



**COUNTERPOINT**  
Stockfeeds

## Winter Newsletter

Lambing Ewes and Stud Sheep

### Welcome to the Winter Edition of the 2024 Counterpoint Stockfeeds Sheep Nutritional Newsletter

#### The Importance of Optimising Ewe Nutrition

Managing ewe nutrition is key to a successful pregnancy and lactation, managing it correctly can have several positive effects for both the ewe and her offspring.

Common issues that arise from poor management are hypocalcaemia (calcium deficiency) and pregnancy toxaemia (twin lamb disease). Both issues are easier to prevent than treat and can be avoided if adequate nutrition is provided.

Hypocalcaemia is a metabolic disease that is caused by a lack of available calcium, and ewes are most susceptible in late pregnancy or straight after lambing when lactation commences. The deficiency of calcium in the blood stream causes muscles not to contract properly including the heart, gut and leg muscles.

Pregnancy toxaemia occurs where there is a lack of glucose in the diet and its unable to support the ewe, foetus and developing udder. This leads to the ewe having low blood glucose and can result in brain damage, dehydration, kidney failure and in the worst cases death. Ewes bearing twins are most at risk but can also affect single bearing ewes, particularly at lambing. Over conditioned ewes can be at high risk of pregnancy toxaemia as their feed intake can drop close to lambing.

Both hypocalcaemia and pregnancy toxaemia can be avoided with adequate nutrition aided by Counterpoint Stockfeeds [Sheep Performa Ewe & Lamb](#) products as well as our free choice mineral lick supplements.

During lactation a ewe is unlikely to meet her energy requirement from pasture or hay, and will likely lose an excessive amount of body condition which may affect her reproductive performance in the next joining period.

Supplementing the ewe with additional energy will improve the ewe's lactation performance and joining, and providing additional proteins to complement the pasture will improve the milk quality, improving lamb growth as well.

Balancing the ewes feed can then extend your pasture and take pressure off other feed on offer.

#### Newsletter Outline

- The importance of optimizing ewe nutrition
  - [Sheep Performa Ewe & Lamb](#)
- Benefits of maximizing milk production for lamb survival and growth
  - [Sheep Performa Lamb Creep](#)
- Loose lick vitamins, mineral and protein supplements
- Barley exchange program
- Achieving the best results for your Stud Sheep
  - [Sheep Performa Stud Sheep](#)



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### Lambing Ewes and Stud Sheep

**Table 1** shows the different ME requirements needed for ewes at different stages of pregnancy. A 50kg ewe would generally consume 1.3kg to 1.5kg of pasture (dry matter), thereby consuming 12MJ to 14MJ of feed, which is below her maintenance requirements.

Her feed requirements will increase further during lactation. Offering [Sheep Performa Ewe & Lamb](#) provides 12 MJ ME/kg, meaning a single bearing 50kg ewe in late pregnancy eating 0.5kg of Sheep Performa Ewe and Lamb only requires an extra 8.2 MJ ME/Day, which she should get from the pasture on offer.

	ME Requirements (MJ ME/Day)
50kg 16-week Pregnant Ewe – Single	11.0
50kg 16-week Pregnant Ewe – Twins	12.8
50kg 20-week Pregnant Ewe – Single	14.2
50kg 20-week Pregnant Ewe – Twins	18

Table 1 – Ewe ME Requirements at Different Pregnancy Stages

[Sheep Performa Ewe & Lamb](#) is high-starch, high energy, grain-based product, with a low NDF (neutral detergent fibre) level to allow the ewe to maximise her dry matter intake potential. Starch sources are managed to promote glucose yield, and additives are included to support ewe health. This product allows ewes to maximise energy intake while minimising substitution of pasture and other forage sources.

You can complement feed available on farm with [Sheep Performa Ewe & Lamb](#). Please give our Nutritionist's a call to discuss some diet options for your flock.

[Sheep Performa Ewe & Lamb](#) is available in both a mash and pellet.

### Benefits of Maximizing Milk Production for Lamb Survival and Growth

Energy requirements are highest in early lactation so supplementing with [Sheep Performa Ewe & Lamb](#) at this stage of the ewe life cycle will maximize milk production for lamb survival and growth.

Lamb growth can be further supported by feeding a creep feed such as [Sheep Performa Lamb Creep](#), which is also a valuable management practice as it imprints the lamb for later feeding.

Encouraging early intake of concentrates has many positive effects for young lambs including early rumen development, and improved growth rates, that can in turn lead to earlier weaning and finishing.



Due to the ongoing dry conditions resulting in a lack of pasture growth, early weaning should be considered to reduce overall feed demand. Early weaning also gives the ewes more time to regain condition in preparation for joining, allowing greater control over the allocation of feed resources. Feeding a dry ewe and a weaned lamb requires approximately 30% less energy than a lactating ewe/lamb unit.

You can optimize your lamb's performance with the addition of as [Sheep Performa Lamb Creep](#) to their diet.



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**Sheep Performa Lamb Creep** is a pelleted supplement, specifically designed to promote rapid rumen development, and optimize growth rates in young lambs by supplying quality starches, proteins, vitamins and minerals, as well as ingredients proven to promote animal and gut health. Always make sure when creep feeding lambs have access to a clean fibre source such as lucerne or vetch hay, and straw to help support optimal rumen function.

### Loose lick vitamin, mineral and protein supplements

Counterpoint Stockfeeds have access to a range of weather resistant loose lick supplements, balanced in vitamin, minerals and proteins, specifically formulated to support the health and performance of growing lambs, ewes and rams grazing pastures.

These products are designed to manage mineral imbalances that often occur throughout the year and support animal health when grazing lush, green pastures, or when grazing stubbles.

### Barley exchange program

At Counterpoint Stockfeeds we strive to make our feed as affordable as possible while still maintaining quality. Our barley exchange program allows you to bring in your barley and we include this to the pellet at no cost.

You simply pay for the remaining grains, protein meals and additives that go into making your feed. This turns your barley into a nutritionally balanced, quality pellet.

Contact our Nutrition Team to learn more.

Barley exchange is now available with any grain.



### Achieve the best from your Stud Sheep this season

Counterpoint Stockfeeds have a range of specially formulated stud sheep products to achieve your Stud's performance goals.

**Sheep Performa Stud Sheep** products are available in a pellet, grain blend or muesli containing vitamins and minerals that promote excellent wool production, structural soundness and lean muscle definition and a urinary acidifier which to reduce the risk of kidney stones.

These products contain methionine which is a sulfur containing amino acid that can be beneficial to produce keratin, which is found in the hoof and in wool. It also contains lysine, which is important for metabolism, a healthy nervous system and for proper immune system function.

Biotin is included for the growth of strong hooves and wool. Biotin is also involved in the production of collagen and elastin, which are essential components of healthy skin.

*If you have any questions regarding the products and services offered by Counterpoint Stockfeeds, please don't hesitate to give our Nutrition Team a call on 03 5453 2107.*

*If you are heading the Australian Sheep and Wool Show in July don't hesitate to visit us at sites 240 - 241*

Counterpoint Stockfeeds (CPS) believes the information contained in this document to be true and correct for the applications as described. Updates may be made to product specifications, usage guidelines, and/or ingredients used in these products.

Customers must seek advice from CPS if there is any doubt regarding the usage of products described. Subject to those terms implied by statute which cannot be excluded, restricted or modified, no warranty of accuracy or reliability is given and no responsibility to the customer or any other person is accepted for errors or omissions howsoever arising, including matters arising through negligence by CPS, its Directors, employees or agents.