

Sheep Care Instructions

I did my best to make everything as simple as possible. Ideally, the hilltop ewes would've been merged with the brooders but I still need my ram in there for a couple more weeks, so they've remained separated.

Cold temperatures and snow will lower water consumption, but it's still important that they have access to unfrozen water as much as possible (which won't be possible this coming week since I don't have the ability to heat the troughs).

I have a tool bag of basic vet supplies like Cydectin, Nutri-Drench, Jumpstart, Iron-100, Vitamin B Complex, and a few syringes. This needs to be kept in a climate controlled environment in order to maintain shelf-life. I have another bag with things like extra syringes, zip ties, 3-pound hammer, and flashlight. Keep this wherever it is convenient—your truck, on the trailer, or in the barn.

Take home with you any tools, buckets, feed, etc. if it makes easier or more efficient.

The **tractor key** will be in the toolbox mounted on the wheel-well, just take that with you or put it in your truck.

If you have any questions, uncertainty, or emergencies, call or text me at anytime of the day or night: 931-996-1353.

Breeding Flock

- **Water:** 15-20 gallons per day is generally enough with excess.
 - o However, I think I would aim to maintain at least 25 gallons in the trough to prevent the water from completely freezing top to bottom, since then it would be difficult to break and clean out.
- **Feed:** 1.5 gallons of feed per day dispensed into 6 black tubs.
 - o Two methods: either put all the feed into one bucket and then eyeball roughly equal portions (which is what I typically do since I don't normally have it premixed), or you can dump 1 quart of mixed feed into 6 tubs to equal 1.5 gallons.
 - o I lay out all the tubs into a 2x3 grid on the trailer or ground, pour the feed, then stack all 6 tubs, and drop one at a time about 6-10 ft away from other tubs as I go by pressing my fingers on the bottom tub.
- **Hay:** A fresh hay bale is set out and should last the entire week.
 - o If it doesn't last, just use hay from the bale that you use to feed the lambs.
- **Minerals:** Just monitor consumption, I put one or two cups of salt out at a time, and then refill either when it gets low or is sitting in water from rain.
 - o More salt is located in a sealed white bucket that has a measuring cup inside.

- o Mineral feeder is located either next to the drinking trough or shelter, or inside the shelter.

Hilltop Flock

- **Water:** 10-15 gallons per day is generally enough with excess.
 - o This trough is insulated and performs best when kept filled (i.e. 50 gallons).
 - o It has draw latches on the front, unlatch them and lift the lid up like a chest if you need to for filling up or breaking ice. I don't have springs on it yet, so just set a bucket under the lid to support it.
 - o **Note:** Once the trough gets more than halfway empty, the sheep start having issues with reaching the remaining water.
- **Feed:** 1 gallon of feed per day dispensed into 4 black tubs.
 - o Same methods as before. 1 quart of feed per tub.
- **Hay:** A hay bale is set out and should last the entire week.
 - o If it doesn't last, just pull hay from the bale that you use to feed the lambs.
- **Minerals:** Just monitor consumption, I put one or two cups of salt at a time and then refill either when it gets low or is sitting in water from rain.
 - o Mineral feeder is located inside the shelter.

Lambs

- **Water:** 10-15 gallons per day is generally sufficient, but some days they drink all 10-15 gallons.
 - o Located in the northwest corner of the pen
- **Feed:** 1 gallon of feed per day dispensed into 4 black tubs.
 - o Same methods as before. 1 quart of feed per tub.
 - o I just drop these over the fence and close enough where I can stick my hand in there and grab it when they're finished or shake the grain.
 - o Some lambs like to stick their front legs into the tubs, leaving behind manure from their feet that no one wants. They'll eat around a little bit, but typically just have to dump it out because they won't eat anymore even if you remove the manure.
- **Hay:** I peel layers off the bale and pile the hay up along the east side about 3-4 ft high.
 - o Try to keep the hale piled as close to the fence as possible.
 - o Re-pile any hay that they didn't eat the day before. They can't reach the bottom 8-10 inches of the pile real well, so I just re-adjust any hay that fell out of their reach.
- **Minerals:** Just monitor consumption, I put one or two cups of salt at a time and then refill either when it gets low or is sitting in water from rain.
 - o It's a hanging mineral feeder next to the trough.

Extra information:

I have 12 gallons of feed already premixed (50/50 Corn:Sheep Mix) in three five gallon buckets (labeled) in the barn, so that'll cover a few days consumption without having to do any mixing or fumbling with bags. Once you need more mixed feed, you can either do batches or just the amount you need for the daily feeding (there are three 5 gallon buckets in the barn with broken handles that I use for this). For batches, dump a gallon of each feed into a bucket, mix by hand, and then repeat once more for 4 gallons of mixed feed.

You can get the trailer on the tractor with a hay bale on the spear *if: the bale has had a few layers removed and both levers are maxed.*

The tractor has plenty of fuel for daily use, the gauge doesn't read consistently.