



**LIFE CYCLE
FEEDING**

Feeding Your Sheep or Goat Enterprise

Resources

Pasture or Hay
Homegrown Grain
or Commercial Feed
Facilities
Capital

And.....



Production Goals

Commercial

Pasture-Based

Drylot

Conventional Lambing

Accelerated Lambing



Production Goals

Purebred

Show

Seedstock Producer

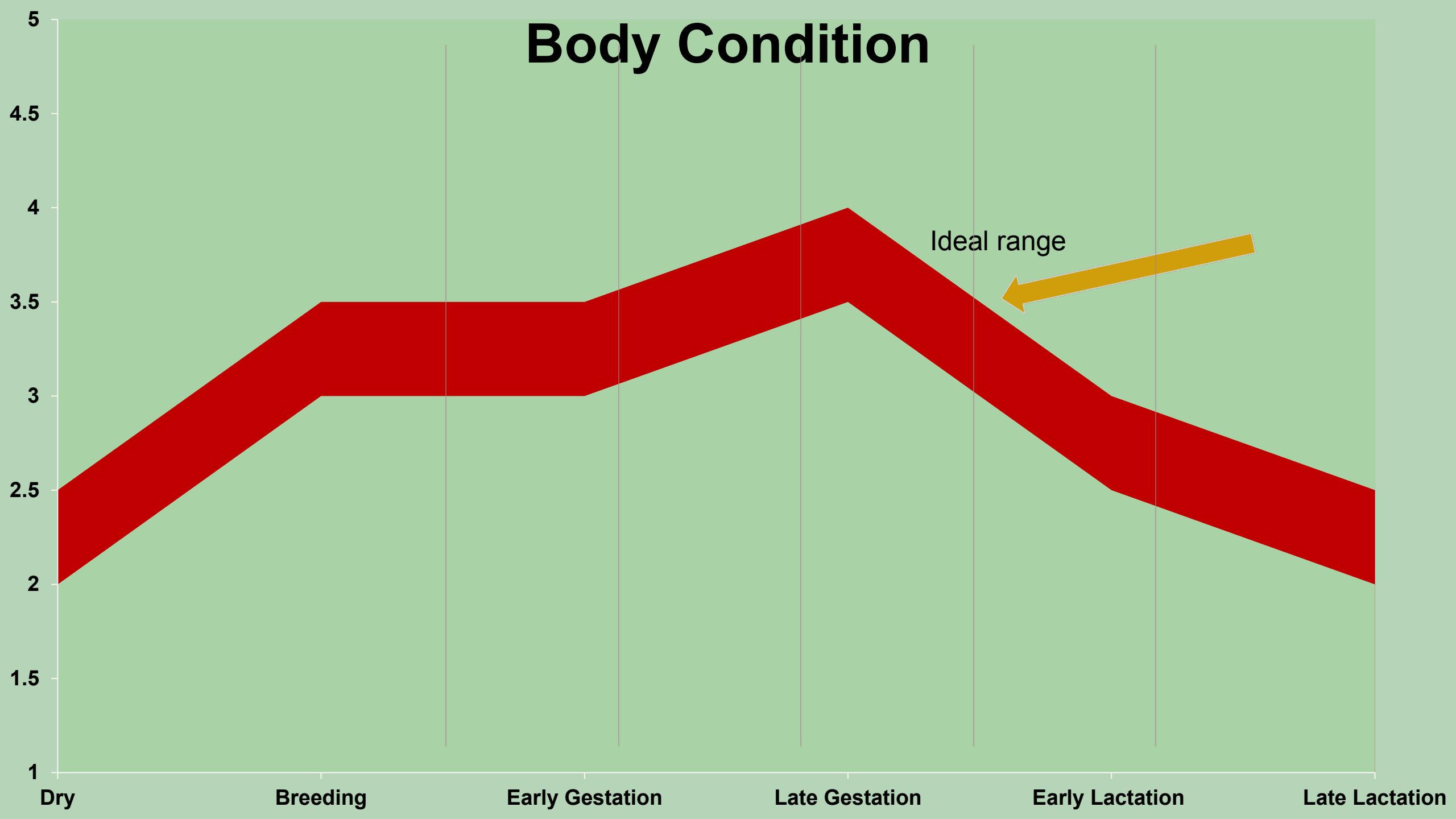
Club Lamb

Show

Seedstock Producer



Body Condition



Scoring: 1 - 5



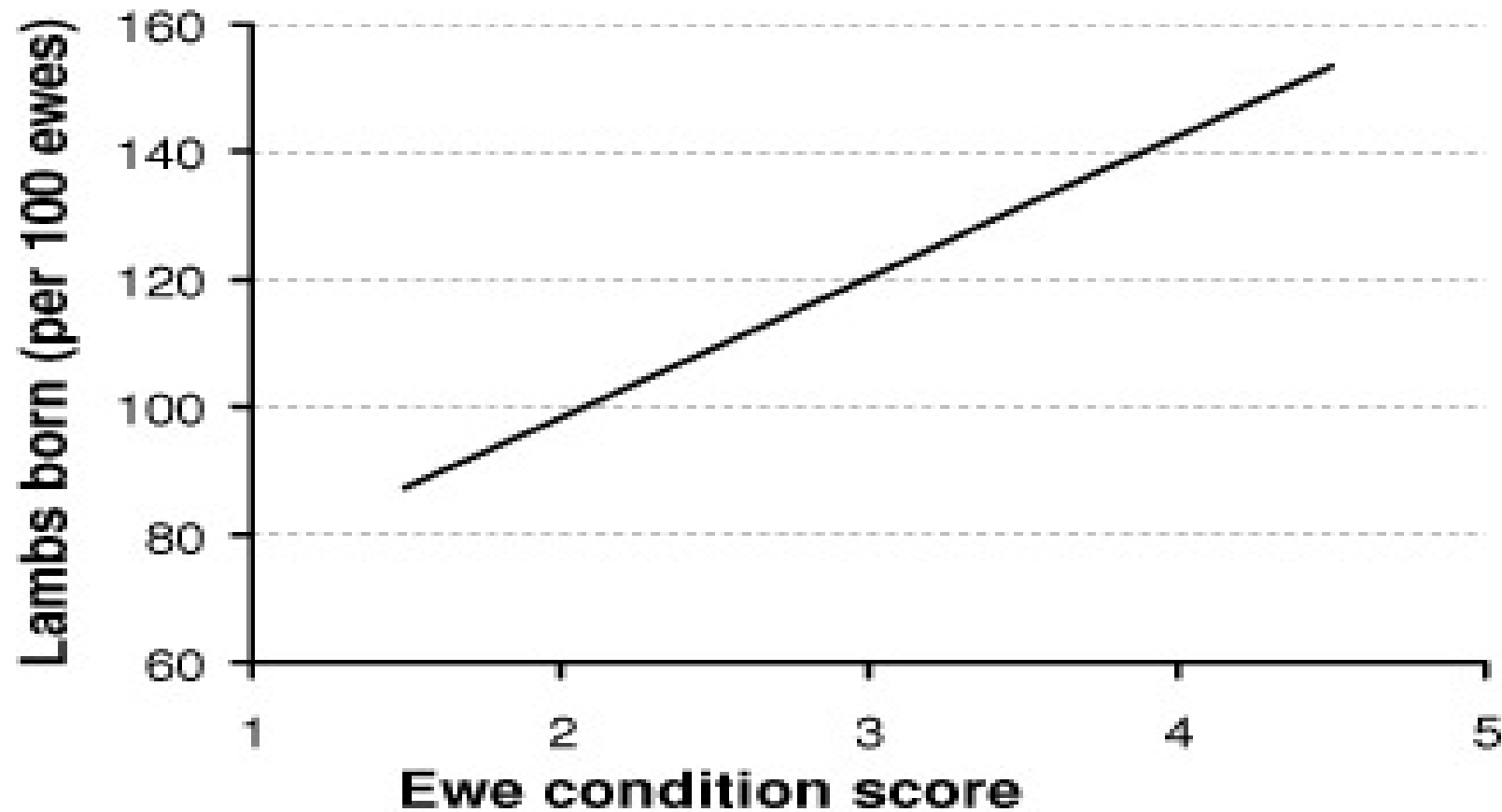
BCS 2



BCS 4

BODY CONDITION

Ewe Condition Score at breeding and the number of lambs born



PRE-BREEDING / BREEDING

- ▶ FLUSHING – females are gaining weight at breeding
- ▶ GOAL – Increase ovulation and therefore increase birth rates
- ▶ Begin 2 weeks prior to turning males in and continue for 4 weeks into the breeding season.
- ▶ HOW? Increase energy.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of grain or commercial feed
 per head per day

PRE-BREEDING / BREEDING

Days 30-90 post-breeding are critical!

Embryos implant into uterus (around day 20)

Mammary gland development (days 30-90)

Placenta development (days 30-90)

Wool follicles develop (days 30-90)

MINERAL BALANCE IS CRITICAL!!!

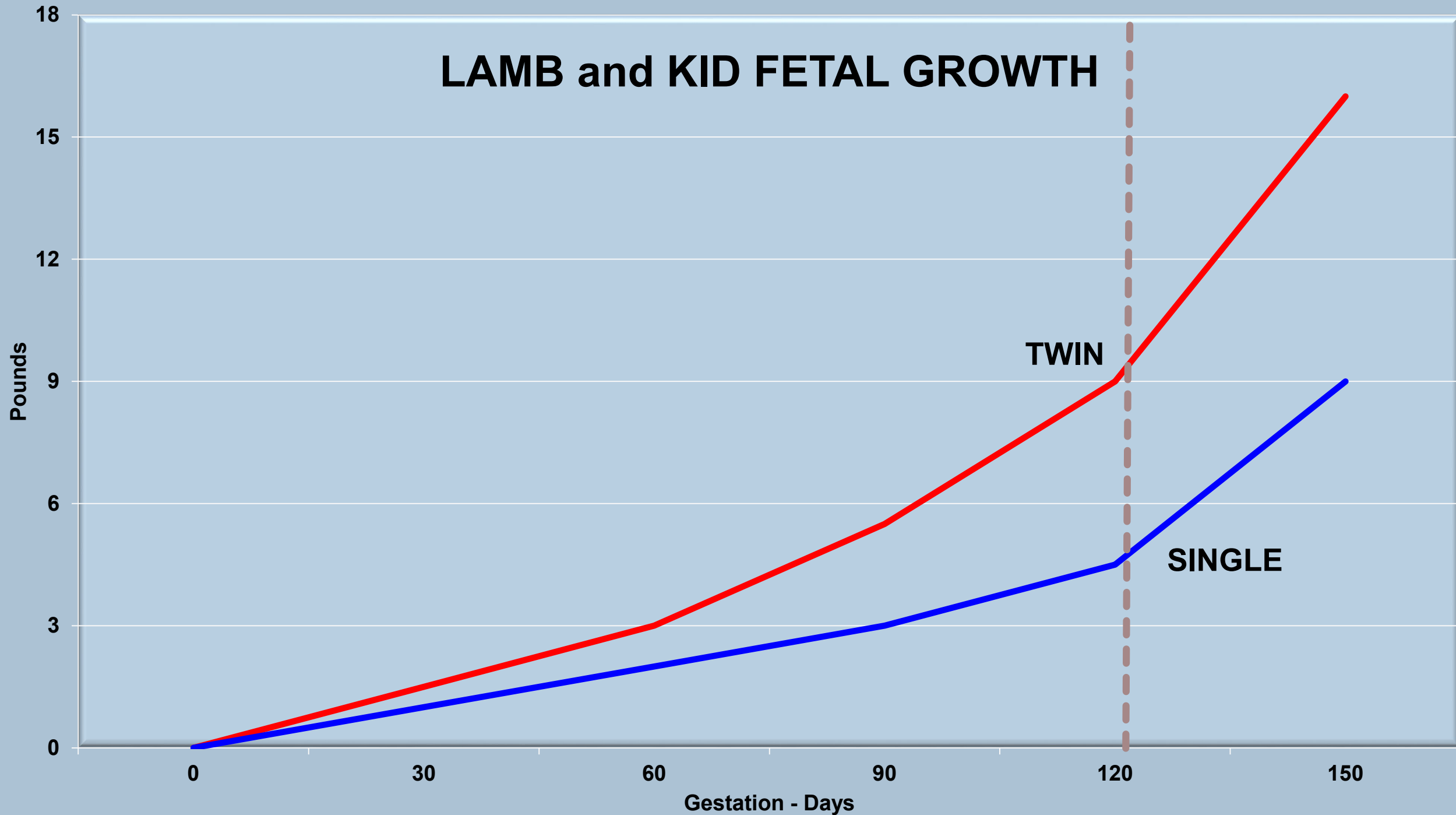
2:1 Goat Mineral

2:1 Sheep Mineral

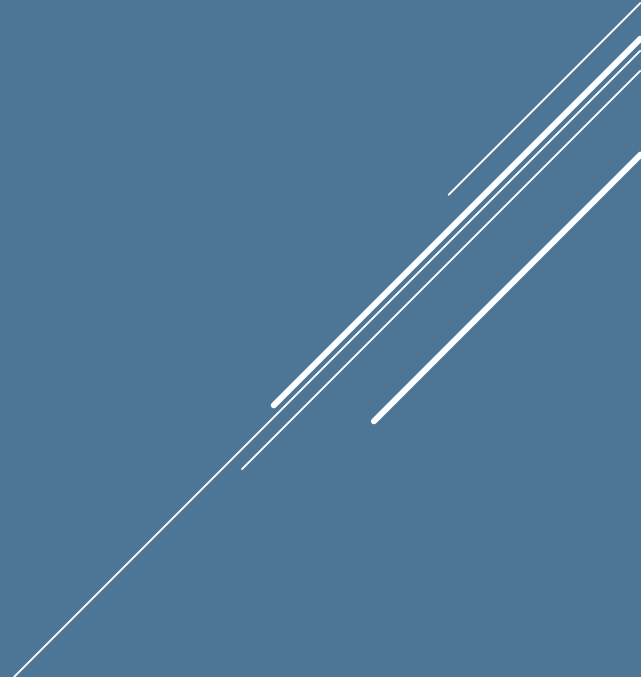
EARLY GESTATION – 100 DAYS

- ▶ Good pasture or mixed hay is sufficient
 - ▶ Free-choice mineral and salt
- 
- A series of three parallel white diagonal lines in the bottom right corner of the slide.

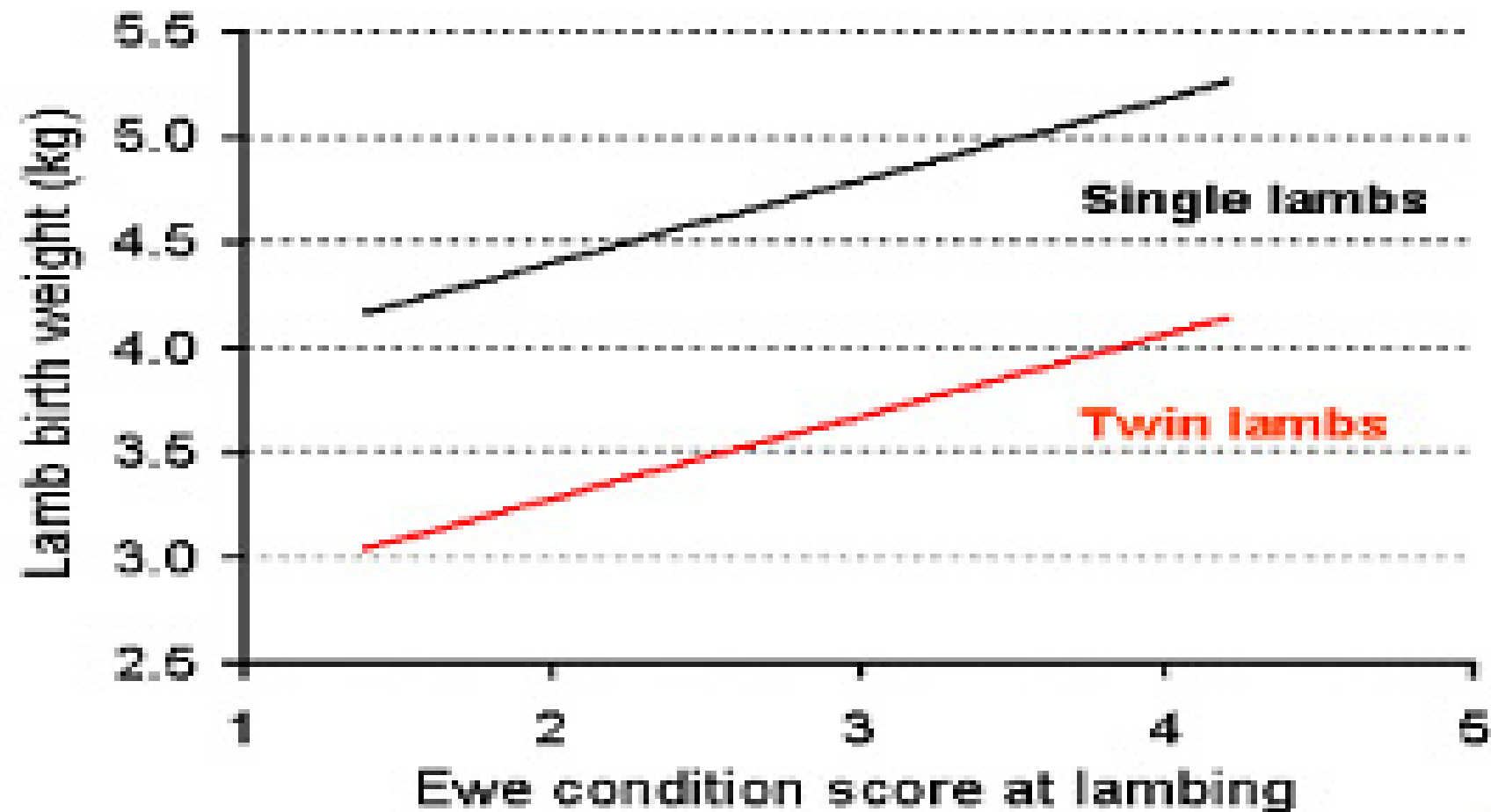
LAMB and KID FETAL GROWTH



LATE GESTATION – LAST 30-45 DAYS

- ▶ Increase nutrition
 - ▶ ½ to 1# concentrate / day
 - ▶ Good quality mixed hay
 - ▶ Reduced rumen capacity
 - ▶ Free choice mineral and salt
- 
- A series of several parallel white diagonal lines of varying lengths, located in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the right edge towards the center.

Ewes in better condition at lambing have heavier lambs



LATE GESTATION - HEALTH

- ▶ CD-T vaccination
 - ▶ Abortion control – work with vet
- 
- A series of four parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally upwards from left to right, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

MAMA CARE AFTER BIRTH

- ▶ ***Rehydrate mama
- ▶ Check for colostrum
- ▶ Babies are actually on teat
- ▶ Bring onto grain slowly
- ▶ Deworm 1-2 days after birth
- ▶ Make notes / keep records



EARLY LACTATION - NUTRITION

- ▶ Single 1 – 1 ½# concentrate daily
- ▶ Twins 1 ½ - 2 ½# concentrate daily
- ▶ Triplets 2 ½ - 3# concentrate daily
14-16% crude protein and balanced
3-4 # / day excellent quality hay
- ▶ Free-choice mineral and salt
- ▶ Water



EARLY LACTATION - NUTRITION

Does

Breeders Plus (Rumensin, pellet)

Milk & Meat Pellet (pellet)

16 All Natural Textured

2:1 Goat Mineral

Performance Goat Tub
Sheep Lix Tub

Ewes

16% Ewe Pellets

36% Sheep & Lamb Supplement

2:1 Sheep Mineral

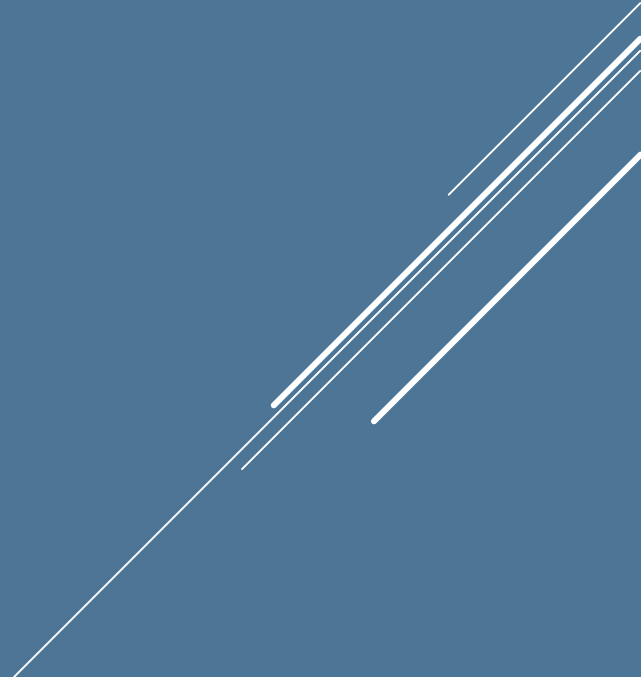
WATER FOR ALL! – 2-3 gallons per day



EARLY LACTATION - MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Keep “family” in jug for 3-5 days
- ▶ Small groups (up to 10 mamas) for 7-10 days
- ▶ Large groups
 - ▶ birth type (single, twins, trips +),
 - ▶ mama’s age or body condition
- ▶ Creep within 2 weeks after first baby is born

CREEP - MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Self-feed a high-quality feed
 - ▶ Location: warm, well-lit clean area
 - ▶ Make it big enough
 - ▶ One creep can serve 3-4 groups
 - ▶ NO HAY IN CREEP
 - ▶ Water in creep
- 
- A series of three parallel white diagonal lines in the bottom right corner of the slide.

CREEP - FEED

▶ KIDS

- ▶ Game Plan 18 Starter Developer (pellet)
- ▶ GTO Turbo (textured)

▶ LAMBS

- ▶ 18 Starter Grower
- ▶ 22 Elite Starter
- ▶ Power Take Off



Yikes! Could use
some traffic
control in here!

Much better.
Plenty of space
to hang out.



LATE LACTATION - NUTRITION

- ▶ Ewes' milk production peaks around 30 days
- ▶ Does' milk production peaks around 30-45 days
- ▶ After 30 (or 50) days, can reduce concentrate
 - replace with hay or pasture.
- ▶ 3-4 # good to excellent quality hay
- ▶ Free-choice mineral and salt
- Water

WEANING MANAGEMENT – DRY-OFF

- ▶ 5 days before weaning – Remove grain. Feed average to poor hay
- ▶ 24 hours before weaning – NO grain; NO hay; NO WATER
- ▶ WEAN BABIES
- ▶ 24 hours post weaning – Poor hay; NO WATER
- ▶ After 24 hours – Poor hay and water for at least 1 week

NO Mineral or Salt

WEANING MANAGEMENT – BABIES

- Continue self-feed high-quality feed
- VERY limited hay
- Reduce stress –
 - minimal handling for several days
 - do not let babies and mamas see or hear each other

GROWING/FINISHING LAMBS

▶ Commercial

- ▶ 18 Starter Grower to 50#
- ▶ 16 Ewe Pellets or 36% Sheep Supp and corn to finish

▶ Show Lambs

- ▶ Power Takeoff or 18 Starter Grower to 90#
- ▶ Show Star to 110#
- ▶ X-Factor to finish



GROWING/FINISHING KIDS

▶Commercial

- ▶Game Plan 18 Starter Developer or GTO Turbo to 50#
- ▶Breeder's Plus to finish

▶Show Kids

- ▶Game Plan 18 Starter Developer or GTO Turbo to 50#
- ▶Show Goat Challenger to finish



PLAN AHEAD

...NOW

**FOR A
SUCCESSFUL BABY
SEASON!**

