolificacy, and genetic potential for growth. Pronounced "U" or "YO"

**Face covering** - Highly heritable trait. Open-faced ewes raise and wean more pounds of lamb than do woolly-faced ewes. Cull woolly-faced ewes from the flock.

**Fed lambs** - Lambs that have been fed concentrate (grain) as opposed to lambs off pasture or range.

**Flock** - Is the total number of sheep and lambs. Sheep have a unique flocking instinct where they form a tight group at first sign of danger for protection.

**Flushing** - Feeding higher levels of nutrition to ewes 10 to 14 days prior to the beginning of breeding. This practice increases the number of multiple births and reduces the number of open ewes.

**Gestation period** - Ewes have a gestation period of 144 - 150 days. There is some variation depending on breed.

**Grafting** - Mating a new born lamb with another ewe other than his / her own mother. This is the result of ewes with limited milk, moving lambs from twins and triplets to even out the number of lambs ewes raise.

**Hardening pens** - Social group pens of 5 - 10 ewes where ewes and lambs are moved in transition from claiming to community pens.

**Lambing jugs** - Another term for claiming pens.

**Light lambs** - Young lambs of 50 to 79 lbs that show an open fleece, long wool, less thickness and width than new crop lambs.

**Marking harness** - A leather or nylon harness worn by rams during the breeding season. The harness has a coloured marking crayon. When rams mount ewes a coloured mark is left identifying bred ewes.

**Maternal sire** - A ram that produces progeny for selection as replacement ewes in the flock.

**Mouthing** - Telling the age of ewes, rams or lambs by checking the number and size of the teeth in its mouth.

**New crop lambs** - Young lambs generally marketed at 45 to 70 lbs with a clean tight fleece usually right off mom. Demanded at easter and christmas by ethnic populations, Greek and Italian communities.

**Normal temperature** - Lambs 39 to 39.5°C; hypothermia recognised at 35 to 37°C. Ewes and rams 38.5 to 39°C.

**Numbers at a glance -**

Normal temperature	39.5° C (103°F)
Pulse rate / min	70
Breathing rate / min	15
Estrus cycle (days)	14 - 19
Heat period (hours)	20 - 42
Sexual maturity (months)	5 - 12
Gestation period (days)	147 - 150

**Returns** - Determined by amount of lamb marketed annually per ewe mated, → multiple births, high survival and weaning rates are important.

**Ram** - Male sheep, intact, kept for breeding, may be mated with 40 - 50 ewes at one time.

**Rams intake** - Rams dry matter intake is 2.2 to 2.8% of body weight depending on weight.

**Sexual maturity** - Ewe lambs reach sexual maturity at 5 - 12 months and usually come into heat the first time in the fall.

**Sponging** - The synchronization of ewes by placing a hormone soaked sponge in the vagina for a 10 day period before exposure to the rams.

**Stanchioning** - Securing a ewe when grafting a lamb to a foster mother. The ewe cannot smell the lamb and is limited from being able to push it away but can continue to eat and can lie down.

**Terminal sire** - A ram that sires lambs in a final cross in a cross breeding market lamb program.

**Tubing** - Hypothermic lambs need an energy source before being warmed. Lambs too weak to suckle must be tubed with milk via a short tube and a 50 ml syringe.

**Wether** - Castrated male lamb destined for market. Castration can be done at an early age with an elastrator, burdizzo or knife.

**Wool clip** - The wool or fleece from a shorn sheep. The wool clip is the weight of the wool produced from either one fleece or from the flock.

**Guidelines on total dry matter intake -**

**Feed intake for 150 lb ewes  
as percent of body weight**

<u>Class</u>	<u>DMI % BW</u>	<u>AS-FED % BW*</u>
Maintenance	1.7 %	
		2.0 %
1 <sup>st</sup> 15 weeks gestation	2.0 %	
Last 6 weeks gestation		
+ last 8 weeks lactation	3.0 %	3.5 %
Lactating with singles	3.5 %	4.0 %
Lactating with twins	4.0 %	4.5 %

\* AS-FED assumed to be 88% DM.

**Feed intake of ewes suckling singles or twins  
as percent of body weight (DMI as % BW)**

<u>Ewes weight</u>		<u>Suckling singles</u>	<u>Suckling twins</u>
<u>Kg</u>	<u>Lbs</u>	<u>DMI % BW</u>	<u>DMI % BW</u>
50	110	4.2	4.8
60	132	3.8	4.3
70	154	3.5	4.0
80	176	3.3	3.8
90	198	3.1	3.5

**Feed intake of finishing lambs as percent  
of body weight of lambs (DMI % BW)**

<u>Lamb weight</u>		<u>DMI % BW</u>
<u>Kg</u>	<u>Lbs</u>	<u>DMI % BW</u>
30	66	4.3
35	77	4.1
40	88	4.0
45	99	3.8
50	110	3.6
55	121	3.4

## BREED DESCRIPTIONS

Breed	Class	Type		Body Weight (kg)		Fleece weight (kg/ewe)
		Horned or Polled	Face (type <sup>1</sup> ; color)	Rams	Ewes	
Cheviot (Border)	meat; medium wool	P	bare; white	70-90	55-70	2.0-3.5
Cheviot (North Country)	meat; medium wool	P	bare; white	100-125	60-75	2.5-3.5
Clun Forest	meat; short wool	P	open; dark brown	80-100	65-80	2.5-3.5
Columbia	medium wool; meat	P	open; white	100-135	65-100	5.0-5.5
Corriedale	medium wool; meat	P	open; white	85-115	55-80	4.5-9.0
Cotswold	long wool; meat	P	open; white to gray	125-145	80-100	4.0-5.5
Dorset	meat; short wool	H or P	open; white	80-100	65-85	2.0-3.5
Finnsheep	medium wool; meat	P	bare; white	65-90	45-75	2.3-3.5
Hampshire	meat; short wool	P	open; dark brown	115-135	70-100	2.0-3.5
Karakul	pelt production	female P/ male H	open; black	70-100	60-70	2.0-3.5
Kerry Hill	meat; short wool	P	bare; white & black	75-100	60-75	2.0-3.5
Leicester (Border)	long wool; meat	P	bare; white	90-125	75-100	3.5-5.5
Leicester (Hexham)	long wool; meat	P	bare; "blue"	100-115	80-100	2.0-3.5
Lincoln	long wool; meat	P	open; white to gray	125-160	100-125	5.5-7.0
Merino	fine wool	female P/ male H	wooled; white	65-90	45-80	4.5-6.5
Montadale	meat; medium wool	P	open; white	85-115	55-85	3.5-5.5
Oxford	meat; short	P	wooled; dark brown	115-135	80-90	4.5-5.5
Rambouillet	fine wool; meat	female P/ male H	wooled; white	90-135	65-100	3.5-5.5
Romnelet	meat; medium wool	P	open; white	85-115	55-80	4.5-5.5
Romney	long wool; meat	P	open; white	90-115	70-90	4.5-6.5
Ryeland	meat; short wool	P	open; white	90-100	70-80	2.0-5.5
Scottish Blackface	coarse or carpet wool; meat	H	bare; black & white	65-75	55-65	2.0-3.5
Shropshire	meat; short wool	P	open; black	85-115	65-80	3.5-4.5
Southdown	meat; short wool	P	wooled; mouse gray	70-90	60-75	2.0-3.5
Suffolk	meat; short wool	P	bare; black	115-135	70-100	2.0-3.5
Targhée	meat; medium wool	P	open; white	90-135	60-90	4.5-6.5

<sup>1</sup> Face types; Bare - no wool on head from muzzle to ears; Open - face partially wool covered but muzzle and eyes well exposed; Wooled - face covered with wool. (Agriculture Canada).