

Lamb Induction Protocol

The transition from paddock to a grain-based diet is the highest-risk period in the feedlotting process. A slow, steady, and consistent approach is crucial to prevent acidosis and ensure all lambs adapt successfully.

Preparing for Arrival: 7 Days Prior to Induction

Proper animal health preparation sets the stage for success. While lambs are still on paddock feed, or as soon as they arrive, implement the following:



Vaccination:

A minimum of 3 in 1 vaccination is essential to protect against pulpy kidney if it's been more than 3 months since the last vaccination



Drench:

Conduct a worm egg count to determine if drenching is required. If so, use an effective drench with no known resistance. For lambs from drier areas, a triple drench is recommended. For high-risk areas, consider using a new drench class.



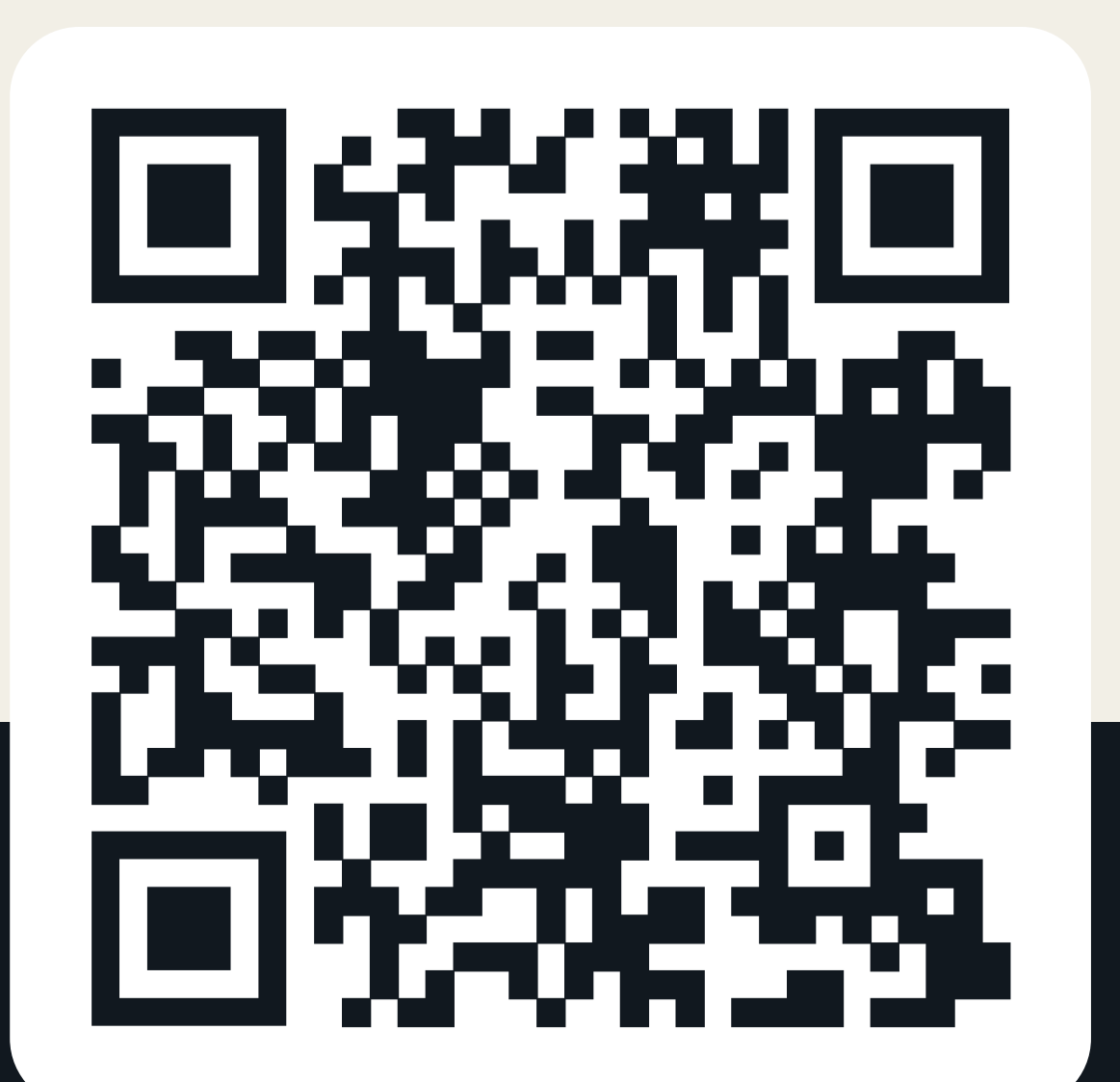
Vitamins:

Supplement with B12 in high-stress situations or if cobalt deficiency is a risk. If lambs have had limited access to green feed, over the last 3 months, supplementing with Vitamin A, D & E should be considered.



Initial Feed:

Place newly arrived lambs in an induction pen with ad-lib hay.



The Critical First 15 Days

Day 1

Introduce **100g/head/day** of grain ration + high quality feedlot additive pellet. Provide ad-lib good quality roughage (i.e cereal, vetch, lucerne hay or silage).

Tip:

If possible, these small amounts would mirror the eventual full feedlot ration i.e barley, lupins plus additive pellet.

Day 2

Feed out **100g/head/day** of the ration until all animals are lining up at the feed trough. Provide ad-lib good quality roughage.

Tip:

Increase on Day 2 if all animals went to the trough on Day 1, otherwise continue feeding 100g/head/day until they all all come to the trough.

Day 3-12

Once all lambs are eating well, increase ration by **100g/head/day** in troughs until reaching **1kg/head/day**. Provide ad-lib good quality roughage.

Tip:

This can be done within 10 days if animals are all lining up and eating grain ration on the first day.

Day 10-14

Continue to feed **1-1.2kg/head/day** and open self-feeders with same grain ration and additive pellet. Provide ad-lib good quality roughage.

Tip:

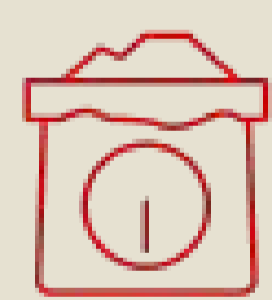
The number of days it takes to transition to the finisher ration / feeders is dependent on how quickly they all line up initially.

Day 15+ (The Finishing Phase)

Lambs will consume grain ration from self-feeders or trough. Once the bale of good quality hay is consumed, swap to Ad-lib straw.

Tip:

The straw provides effective fibre without filling the lambs up, encouraging them to consume more of the high-energy grain ration. Total ration consumption should be around 3.5% of the lambs' bodyweight.



Feeder Guidelines

Allow 3cm per head of self-feeder space for the finishing ration.



Water Access

Clean water with high flow rate to be provided in the pen.



Trough Space Allocation

If introducing in troughs allow 20-25cm per head minimum single sided trough space.

