

## **Advantages of Using Dry Distillers Grains with Solubles in Sheep Rations**

- **DDGS can provide a cost competitive source of protein and energy in lamb rations.**
- **DDGS can be an excellent feedstuff to add protein and energy to ewe rations, especially those based on lower quality roughage sources like cornstalks.**
- **The low levels of copper make it acceptable in sheep rations.**
- **Nutrient profile of DDGS:**
  - Contains 30% Crude Protein on a dry matter basis.
  - Contains energy levels equal to and possibly up to 15% greater than corn.
  - Contain elevated levels of phosphorous (.84%) compared to corn.
- **Recommended feeding practices:**
  - Lamb finishing rations should be limited to 10% DDGS.**
    - Higher inclusion levels of DDGS may be economical but generally reduce intake and potentially performance. This reduced intake may be due to the higher levels of fat.
    - Higher levels of DDGS increase the risk of urinary calculi from high phosphorous levels.
  - Ewe rations based on low quality roughages.**
    - DDGS can be used to formulate a nutrient balanced ration for ewes.
    - Unpublished work recently conducted by Iowa State University observed DDGS would be more advantageous in lactating ewe diets based on low quality roughages compared to alfalfa hay.
- **Precautions and/or concerns with Dry Milling Products**
  - Calcium:phosphorous ratios in lamb finishing rations are more critical with DDGS included and increase the risk of urinary calculi.
  - Variation from ewe to ewe and from day to day on ad libitum condensed distillers solubles (syrup) might result in acidosis or other digestive disorders.

For additional information on feeding distillers grains to sheep, contact:

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