



## Gradual weaning protocol for lambs

**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:

- Health
- Nutrition
- Management

### Level of solution:

- Knowledge
- Practical

### Source of information:

[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ferda-Karakus/publication/267642133\\_Weaning\\_stress\\_in\\_lambs/links/5c30d47c299bf12be3af9ff5/Weaning-stress-in-lambs.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ferda-Karakus/publication/267642133_Weaning_stress_in_lambs/links/5c30d47c299bf12be3af9ff5/Weaning-stress-in-lambs.pdf)

