

PRE-LAMBING NUTRITION - first step to a successful lambing

By Murray Smith, Sheep specialist



Preparation can never be underestimated and feeding management pre-lambing is the first step to a successful season. The last six weeks of gestation is a crucial window where shepherds can influence results, so getting nutrition right at this stage is essential to achieve cost effective, peak performance. A colossal 75% of foetal growth takes place during this period, with a corresponding increase in the ewe's energy and protein requirements.

Ewe nutrition is vital in determining colostrum and milk quality and quantity. Colostrum should be fed quickly, in sufficient quantity and be of the right quality to give the new-born lamb the best start to life. Aim to get colostrum in new-born lambs as soon as possible, quantifying to 250ml/kg liveweight within the first 24 hours of life. The inclusion of bypass protein within the ewe's diet has been proven to boost colostrum.

In the run up to lambing, a ewe's energy requirement increases with lamb growth. A high quality, nutrient rich diet must therefore be offered to meet the growing demands. Using good quality ingredients such as energy dense cereal, molasses

and protected fat is a great way of supplying plentiful energy to the ewe. It is important to have an idea of the energy status of available forage before working out the requirement for additional feed. Depending on the system, only half the energy requirement will come from forage so giving additional feed that is high in energy is essential. If forage is particularly low in energy or if the energy requirements are not met, the ewes may fall into a negative energy balance and will run the risk of twin lamb disease.

Convenient and effective options for meeting this energy requirement include feeding buckets and compounds. **Energyze Vitality** is our high energy

feed bucket designed to provide instant energy to meet the high nutritional demands of the ewe during late pregnancy, providing the lamb with vital early nutritional support (see overleaf for more info.)

In addition to feed bucket supplementation, compound feed is also likely to be required pre-lambing. Our **ewe feed range** contains sources of energy rich ingredients to match energy demand, bypass protein to increase colostrum quality, digestible fibre to help stimulate rumen function and fish oil for increased lamb vitality.

To achieve a successful lambing this season, be nutritionally prepared and ration your ewes appropriately.

Our key products for the lambing season

Ewe compounds

We have a range of ewe compounds designed to be fed during pregnancy and after lambing to support the ewe and her lambs.

The compounds are highly palatable, quality complete feeds, high in energy and bypass protein and include fish oil. Our range includes a quality mineral package including high vitamin E and Sel-Plex.



Compound range benefits:

High energy - helps reduce risk of twin lamb disease

Boosted mineral pack - increases ewe immunity and lamb viability

Formulated to boost colostrum supply

Omega 3 Fish Oil - on farm trials show feeding fish oils pre-lambing produces lambs with the ability to stand 4 minutes quicker and suckle 9.4 minutes faster. This improvement of vigour resulted in a decrease in mortality of 3% within the first two weeks of life

Energyze Vitality

Energyze Vitality buckets are part of our three step sheep nutrition solution. We recommend introducing Energyze Vitality 6-8 weeks pre-lambing, continue feeding until lambing is complete, grass is more plentiful and additional energy is no longer needed.



Energyze Vitality is designed to:

Aid prevention of twin lamb disease

Improve colostrum quality

Help produce strong, healthy lambs

Key features and benefits include:

Propylene Glycol: An instant energy that goes straight into the blood stream, reducing the risk of twin lamb disease

Sel-Plex: An organic, elevated form of selenium, providing a threefold increase in ewe blood selenium levels. Selenium is the main trace element that influences vigour

Biosuper

Biosuper is a unique bedding conditioner which is perfect for calving and lambing pens to dry up bedding and reduce risk of infection.

The main benefits of Biosuper are:

- Decreases mortality in new born calves and lambs
- Reduces disease such as pneumonia, joint ill, mastitis and scour which can harbour in damp bedding
- Decreases bedding costs by keeping bedding drier. This means straw lasts longer
- Reduces antibiotic use. This results in reducing resistance and associated costs
- Effective in the presence of organic matter. This means lambing and calving pens can be refreshed, rather than completely mucked out between cows/ewes.



Find out what our customers have to say about these products



Your animal health requirements covered



Quality Nutrition + Effective Animal Health Practice = HIGH PERFORMANCE

The key point at lambing is prevention; by the time you are treating disease your loss is significant, and avoiding metabolic disease can pay large dividends in terms of ewe health, lamb vitality and colostrum quality.

Fully qualified animal health advisors are on hand at all Harbro Country Stores to provide free, impartial advice - helping you adopt an effective and efficient animal health programme.

Vaccination programme

Ewes must be vaccinated against the clostridial diseases four weeks before lambing, this ensures immunity is passed to the lamb through colostrum. It is advisable to vaccinate the flock as two separate groups with the later lambing ewes vaccinated one week to 10 days later than those ewes lambing during the first week.

Nutrition

Adequate ewe nutrition during the last six to eight weeks of pregnancy, when 75 per cent of foetal growth occurs, is essential to ensure appropriate lamb birthweight. In addition

to our compound feed, Energyze Vitality buckets are a great way of ensuring your ewes get intakes of energy, protein and minerals pre-lambing as well as helping to increase forage intake.

Hygiene

Disinfection is of vital importance to prevent infections at lambing. We must remember that the new born lamb comes from an almost sterile environment into a busy sheep shed or the side of a hill. Lambs are susceptible to watery mouth, an E.Coli infection, navel ill and joint ill during the early days of life and given the throughput in some lambing sheds, it is vital to try and keep cleanliness and hygiene as tight as possible.

Ensure all navels are dipped at birth as this is a portal for infection. Iodine or Hibiscrub are both good options. Lambing pens can also be an environmental source of infection. Biosuper powder can be used as means of preventing bacterial build up and reduce the risk to ewe and lambs.

Each Harbro Country Store has a Registered Animal Medicines Advisor (RAMA) who can recommend and supply certain veterinary medicines. Our team are also trained to advise on cattle, pigs, poultry, equine and pets.



All your **lambing** requirements



Vitality

Our high energy feed bucket Energyze Vitality is designed to provide instant energy and meet the high nutritional demands of the ewe during late pregnancy, providing the lamb with vital early nutritional support.



Milk replacer & colostrum



Feeders, bottles & teats



Medicines & medical supplies

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Biosuper & hygiene

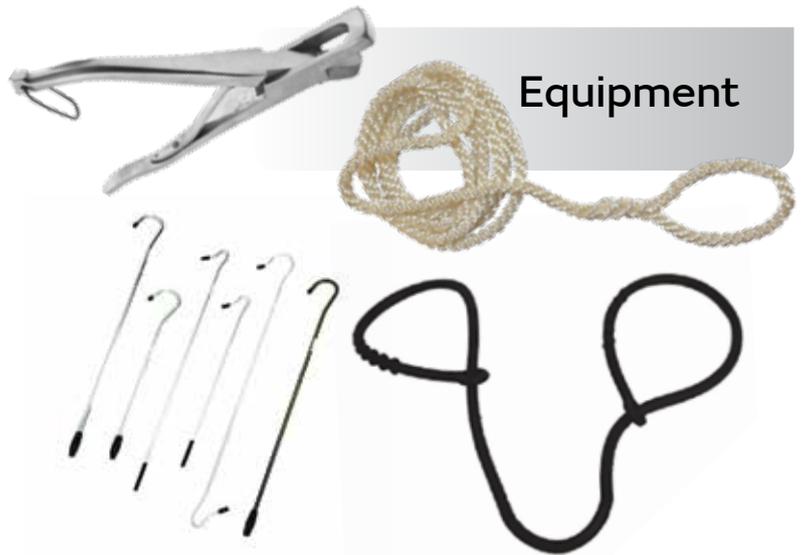
Lambing pens can be a source of infection. Use Biosuper hygiene powder to prevent bacterial build up and reduce the risk to ewe and lambs.



Warming



Equipment



Waterproofs & wellies



ORDER YOUR LAMBING SUPPLIES NOW!

Call your local Harbro Country store today.

Photos for illustrative purposes only. For stock availability and pricing contact your local Harbro Country store direct.

Our nationwide network of Harbro Country Stores

Harbro has a network of 21 country stores throughout Scotland. Our stores cover all your farm and smallholder essentials, from feed and bedding to animal health, hardware and workwear. Every store has a qualified animal health advisor to dispense a range of animal health products.

We also stock a wide range of pet food, working dog food and everything for your horse or pony. We love wild birds, and you'll find a big selection of nuts, seeds and feeds for your feathered friends instore.

Most of our stores also stock a range of fuel, from logs and briquettes and products for the garden.

- Mineral/feed buckets and bagged feed
- Animal health products
- Farm equipment and hardware
- Workwear and country clothing
- Vaccines, boluses and drenches
- Pets & working dog: food, treats, toys, accessories, beds, wormers, flea and tick treatments
- Horse & Pony: feed, bedding, supplements, accessories, wormers
- Hens at Home: feed, bedding, drinkers, feeders, coops, disinfectant, mite treatment
- Wild Bird: feed & feeders
- Fuel: logs, briquettes, coal, firelighters, kindling

There's a
Country Store
near you



What our customers say



**“the Harbro Premium Ewe 18 rolls allow
allow our ewes to rear two lambs even
after a hard winter.”**

Harbro Ewe compounds

Niall & Katy Blair run Cammock Farm in Glen Isla, Angus

As well as managing a successful herd of pedigree Salers, the Blairs also run a flock of around 450 breeding ewes, Cheviot and Cheviot crosses. All lambs either finished on farm or retained for future breeding. Twin and triplet ewes are fed Harbro Premium Ewe 18% rolls from scanning though lambing till there is enough grass.

“Some might see our feeding costs as higher than average but we are an upland farm with predominantly Cheviot ewes scanning at 190% and we feel that the Harbro rolls allow our ewes to rear two lambs even after a hard winter, whilst still giving lambs as good a start as possible which is a big advantage given that we finish all our lambs off grassland alone.”



Energyze Vitality

Andrew Jones,
Coull Farm, Islay

“We feed Energyze Vitality pre and post lambing and that has certainly meant stronger lambs for us - **they're up and on their feet much faster than in previous years.**”



Biosuper

Mark Craig,
Lantonside, Glencaple, Dumfries

“I used Biosuper in my pens last spring and I'm really pleased with the results. I didn't have any problems with joint ill at all. **Biosuper is really easy to use and the pens stayed dry and fresh. I wouldn't use anything else now.**”

FREE ONLINE LAMBING WEBINAR

Lambing for Success

Tuesday 9 February 7 - 8pm

You can watch our webinar after the event on our YouTube channel



<https://event.webinarjam.com/channel/lambingforsuccess>

Speakers include:

- **Jill Hunter, Harbro Beef & Sheep Nutritionist**
Nutrition for a successful lambing
- **Reg Jones, Glasgow Vet School**
Benchmarking at lambing time
- **Ally Anderson, Zoetis Ruminant Veterinary Consultant**
Protect your flock at lambing
- **Dr Jessica Cooke, Research Scientist, Volac**
The importance of high quality milk replacers at lambing - new research from Lamlac

WIN a lambing kit and boilersuit worth £250

We're giving away 3 lambing kits with automatic entry to the prize draw every time you purchase 5+ buckets of Energyze Vitality or 5+ bags of Harbro ewe compound. (Feb 2021 - April 2021)

How we work with you

Our team of sheep specialists are on hand to give you expert advice about the best way to maximise performance from your flock at lambing.

In these strange times there are lots of different ways we can work with you to discuss your requirements and even see your flock - **Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp, or phone calls and emails!**

Call us on **01888 545200** for details of a specialist in your area or visit us in store.



Harbro
QUALITY LIVESTOCK NUTRITION

harbro.co.uk

