



## Managing ewe replacements to lamb at 1 year old

**Need/issue:** Ewe nutrition

**Aim:** To manage ewe replacements to produce their first litter at 1 year of age.

**How to implement:**

- Target greater than 60% mature body when joining at 8 months of age.
- The “ram effect” can be used to induce ewes to start cycling.
  - ewes should have not been in contact with rams for the previous month
- Nutrition during pregnancy requires high feed value forage and concentrate supplementation from mid pregnancy

**Description:**

- Replacements are a major cost in mid-season prime lamb production systems, equivalent to 25% of the value of lamb carcass output that she will produce during her lifetime.
- One option for reducing replacement costs is to lamb at one year of age with the objective of increasing lifetime productivity.
- Lambing at one year of age has no effect on ewe productivity when lambing at 2 years of age.





### Expected benefits:

- Improve lifetime ewe productivity and have more experience when lambing at 2 years of age.

### Prerequisites and/or limits:

- The When using the “ram effect” it is essential to have:
  - an adequate number of rams for mating (1 experienced ram per about 25 ewes)
  - adequate facilities and labour to cope with the flock during the lambing season
- Ewe lambs need to be greater than 60% mature bodyweight at joining and offered a good plane of nutrition during pregnancy

**Country:** Ireland

**Dairy or/and meat sheep:** Meat sheep

**Category of Animal (ewe, replacement, lamb):**

Ewe & Lamb

### Topic:

- Health
- Nutrition
- Management

### Level of solution:

- Knowledge
- Practical

### Source of information:

<https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/publications/2016/Mating-ewe-lambs.pdf>

Podcast:

<https://share.transistor.fm/s/64570d26>

