

Is it Worth it to Shed Lamb?

Using Partial Budgets to Make Business
Decisions

C. Kim Chapman, M.S.,
Extension Professor/Small Ruminant Specialist

Why Shed Lamb?

- Potential for increasing marketable lambs
 - 50-70% more lambs at marking
 - Increased ability to manage ewes during lambing
 - Decreased losses to depredation of newborns
- Potentially more money



Considerations

- Added Income
- Added/Reduced Costs
- Changes in Management Needed
- Facilities/Equipment Needs
- Human Resources Needed
- Health Issues



How do I know which is best?

- Partial Budgeting
- Costs vs. Benefits
 - Costs
 - Added Costs
 - Reduced Returns
 - Benefits
 - Added Returns
 - Reduced Costs

Scenario

- 1,000 ewes range/pasture lambed
- 160% lamb crop at birth
- 120% lamb crop at marking
- Have a shed that can double as lambing barn
- One herder plus yourself
- Projected lamb crop at marking is 150%
- Will it pay to switch to shed lambing?

Questions

C. Kim Chapman
USU Extension
435-979-6343
kim.chapman@usu.edu