

# SHEEP SOLUTIONS

## Tools to manage ewes during gestation

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### 1. Ultrasound Pregnancy Diagnosis

Advantages:

- Sell open ewes during inflated cull ewe markets
- Economical feeding (less over and under feeding)
- Identify ewes with multiple births and feed accordingly

Disadvantages:

- Cost
- Extra ewe handling during pregnancy

### 2. Shearing

Advantages:

- Lambs find the teats more quickly
- Ewes udder stays cleaner
- Existing barns house more shorn ewes than full-fleeced ewes
- Dryer barn
- Less bedding required
- In cold seasons, ewes will lamb in the barn
- Ewes are more agile
- Monitor condition/udder development of ewes more easily

Disadvantages:

- Cold stress
- Ewes can eat 10-20% more feed in extreme cold weather

### 3. Body Condition Score

Assign a number 1-5 based on the amount of condition

- 1 = Emaciated
- 3 = Average Body Condition
- 5 = Obese

Desired Body Condition Levels:

- Summer 2.5 to 3
- Late Gestation 3.5 to 4.0
- Lactation maintain 3

Handle ewes along their spine and across their loin edge to determine a condition score.

Don't make evaluations based on covering over the ribs.

Blueprint Sheep Mineral will enhance performance during breeding, late gestation and lactation.

### 4. Sort ewes and feed accordingly for a uniform body condition at parturition:

Sort by:

- Age
- First-time lambers
- Body condition score
- Stage of gestation
- Number of lambs based on ultrasound
- Goal of body condition score of 3.5 to 4.0 at lambing

### 5. Make use of a feed scale:

Minimizes Acidosis/Overeating

Sheep will stay on feed and allow producers to safely reach desired outcome at lambing