



SHEEP SHEET

by **Dr. Lyle G. McNeal**, Executive Director,
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Hays:

Color

Green feed is normally higher in all vitamins, particularly vitamin A (as carotene) and riboflavin, and the green color indicates the hay has not been rained on excessively.

Type

Legume hays such as alfalfa, clovers and vetches are normally considerably higher in protein, vitamin A, and minerals (especially calcium) than grass hays.

Stem-to-leaf Ratio

A high leaf ratio makes a feed more nutritious and palatable, and such feed has a greater value/ton.

Date of Cutting

This is one of the best indicators of feed value. As hays (forages) mature, they decline appreciably in protein and phosphorous, increase in fiber, and decrease in digestibility

Grains:

Bushel Weight

For example oats weight 26 lbs./bushel have more fiber, less energy, and therefore less feed value than heavy oats, weighing 34-36 lbs./bushel.

Color and Smell

Grains should be clean and bright colored. A dull gray appearance indicates grains have been rained on and may be 'musty' or have mold and bacteria growth on them.

Visual Evaluation of Sheep Feeds

Sheepdex: N-7

Foreign Material

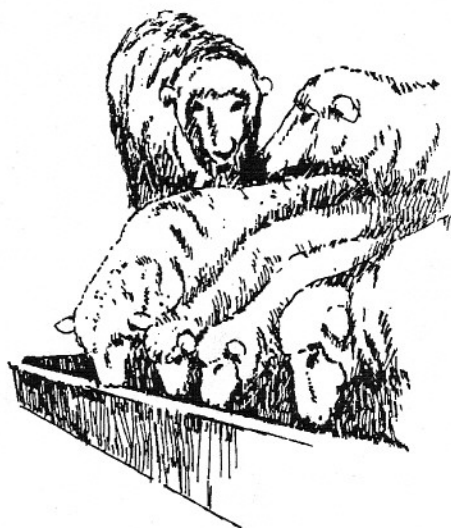
Portions of cob, weed seeds, stones, etc. have not nutritional value and reduce feed value, and increase costs/unit weight.

Kind of Grain

The energy value of grains varies widely. Corn is considerably higher in energy value than oats; conversely oats are higher in protein than corn.

Moisture Content

Corn and sorghums, in particular, may contain excessive moisture and thus be subject to mold and spoilage. In addition, excess moisture adds weight, but no feed value.



The Navajo Sheep Project;
Serving People, Preserving Cultures, Inc.
(is a non-profit organization)
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