Reducing Labor at Lambing Time

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Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program
www.pipestonesheep.com

- Established in 1972
- Initially funded by the National Sheep Industry Development Board (SID) and Minnesota Department of Education
- Sheep Producer Group
- Online On Site Sheep Management Education
Keys to Reducing Labor at Lambing

- Housing
- Barn Layout Flow
- Easy Watering systems
- Easy Feeding systems
- Easy Bedding systems
Housing

- Environmentally controlled
  - Warm
  - Well Ventilated

A good ventilation system must:
  - Provide fresh air
  - Control the moisture buildup
  - Move air to dilute airborne disease
  - Control temperature extremes
### Housing Space Requirements

#### Building Floor Space

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<tr>
<td>Dry Ewes 150-200 lbs.</td>
<td>12-16 Sq. Ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ewes plus Lambs</td>
<td>15-20 Sq Ft.</td>
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<td>Lambda rates above 170 add 5</td>
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<td>Pre-wean Lambs, 5-30 lbs.</td>
<td>1.5-2 Sq. ft. Creep Space/lamb</td>
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Source: Sheep Housing and Equipment Handbook – MWPS-3
Barn Layout Flow “Low Labor”

- Sheep movement and handling
- Logical Lambing Barn Layout (short distance principle)
  - Drop Area
  - Lambing pens
  - Grouping pens
  - Artificial rearing area
Easy Watering Systems

- Water pens without carrying water
- Most essential nutrient
- Water availability and quality
- Labor savings
- 6” diameter tubes work best
- 24-27” height
- Water opening
Easy Feeding Systems
Easy Feeding Systems
Easy Feeding Systems
Easy Bedding systems
Other make it easy practices
Walk through gates
Example building layout
Narrow Building

[Diagram of a narrow building layout with grid lines and sections divided by dashed lines]
Example building layout
Narrow Building
Flow through Lambing Shed