



SHEEP SHEET

by **Dr. Lyle G. McNeal**, *Executive Director,
NSP; Sheep & Wool Specialist;*
Copyright© printed on recycled paper

Plan Ahead

- ▶ Record how many animals you feed during a "normal" year.
- ▶ Record how much you fed the animals (either how much you fed each day or the total amount of feed you fed for the year).
- ▶ You may want to record the amount of time you have to feed your sheep during one year. This will also help you decide how much feed you will need for another year.
- ▶ The amount of feed needed will differ from year to year as a result of changing weather conditions such as drought!

Shop Around

- ▶ Knowing how much you can expect to use will allow you to "shop around" to find the amount and quality of feed you want for a reasonable price.
- ▶ Buy directly from the feed growers. The grower can sell feed to you for less than you can get it for through a "middleman".

Buy Feed in Larger Amounts

- ▶ Feed producers are willing to sell their product for less when it is purchased in larger amounts.
- ▶ Many livestock producers do not need large amounts of feed. It would be to your advantage to get your friends, neighbors, and family members to buy feed together.
- ▶ Buying in bulk can result in a reduced cost for each person involved.
- ▶ When larger amounts are bought the feed producer will often deliver the feed at little or no extra cost to the buyer.

Reducing Feed Costs

Sheepdex N-4

A Storage Facility

- ▶ A storage facility is needed if you are going to purchase feed in larger amounts for later use.
- ▶ A relatively inexpensive storage facility is a simple mesh wire fenced hay stackyard.
- ▶ In the case of other types of feeds such as pellets or grain it will be necessary to use barrels or some type of building to protect the feed from moisture, rodents, and livestock.

Be Prepared

- ▶ Being prepared by knowing approximately how much feed you will need and purchasing the feed during the harvest season will save you money and you will not have to worry about where the feed you need for your animals will be coming from.
- ▶ There will always be rough times like droughts that will force sheep producers to buy extraordinary amounts of feed just to keep their animals alive.
- ▶ There will also be less difficult times when only a little extra feed will be needed to carry the animals through until they can be turned out to graze again.
- ▶ Other years sheep producers may find themselves with left over feed. This feed can be used later, but will lose some of the nutritional quality that it once had.
- ▶ These difficult situations just mentioned always catch people by surprise, and cause them to have to buy extra livestock feed for higher prices than they would normally pay.

Remember:

- ▶ Plan Ahead
- ▶ Shop Around
- ▶ Buy in Quantity
- ▶ Use Safe Storage
- ▶ Be Prepared



Feed Procurement Planning:



To Plan for 6 Months Use One of the Following:

1. To determine the number of BALES of hay needed PER WEEK:

Number of animals _____ X _____ number of bales fed/week X 24 weeks = _____ bales needed for 6 months.

_____ bales X _____ cost/bale = \$ _____ the amount of money needed to buy feed for 6 months.

2. To determine the number of TONS of hay needed PER MONTH:

Number of animals _____ X _____ number of tons fed/month X 6 months = _____ tons needed for 6 months.

_____ tons X _____ cost/ton = \$ _____ the amount of money needed to buy feed for 6 months.

Comparison of Cost/bale and Weight per Bale Feed Purchases:

	Weight/Bale (lbs)	Cost/Bale (\$)	Cost/Ton (\$)
Feed Purchase	75	2.50 - 3.50	67.50 - 94.50
Feed Purchase	75	4.00 - 5.50	108.00 - 148.50
Feed Purchase	75	6.00 - 7.50	162.00 - 202.50
Feed Purchase	75	8.00 - 9.50	216.00 - 256.50
Feed Purchase	75	10.00 - 15.00	270.00 - 405.00
Feed Purchase	120	2.50 - 3.50	42.50 - 59.50
Feed Purchase	120	4.00 - 5.50	68.00 - 93.50
Feed Purchase	120	6.00 - 7.50	102.00 - 127.50
Feed Purchase	120	10.00 - 15.00	170.00 - 255.00

ADDITIONAL NOTES:



For more information write The Navajo Sheep Project, Inc.
 PO Box 4454, Logan, UT 84323-4454.
 The Navajo Sheep Project is a registered non-profit Utah corporation.