

Nutrient Requirements of Rams

Similar to feeding replacement ewes, the breeding target for ram lambs is 75% of mature weight at a condition score of 3.5 to 4. Once rams are allowed to run with the ewes, they spend very little of their time actually eating. This can result in a weight loss of up to 12% of their body weight during a 45 day breeding period. In many cases, forage alone is not adequate nutrition for placing rams in proper body condition for the breeding season. At the very least, rams should be evaluated for body condition six weeks before breeding. Thin rams should receive grain supplementation as a means to increase body weight and condition. Mature rams can be maintained on pasture or wintered on good quality hay. Six to 8 pounds of mixed grass and clover hay is sufficient to meet the daily energy requirements of a 250-pound ram. All rams should have fresh, clean water available at all times, as well as salt and minerals.



Photo By: Marlene Raymond