

Feeding the Ewe Flock

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Goals for the Ewe Flock

- **Maximize conception rate**
- **Minimize embryo and fetal mortality**
- **Birth of viable lambs capable of rapid growth**
- **Heavy milk production**
- **Minimize feeding costs**

Maintenance (weaning to flushing)

**Goal - To achieve a minimum BCS of 3,
3 weeks prior to breeding**

- **Feeding level depends upon body condition at weaning**
- **70 kg ewe in good condition**
 - **1.0 - 1.5 kg of average quality forage (10% protein, 55% TDN)**

Flushing (3 weeks before breeding)

Goal - To achieve a BCS of 3.5 at breeding

- **Increase energy intake (60% TDN)**
 - good quality forage
 - grain supplementation of poorer forages
- **Consider -**
 - Current condition score
 - Breed
 - Time of Breeding

Early Pregnancy (first month)

Goal - To maintain or slightly increase body weight

- **Nutritional management is critical in minimizing embryo loss**
 - avoid under and over feeding
- **Maintain flushing rations for 3 - 4 weeks after breeding**

Mid Pregnancy (up to 100 days)

Goal - To increase body weight slightly

- **Placenta is fully developed**
- **Underfeeding**
 - underdeveloped placenta
 - small lambs
- **Overfeeding**
 - reduces feed intake in late pregnancy and increases incidence of pregnancy toxemia
 - wasteful

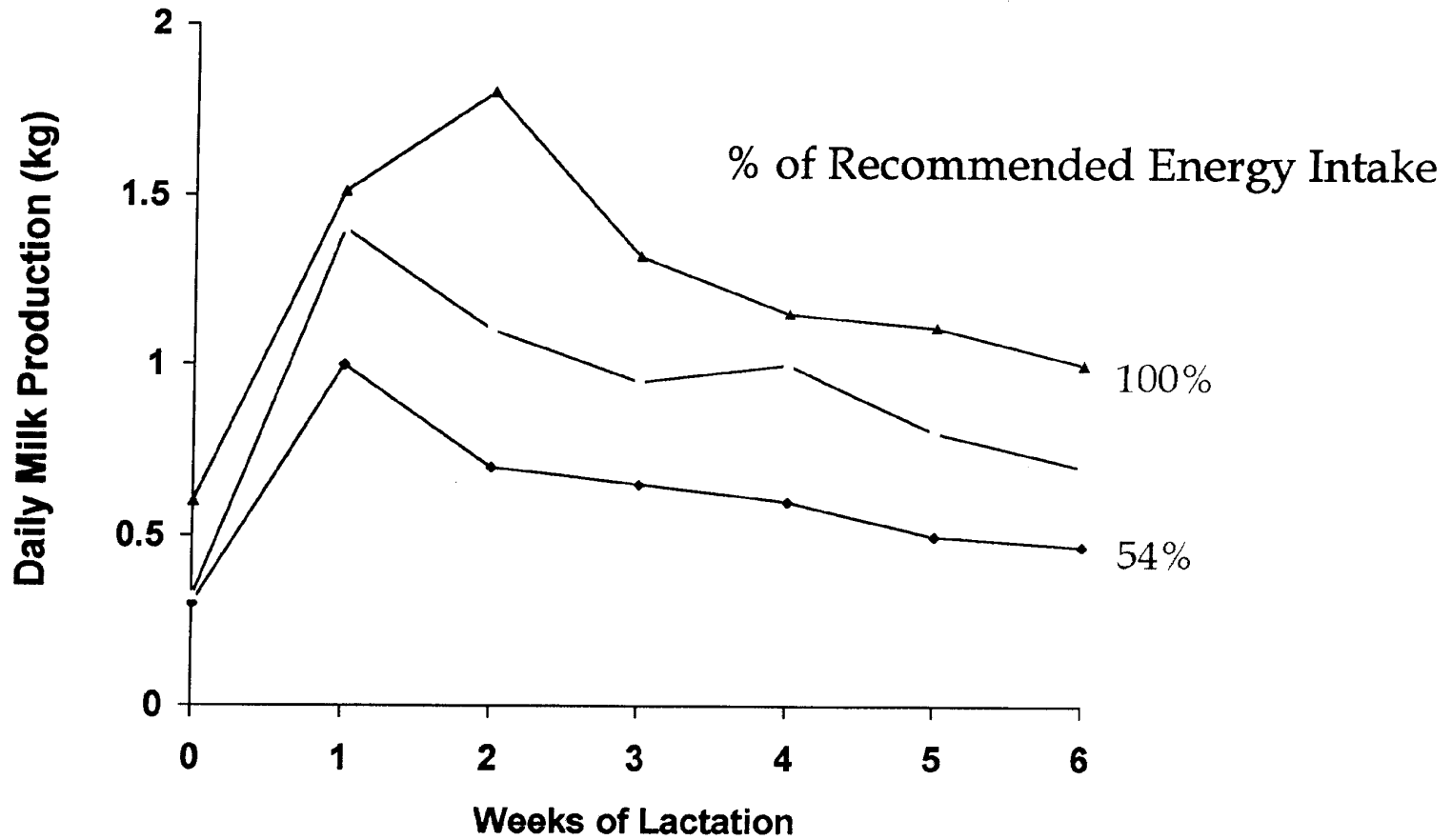
Mid Pregnancy (up to 100 days)

- **Maintenance nutrient levels**
 - **55% TDN**
 - **10% protein**
- **4 lbs of average quality alfalfa-grass hay**

Late Pregnancy (last 6 weeks)

Goal - To maintain BCS or limit drop to less than 0.5 points (body weight gain of 180 - 225 g/day)

- **70% of fetal growth**
- **Underfeeding ewes**
 - fetal growth
 - pregnancy toxemia
 - milk production
 - onset and overall quantity



Late Pregnancy (last 6 weeks)

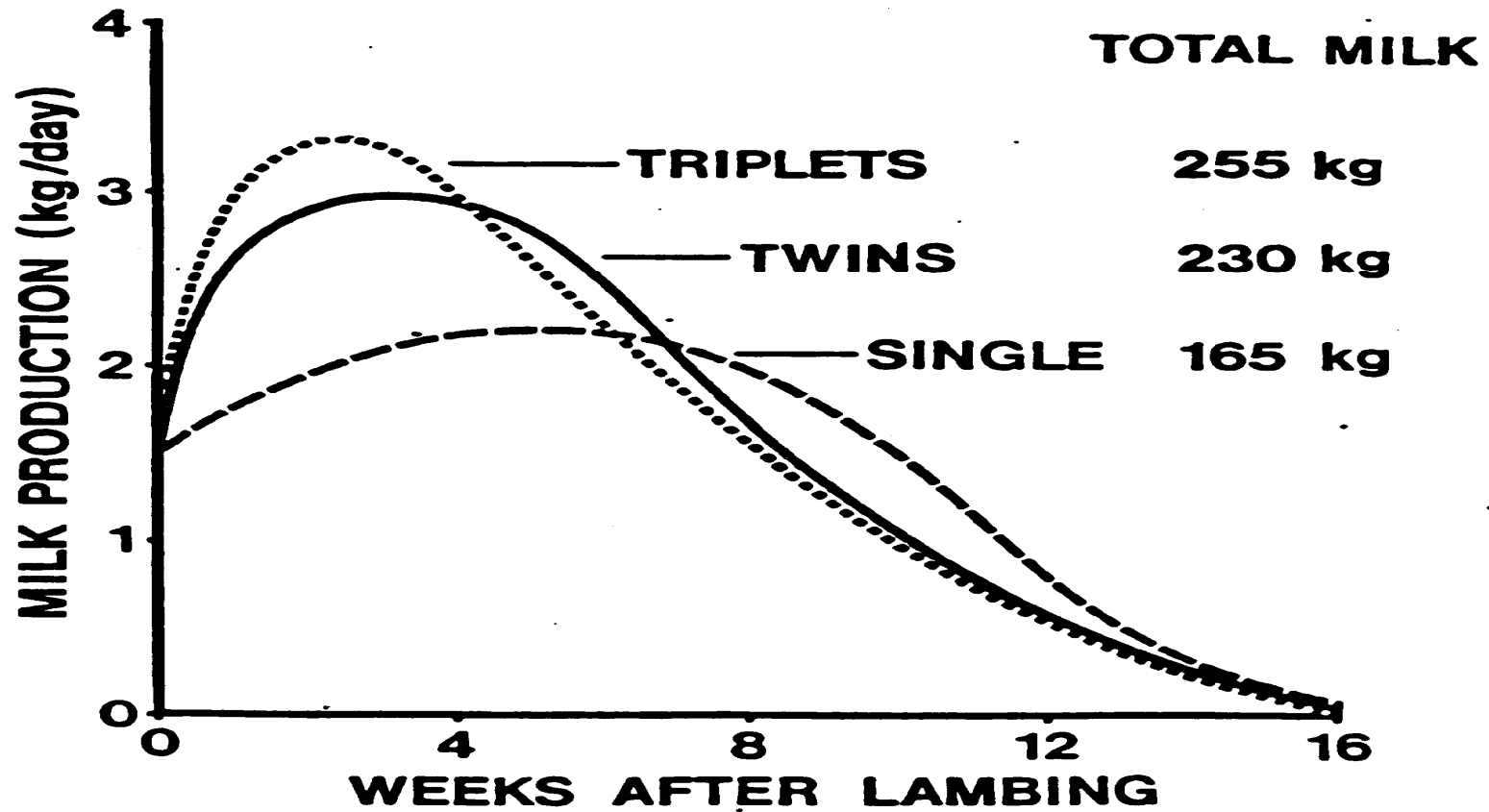
- **Feeding levels of 65% TDN, 12% protein**
- **Good quality hay (60% TDN) plus 0.5 kg barley**
- **Average quality hay (55% TDN) plus 1.5 lbs barley**

Rations for Pregnant Ewes (175 lbs)

	<u>1st 15 weeks</u>	<u>Last 4 weeks</u>
Hay	4	3
Barley	-	2
1:1 mineral	10 grams	10 grams
Co- salt	10 grams	10 grams
Vitamin A pm.	5 grams	5 grams
Lbs DM	3.3	4.4
%TDN	55	65
%CP	10	12

Lactation

- Highest nutrient requirements
- Body weight loss can provide 25-30% of energy needed after lambing
 - ewes with BCS<2.5 in very poor position to meet milk potential
 - protein must be provided in the diet
- Age of ewe, number of lambs affects milk production
- Separate feeding for ewes with multiples



Lactation

- **Feeding levels of 65% TDN, 15% protein**
- **Good quality hay (60% TDN) plus 1 lb barley and 0.5 lb canola meal**
- **Excellent quality alfalfa hay or cereal greenfeed**

Rations for Lactating Ewes

	<u>Singles</u>	<u>Twins</u>	<u>Triplets</u>
Hay	5	4.5	4.5
Barley	1.5	2.5	3.0
Can. meal	-	0.5	1.0
1:1 min.	10 g	14 g	14 g
Co-salt	10 g	14 g	14 g
Vit.A pm	6 g	10 g	10 g
Lbs DM	5.7	6.6	7.1
%TDN	65	65	66
%CP	15	16	17

Creep Feeding

- **Encourages early consumption of solid food**
 - **provides supplemental nutrients for rapid gain**
 - **promotes early weaning**

Creep Rations

- **Begin with soybean meal at 2 weeks of age.**
- **Introduce a 2:1 mix of whole barley and 32% protein pellets when SBM intake is 60g/head/day.**
- **At 30-35 lbs, feed a 3:1 mix of barley and pellets.**
- **Lambs eating > 0.5 lb of creep can be safely weaned.**



