



# Flock Forum

by  
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Penn State Extension Sheep Specialist



## Self-Feeding Brood Ewes by Clair Engle

There have been some inquiries concerning self-feeding complete ground mixed rations to gestating and lactating ewes. The two main advantages of self-feeding a ground mixed ration are reduced labor in feeding and more efficient use of lower quality roughages. Like extended feeding of quality silage, self-fed ewes tend to get too fat. Also the neglect of making a daily observation by the producer of ewes on a self-feeder could prove to be costly should nutrition-

al or health problems go undetected.

Utilizing poorer quality forages certainly is the most apparent advantage for using a self-feeding program, especially if the past summer's drought has drastically reduced your forage quality. Over conditioning can best be controlled by limiting the time ewes have access to the self-feeder.

Some recent studies at the University of Illinois does indicate that ewes can be satisfactorily self-fed. A couple rations formulated that have produced satisfactory results are listed in Table 1.



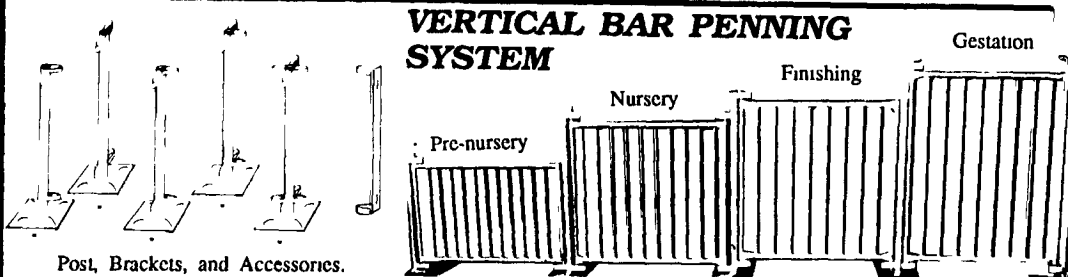
Table 1. Rations for Self-Feeding Brook Ewes.

	Corn Cob Ration			Oat Hay Ration		
	Early Gestation	Late Gestation	Lactation	Early Gestation	Late Gestation	Lactation
	pounds					
Comcobs, ground	70	60	55	--	--	--
Oat hay, ground (a)	--	--	--	85	70	64
Alfalfa meal	5	5	5	5	5	5
Corn, ground	13	20	20	10	20	20
Soybean meal	12	15	20	0	5	11
Steamed bone meal	1	1	1	1	1	1
Salt, trace-mineralized	1	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	0.5

(Turn to Page C9)

# HOG CONFINEMENT EQUIPMENT

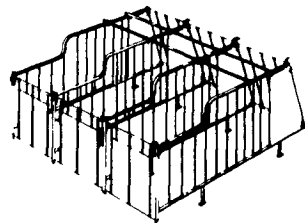
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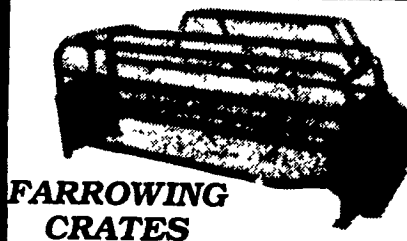
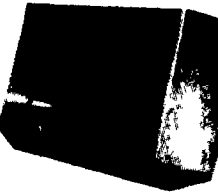


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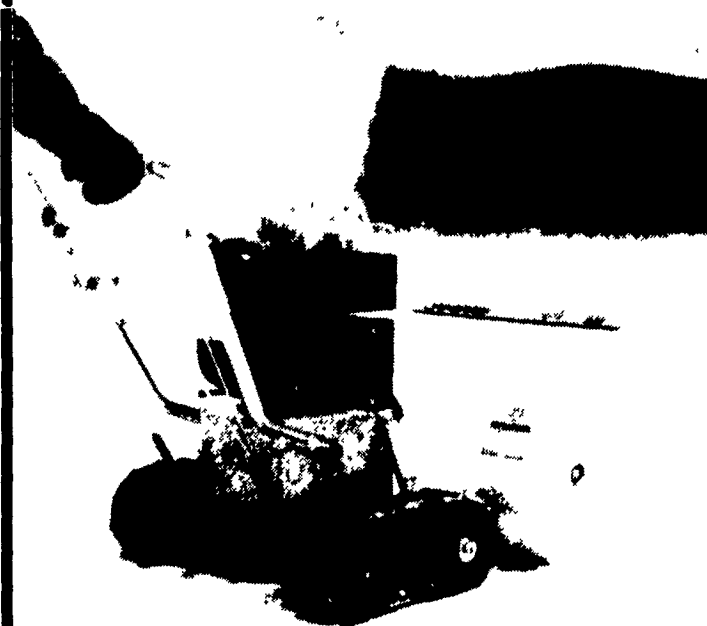
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