



Advantage Feeders



BARLEY SUPPLEMENT INCREASES PRODUCTION



Barley-supplemented lambs from Advantage Feeders on lucerne pasture achieved significantly higher weight gain compared to lambs on lucerne pasture alone.

RESULTS

Stock offered 100grams/day of barley gained 350 grams/day of live weight – those without gained just 250grams/day of live weight.

An added benefit was that lambs were away quicker, consuming less fodder and allowing more lambs to be finished on the Lucerne pasture.

ADVANTAGE FEEDERS MOB \$11.81 PER HEAD HIGHER PROFIT

TRIAL OUTLINE

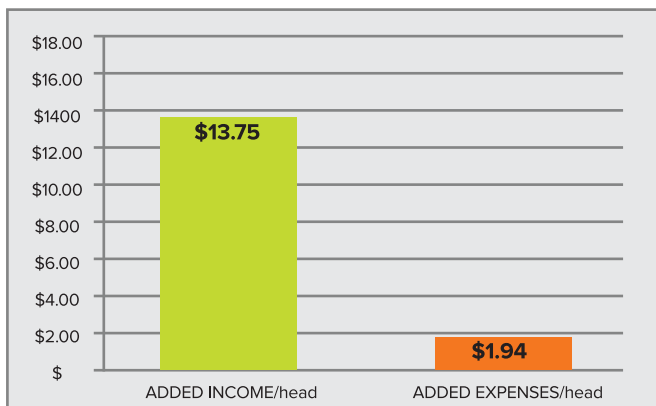
- Duration:** Approx. 50 days
- Equipment:** 2 x NGF1800 in the supplement group
- Quantity:** Approx. 800 lambs in each group
- Stock type:** Weaned lambs
- Feed amount:** 100gram/day of barley



Average live weight gain (grams/head/day)



Added income versus added expenses per head



Added feeding expenses and income

Number of lambs	800
Feeding duration (days)	50
Average barley consumption/day/head (kg)	0.1
Barley cost (tonne)	\$220.00
Total barley cost	\$880.00
Labour*	\$120.00
Depreciation**	\$555.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$1,555.00
TOTAL EXPENSE/LAMB	\$1.94
Added growth rate/day/head (kg)	0.1
Value of live weight/kg	\$2.75
TOTAL INCOME***	\$11,000.00
TOTAL INCOME/LAMB	\$13.75
TOTAL PROFIT	\$9,445.00
TOTAL PROFIT/LAMB	\$11.81

* The feeders were filled twice, taking one hour to fill both feeders each time at a rate of \$60/hour.

** This is calculated by multiplying a depreciation rate of 15% and the investment of two feeders \$3,700.

*** This doesn't include the added potential to finish more lambs on the Lucerne because they are sold quicker with lower pasture consumption.

ABOUT THE TRIAL OPERATORS

Bill and Sheila Wright operate a 390ha dry stock farm in Cave, 28km Northwest of Timaru, NZ, where they farm 850 breeding ewes, 250 hoggets, 130 bull calves, 130 rising 2 y.o. bulls and graze 500 dairy heifers. They also finish 1500 lambs per year on 70 Ha of Lucerne.

COMMENTS FROM THE TRIAL OPERATORS

The high quality pasture has high protein levels but doesn't always allow stock to reach potential weight gains. Adding grain and straw helps balance the diet by increasing carbohydrates and fibre.

I introduced the feeders to lambs and ewes in spring and it didn't take long for stock to get used to the system of getting barley from the feeders. Lambs are naturally inquisitive, grain is like lollies to them. A good number of sheep have had grain before, so it didn't take long for them to work out how to get it from the feeders. The study was anything but scientific – It is only over one season with one mob, but the results are exciting.

I grow 30ha of barley to keep supplement costs low but the system should work with bought-in barley, as the returns are significant.