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Nutritionist

Feeding for Breeding with Fabstock

Nutritional levels are perhaps the major environmental factor influencing reproduction rates in sheep, with the nutritional status of the breeding ewe having an overwhelming effect on virtually all aspects of her reproductive performance.

Low ovulation rates, low embryo survival together with the failure to successfully deliver and rear multiple progeny, continue to be major problems for the sheep industry.

The Oestrus Cycle

The oestrus cycle is defined as the time between 2 different periods of heat and in sheep averages 17 days. The period from around day 4 to approx. day 13 of the cycle is characterised by rapid follicular growth. Towards the end of each cycle, the follicle(s) rupture, releasing the ovum and ovulation occurs. At this time, ewes will be receptive to the ram.

Following ovulation, the remaining follicle(s) is transformed into the corpora lutea or CL which is responsible for protecting the developing embryo(s) following fertilization until implantation.

Ovulation Rates

The number of ova released at oestrus determines the potential reproductive rate and is controlled by a number of factors including, genetic, nutritional, age related and seasonal factors. Whilst certain breeds of sheep are considered highly fertile, the major factor within a breed effecting ovulation rates is nutrition.

The number of oocytes ovulated in each oestrus cycle is in turn is determined by the number of selected follicles available for ovulation.

AT A GLANCE

- *Nutritional levels are perhaps the major environmental factor influencing reproduction rates in sheep.*
- *Super Cycle is designed to increase ovulation rates leading to increased reproductive performance.*

These follicle numbers are very sensitive to nutritional factors and thus the ovulation rate can be readily manipulated by nutritional input.

It is important to remember that it takes around 16 days from fertilization until the developing embryo becomes established at a *development site* within the ewes uterus.

Fabstock's Super Cycle

Fabstock's **Super Cycle** is a nutritional loose lick that is designed to help increase ovulation rates in ewes prior to natural joining as well as artificial insemination.

Super Cycle contains both protein and energy sources to increase ovulation rates and high levels of Vitamin A and Zinc to help maintain a healthy CL and thus assist with embryo survival.

As well, **Super Cycle** contains a range of trace minerals such as cobalt, iodine, selenium, manganese and copper which can influence reproductive performance in sheep. **Super Cycle** also contains macro nutrients such as sodium, calcium, magnesium and sulphur in order to maximise sheep health.

Since its release, **Super Cycle** has proven to be a valuable tool that sheep producers can use to successfully and cost effectively lift their flock reproductive performance.

For further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the author or your local **Fabstock** reseller