

Need/issue: Weaning transition management

Aim: To provide a protocol for farmers on creep feeding that eases the weaning stress on lambs

## How to implement:

- Good quality roughage and a concentrate mixture from 10 days old. 200-250 g of creep feed per head per day from 20 days of age to weaning.
- Clean drinking water. Replace the feed in the creep daily.
- Feedstuffs high in palatability for young lambs include soybean meal, ground corn, and alfalfa hay.



# Description:

- The level of shock
   manifested by reduction in
   post-weaning growth rate
   may vary depending on
   weaning age and weight, the
   intake of solid feed before
   weaning as well as health
   status of the lamb.
- In sheep production the traditional method of weaning is separating lambs from their dams without applying any treatment before weaning.
- The weaning age of lambs may vary between 4-16 weeks. It is recommended that lambs should not be weaned until they reach 3-4 times of their birth weights or 12-13 kg live weight.











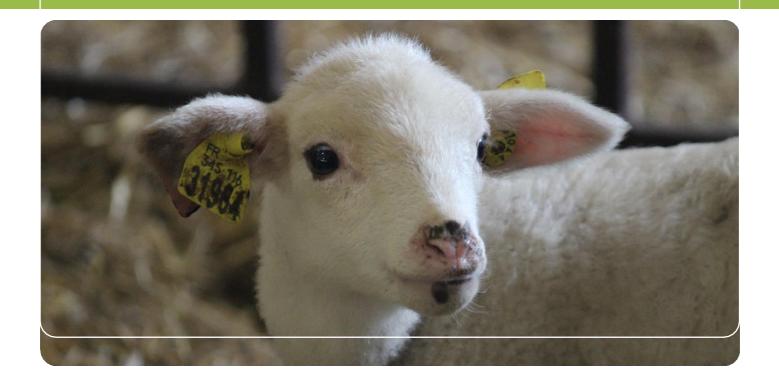












### **Expected benefits:**

- Lambs could be marketed earlier for higher prices.
- Stimulates rumen development.
- Weaning stress may be reduced.

## Prerequisites and/or limits:

- Farmer needs to pay more attention and spend more time in the sheep barn.
- Observing lambs from suckling to feed transition period.
- Early weaning eases the lactation stress of high-producing ewes, especially young ewes.

Country: Turkey

Dairy or/and meat sheep: Meat and Dairy sheep

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

### **Attachment:**

http://www.sheep101.info/201/weaning.html

# Topic:

H

Health

Χ

Nutrition

Management

### Level of solution:

X

Knowledge



Practical

### Source of information:

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ferda-Karakus/publication/26764 2133\_Weaning\_stress\_in\_ lambs/links/5c30d47c299b f12be3af9ff5/Weaningstress-in-lambs.pdf

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