

# SHEEP & GOAT FEED

## SHEEP FEEDS

Sheep are ruminants that can utilize roughages for the production of meat, wool and milk. There are a wide variety of management schemes used for any given flock based upon the production goals. As much smaller ruminants than cattle, sheep may not be able to utilize poor forages to the extent cattle can.

The single greatest concern in feeding sheep is that they are unique among our domesticated species with a much greater sensitivity to copper toxicity. Most forages will contain enough copper to meet the needs of sheep consuming pasture or hay diets. Producers raising sheep should only use feeds developed specifically labeled for use in sheep.

Finishing lambs are susceptible to urinary calculi, calcium-based deposits that can form in kidney tubules and the urethra. Sheep can also be susceptible to "White Muscle Disease." This is a result of a deficiency of Selenium and Vitamin E in the diet. Prince sheep feeds are designed to provide Calcium and Phosphorus levels that are less conducive to this problem, and also contain ammonium chloride which helps to adjust pH and reduce the potential for calculi to develop.

We recommend that all growing sheep be vaccinated for Enterotoxaemia.

Lambs are prone to consuming too much concentrate if given the opportunity. This can result in the proliferation and growth of detrimental bacteria in the gut, and for resulting toxins to affect the sheep.



## SHEEP MIXTURES

**•33% SHEEP CONCENTRATE - (#001293)** Is a pelleted feed that is used for the manufacturing of both growing rations and rations to support lambing ewes. Sheep concentrate is available either with or without Chlortetracycline (CTC), used to improve feed efficiency and growth rate

Sheep and goats have been some of the longest domesticated animals that man has managed. The United States has seen a recent resurgence of both smaller producers providing products for their family use, and commercial operations as well. Although sheep and goats are often discussed together since they are both smaller ruminants, they have very real differences in nutrient requirements, and their feeds are not interchangeable.

### • SHEEP MINERAL - (#044796)

Since sheep are extremely susceptible to copper toxicity, they should never be fed minerals designed for cattle, goats or other species. Trace mineral nutrition is important for sheep. In addition to amino acid quality, trace minerals are important for the quality (crimp) of wool production in addition to the amount of wool produced. Prince Sheep minerals contain salt to stimulate and regulate intake. However, free choice salt should be available.

### • SHEEP DEVELOPER - (#001294)

Is designed to provide all of the “concentrate” of the ration. This product can be fed to (weaned) lambs of all ages. This product can also be fed to older sheep, although we recommend developing a ewe ration using Prince’s 33% Sheep Concentrate. Sheep developer is available in a medicated form or with Lactalocid.

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## GOAT FEEDS

Goats were some of man’s first domesticated species. Goats are primarily raised for their milk and meat production; however there is also a market for mohair from Angora goats. Goats are “browsers” as opposed to grazers, such as cattle and sheep. Unlike their popular image, goats are in fact “fairly picky” eaters; however because of their browsing behavior and curious nature, they may appear to be investigating unusual feed stuffs.

### • 16% GOAT FEED – (#001295)

Supports growing kids as well as match most forages to meet the protein and energy requirements for lactating goats.

### • GROWING & MAINTENANCE GOATS -

Feed 1-2 lbs. per head per day based upon desired body condition score, desired growth rate and forages available.

### • MILKING GOATS -

Feed 1 lb. for every 3 lbs. of milk produced. Adjust to slightly more or less based upon maintaining proper body condition, and to adjust to the quality of forage fed. Milking diet should maintain a protein content of 16-18%. Therefore hay fed to lactating cows should have protein content of a minimum of 16-20% crude protein. Alfalfa hays of high protein content will not be detrimental but may represent feeding excess nutrient, and being less cost effective.

Lactating goats should have free choice forage, salt and minerals available at all times. If feeding primarily 100% alfalfa or clover hays, consider using a 1:1 mineral to help balance out Ca:Phos ratios.

### • GOAT MINERAL – (#044793)

Prince Premium goat mineral is fortified with vitamins and minerals to support sound growth. Feed as sole source of salt and minerals to goats on pasture. This product may also be used in the manufacturing of feed intended for goats. This products contains supplemental copper and should not be fed to sheep.

