Is it Worth it to Shed Lamb?

Using Partial Budgets to Make Business Decisions

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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?
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