



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

Mouthing Sheep for Age

The approximate age of a sheep can be determined by their teeth. All sheep have 8 lower incisors. From birth to approximately 1 year of age, sheep have milk teeth. Each year, until 4 years of age, 1 pair of immature incisors are replaced with permanent incisors.



Birth to 1 year
8 milk teeth
No wear



1 year of age
2 middle permanent incisors
6 milk teeth



2 years of age
4 permanent incisors
4 milk teeth



3 years of age
6 permanent incisors
2 milk teeth



4 years of age
8 permanent incisors
No wear



5+ years of age
8 permanent incisors
Gapping and wear



Broken mouthed
5+ years of age
Severe wear
broken or missing teeth