

Feeding Through Drought in Montana Southeast Montana Range Supplement Options

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Below are some supplement options for wintering 165lb, 2nd trimester ewes on Southeastern Montana range. You can access the MSU Sheep Ration program at <https://msusheepration.montana.edu/Home.aspx>.

	DM Lbs	CP Lbs	TDN Lbs	Ca g	P g
165lb ewe mid-gest	3.2	0.3	1.8	3.65	3.1
Sagebrush	0.2	0.01	0.11	0.0	0.0
Saltgrass	1.8	0.08	1.03	1.88	0.57
Alfalfa Pellet 17%	1.2	0.23	0.72	8.27	1.36
Total in ration	3.2	0.32	1.85	10.15	1.93
Pct of Requirements	100.0	105.53	103.0	278.12	62.33
Sagebrush	0.2	0.01	0.11	0.0	0.0
Saltgrass	2.3	0.1	1.31	2.4	0.73
DDGS Pellet 16%	0.7	0.21	0.56	0.19	2.89
Total in ration	3.2	0.32	1.98	2.59	3.62
Pct of Requirements	100.0	105.53	109.94	70.96	116.76
Corn	1.0	0.1	0.87	0.09	1.32
Sagebrush	0.2	0.01	0.11	0.0	0.0
Saltgrass	2.0	0.08	1.14	2.09	0.64
Total in ration	3.2	0.2	2.12	2.18	1.95
Pct of Requirements	100.0	66.4	117.67	59.65	62.92
Sagebrush	0.2	0.01	0.11	0.0	0.0
Saltgrass	2.7	0.11	1.54	2.82	0.86
Protein Tub 16%	0.3	0.05	0.22	2.04	1.36
Total in ration	3.2	0.18	1.87	4.86	2.22
Pct of Requirements	100.0	58.53	104.0	133.1	71.55
Sagebrush	0.2	0.01	0.11	0.0	0.0
Saltgrass	2.2	0.09	1.25	2.3	0.7
Cull Peas	0.8	0.2	0.66	0.62	1.56
Total in ration	3.2	0.31	2.02	2.91	2.26
Pct of Requirements	100.0	102.2	112.11	79.78	72.87

- 1) Alfalfa Pellet fed at a rate of 1.2lbs/hd/day balances well and will run roughly \$0.20/hd/day.
- 2) DDGS (Distillers Dried Grains) Pellet fed at a rate of 0.7lbs/hd/day is a little low on calcium and will run roughly \$0.11/hd/day.
- 3) Corn fed at a rate of 1lb/hd/day will not balance on either protein or calcium. Ideally save the corn for lambing in the spring. Corn will run roughly \$0.095/hd/day.
- 4) Feeding protein tubs or blocks will run around \$0.30/hd/day. However at the recommended consumption, they may not meet protein requirements on very poor forage. Tubs and blocks do offer the advantage of reduced labor and equipment costs when wintering in rough country and being able to feed in deeper snow.
- 5) Feeding cull peas will depend on availability, but does work well at 0.8lbs/hd/day. I do not have a current cost on supplementing with cull peas.

Select Animal and Environmental Characteristics which fit your situation

Ewe Size: Ewe Age: Gestational Status: Body Condition Score:

Forage Availability:

Forage Quality:

Environmental Factors:

[More about Body Condition Scoring](#) [More about Winter Range Supplementation](#)

The winter supplementation page on the MSU Sheep Ration website gives producers the options to enter variables related to ewe size, age, production status, BCS and environmental variables related to forage availability and quality and weather conditions in drop down menus. Once the proper variables have been selected, one simply hits the Calculate Recommendation button and the program automatically selects one of six management practices: 1) Grain every other day, 2) Grain everyday, 3) Protein supplement every other day, 4) Protein supplement everyday, 5) Reduce sheep numbers and increase feed, and 6) Put all sheep on full feed.