

# ASSESSMENT OF FEEDING ALTERNATIVES IN SHEEP AND GOAT FARMS IN TURKEY



Sheep and goats have different nutrient needs at different physiological periods. Additional feeding programs to be implemented during these periods will increase farm productivity

## HIGHER TWIN LAMBING RATE

*The experiments were conducted in 2 farms with creep feeding and survival, growth, weaning and fattening performance were assessed.*



## AN EFFECTIVE FEEDING REGIME IS VERY IMPORTANT TO INCREASE THE SURVIVAL RATES, PREGNANCY, LAMBING AND FECUNDITY

The majority of the world's goat population is found in the small holding farming systems where nutritional conditions are often sub-optimal. It is usually located at the edge of the forests, inadequate areas for cultivation, steep land and in places that are not suitable for other animal species. The farmers maintain their flock on community grazing land. Thus, the production system usually relies on communal grasslands which are poor in nutritive quality if not improved. We believe that supplementary feeding before mating has positive effects on Body Condition Score (BCS) and reproductive traits.

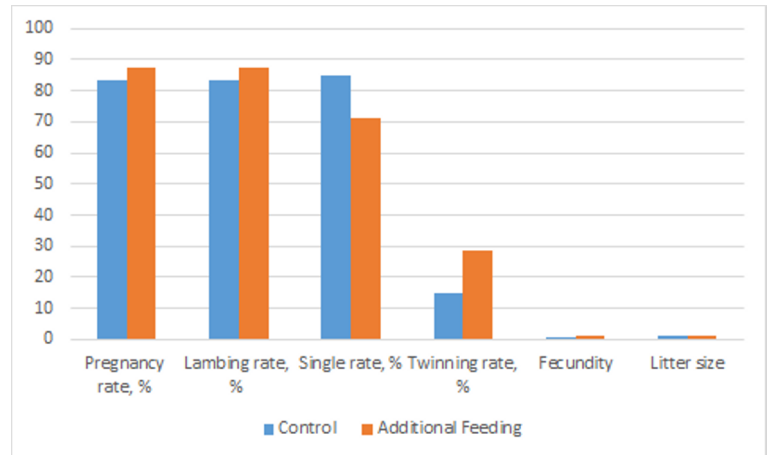


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**EWES WITH A SCORE OF 2.5-3.5 WILL PROVIDE OPTIMUM PRODUCTION AND PROFITABILITY**

## FARMER SURVEY

24 ewes had lower than 2 BCS. They were fed with 300 gr additional feed during one month before the mating and during the mating. Also, they were fed with the same feeding regime in their late pregnancy period. for one month.



**EFFECTS OF ADDITIONAL FEEDING BEFORE THE MATING PERIOD ON THE REPRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE OF AKKARAMAN EWES**

## FARM EXPERIMENT

The animals of the experimental research were divided into two groups that consisted of 24 ewes with a lower than 2 BCS. Each group was divided into two sub-groups, as additive feeding group and control group. The research group was fed additionally for 21 days before mating and during the mating period. The control group was not fed additionally and managed on natural pasture according to the traditional system of the farm.



## CREEP FEEDING

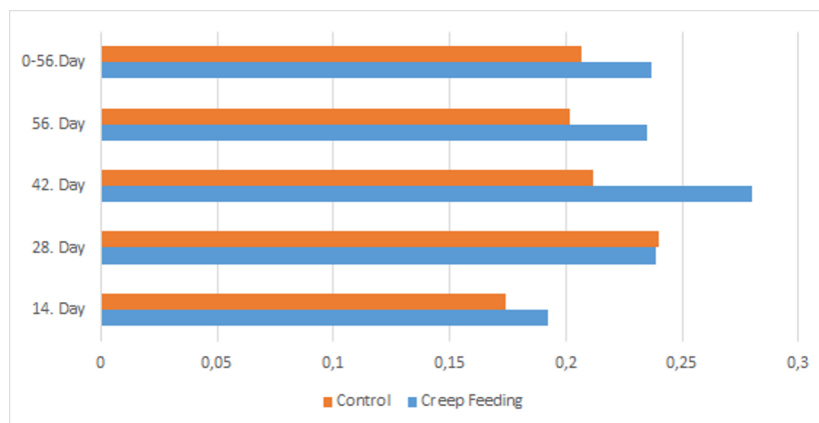
**DOES A HEAVY EWE MEAN SHE IS IN GOOD BODY CONDITION?**

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## CREEP FEEDING HELPS WITH EARLY WEANING

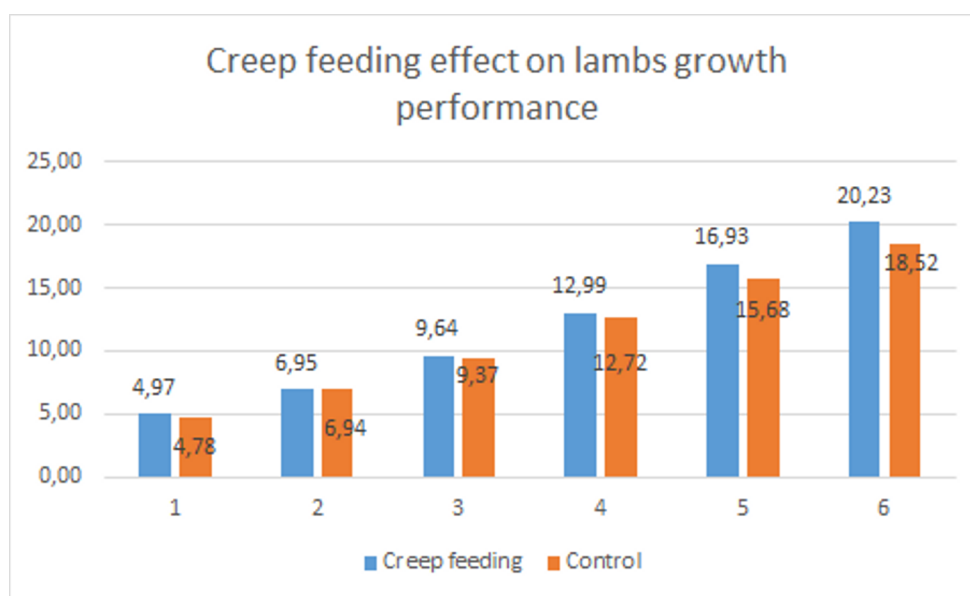
### CREEP FEEDING

One of the most important aspects of starting lambs, feeding is providing a place where they can reach the feed while ewes cannot. This technique is known as creep feeding lambs and can be sophisticated and complex, or a simple wooden design. For some, lamb feeding will begin with nibbling typically alfalfa hay at a young age (7-10 days) It is a good idea to place a small amount of high quality alfalfa inside the lamb's creep feeder to entice lambs to enter and begin eating.



**CREEP FEEDING EFFECT ON DAILY LIVE WEIGHT GAIN OF LAMBS**

In this study, the effects of creep feeding on pre-weaning growth performance and lambs survival rate of Akkaraman lambs were researched in Nigde province during the lambing season.



**THE TRADITIONAL LAMB REARING FARMING SYSTEM LAMBS WERE FED ONLY EWES' MILK DURING THEIR FIRST 90 DAYS AFTER BIRTH. THE CREEP FEEDING CONTINUED FOR 56 DAYS AND CONSISTED OF CONCENTRATES AND EWE'S MILK AND FRESH WATER AD LIBITUM UNTIL WEANING AGE**

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## SHEEP BREEDING

*Sheep breeding is vital in animal production in Turkey. Sheep have the ability to transform poor grasslands, which are widespread in Turkey. Akkaraman sheep is the most widespread sheep breed in Turkey, and is used as a multipurpose breed.*

## CHANGING THE FEEDING STRATEGY INCREASES LAMB PRODUCTION



1

The results of the study show that additive feeding of Hairy goats before their mating season has generally a positive effect on pregnancy, kidding, twinning rate, fecundity, litter size and survival rate

2

The period from birth to weaning is important for the growth and survival of lambs. Creep feeding can improve lamb production and decrease mortality rate

3

Additive feeding before mating and lambing has a beneficial effect on the lambing and twinning rates

4

Lambs' survival rates were affected positively from supplementary feeding.

**FEED YOUR FLOCK IN TIME, BE MORE PROFITABLE**

**THANKS:** To the breeders, association and participating farmers

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