

FLUSHING

Sheep

The purpose of flushing in sheep is to obtain optimal ovulation tempo in ewes which could result in an increased lamb percentage (increased % of multiples).

The purpose of flushing is not to rectify existing problems. Ewes in a poor condition (< 2 condition count) or ewes that are too fat (> 3 condition count) will not benefit from flushing.

It is recommended that flushing commences 3 weeks prior to mating.

Cattle

The purpose of flushing in cattle is to that the condition of the beef cow is improved to such an extend that she will be able to re-conceive within 3 months after calving.

During late lactation and early pregnancy the cow's nutritional needs are low and condition may even be lost. Nutrition is however, essential during late pregnancy and early lactation with a view to

- giving birth to a strong calf
- producing sufficient milk for the calf
- resuming regular heat periods within 3 months after calving and re-conception within that period — the ideal is that a cow should calve with a condition count of 3.5 to 4.

The following lick is recommended for flushing:

Raw materials	Kg/mixture	Analysis of lick
Maize-meal	550	ME = 7.8 MJ
Cotton-seed oilcake	150	CP = 27.8 %
Feed Grade Urea	75	NPN = 61.2 %
Kimtrafos 12 Grande/PhosSure 12	75	Ca = 1.9 %
Feed Grade Sulphur	5	P = 1.0 %
Kalori 3000	50	S = 0.5 %
Salt	250	
TOTAL	1155	
Intake (Sheep)	100 - 200g/day	
Intake (Cattle)	800 - 1200g/day	

It is not always necessary to mix a lick especially for flushing. If available, rested camps (natural and cultivated), good quality legume pastures (plus energy/ mineral lick) and grain stubble fields, can also be used for flushing.