## PRODUCT GUIDE



#### **1-800-806-0715** www.advantagefeeders.com



### **INCREASING YOUR PROFIT**

### How we can help you

Advantage Feeders' sole focus is designing livestock feeding equipment and systems to maximize feed and pasture utilization. We concentrate our efforts to ensure optimal results for our customers and the wider farming community.

The production benefits that our customers receive include a reduction in labor, less waste, improved animal health, reduced mortalities, consistency across stock, increased options in droughts and a higher utilization of pasture. Our strong results-based and customerfocused approach means we are regularly conducting field trials to measure results and further develop our systems to ensure customers continue to profit from our research.

We believe that our products have to be simple to use and maintain because if it's easy, it gets done. This means that the great results from using Advantage Feeders aren't just a possibility but a reality for you.

# Control over the ration is crucial for maximising your profit!

Ration control is crucial to ensuring stock is highly productive with the least amount of supplement. If rationing is only limited by animals becoming tired of licking, it offers minimal control, as they may not stop feeding. Our 3-way restriction system is different to any other feeder on the market. We offer accurate control over the height, depth and width of the feed access area.

When our restriction system is set in a limiting position, the animal's tongue can only touch a few grains or pellets with each lick. The animal accesses the feed using saliva to stick the feed to its tongue and bring it into its mouth for consumption. After approximately five minutes of licking, the animal's tongue becomes dry and it can no longer access the feed. Depending on the pasture, stock often come to the feeder 6-8 times/day. This frequency of visits creates a system of providing their supplement in little and often amounts. In this five minute licking period, a sheep might only consume a heaped tablespoon, or 70 ounces. This is different to other feeders that rely on the animal to become tired of licking.



#### Increase your stocking rates when pasture is lacking

The feed gap between pasture availability and seasonal growth is often greatest when maternal stock are in late pregnancy and lambing/kidding.

As such, the carrying capacity of a property is commonly restricted by the number of stock that can be run during this period. If however, more stock can be run through this time, it leads to a higher carrying capacity and more production. Early season grass is highly soluble, containing a lot of water, that breaks down in the rumen rapidly. If the quantity of microbes within the rumen isn't sufficient to utilize the rapidly broken down pasture, a large portion will leave the rumen undigested and is wasted.

Supplementing animals with grain or pellets increases the growth by stimulating reproduction of microbes. This in turn increases pasture utilization, while slowing the pace of the rumen throughput, reducing grass waste.

Trials have found that supplementing ewes in late pregnancy 0.6lbs/day decreases pasture consumption by 40% allowing stocking rates to increase by 70%.

#### Achieve higher growth rates from quality pastures

Green pasture is the cheapest form of energy and protein but the amount of protein within many grasses, especially lucerne and clovers, is far higher than required for maximum growth. Any excess in protein consumed must be excreted out of the animal. The process of excreting protein out through the urine is a large cost to production because the animal needs to use energy for this function, energy that could be used to build muscle. Adding supplements helps balance the diet by increasing carbohydrates and fiber. A balanced diet has the potential to increase growth rates and reduces time taken to reach target weight, allowing stock to be sold earlier when prices are higher.



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### **HOW IT WORKS**

# The importance of rumen pH in forage intake and digestion

The growth and reproduction of rumen bugs, or microbes, is key to the productivity of an animal. When an animal eats feed, microbes either convert this feed into volatile fatty acids (energy), or the microbes pass out of the rumen to become part of the animal's protein source (microbial protein).

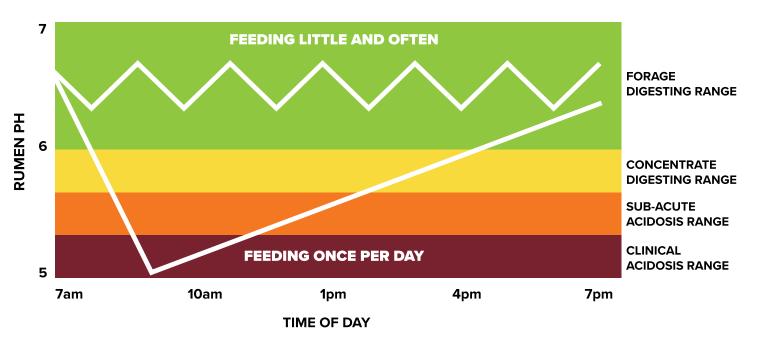
Microbes are most effective at converting forage (grass, hay and straw) into energy when the rumen's pH is between six and seven.

Starch based feeds are a cost effective supplement, however they increase the production of volatile fatty acids, which lowers the rumen pH. The more starch based feed the animal eats, the more severely the pH level drops. If fed too much at once, the sudden shock to the rumen suppresses the animal's appetite for 1-2 hours. This limits consumption of pasture, the cheapest source of energy and protein. It can take 24 hours for the rumen pH to return to the optimal level for pasture digestion.

A large amount of supplement feed can also cause acidosis. Acute acidosis causes damage to the rumen wall, affecting the lifetime productivity and health of the animal. This is especially important in maternal animals.

Feeding in small and frequent amounts with Advantage Feeders 3-way restriction system, ensures the rumen pH remains in the range where the microbes operate most efficiently.

Supplementing in a rumen friendly way provides the microbes with a constant source of energy and protein. This increases their population, allowing the animal to digest more forage, while decreasing the amount of supplement required to meet production targets.



### Rumen pH level over time

\* www.milkproduction.com/Library/Scientific-articles/Animal-health/Digestive-Physiology-of-the-Cow

### Little and often is key to profitability

Providing supplements in little and often amounts, ensures the rumen has a stable diet. Feeding once/day reduces the rumen pH levels, upsetting (killing) the microbes resulting in a suppressed appetite for forage. This increases the amount of supplement required to counteract the reduced energy intake from forage.

Feeding high starch grains, like corn, oats, wheat and barley, significantly reduces the cost of energy supplementation. Advantage Feeders allows you to safely feed acidosis prone feeds because the 3-way restriction system restricts intake. Please note - grains may lack protein, minerals and vitamins. Balancing the rumen with starch based feeds reduces pasture requirements. This is especially beneficial during periods when pasture is consumed faster than it can regrow, allowing you to run more stock year round. Higher growth rates

can also be achieved.

Supplementing little and often complements pasture. Feed conversions from supplement are often better than 3:1. A common supplement amounts is 0.75lbs/day for weaned lambs and kids

### The Adjuster Guard is crucial for restriction

#### **UNIQUE ADJUSTER GUARDS**

Our Adjuster Guards are crucial to controlling an animal's intake. Without the Adjuster Guards, stock can put their tongue into the groove, walk along the feeder and bulldoze feed out of the groove and into the trough.



Animal behavior is improved because aggressive stock aren't lingering around the feeder after their tongue has become dry. This allows timid animals to have the opportunity to visit the feeder without fear.

#### **RESTRICTING INTAKE**

Our feeders can restrict the intake of mature sheep and goats to approx. 0.75lbs/day. This is about a quarter of other 'lick' feeders (feeders relying on the animal getting 'tired' of licking).







## **GRAIN FEEDERS**



#### **5300HD Grain Feeder**

Volume (bu)	108
Product weight	930lbs
Dimensions (L x W x H)	8'0"x5'5"x7'1"
Feed weight (wheat/corn)	3.3 tons
Feed weight (barley/pellets)	2.8 tons
Feed weight (oats)	2.3 tons
Sheep or goats / feeder	150



#### **2500HD Grain Feeder**

Volume (bu)	51
Product weight	750lbs
Dimensions (L x W x H)	8'0"x5'5"x4'9"
Feed weight (wheat/corn)	1.5 tons
Feed weight (barley/pellets)	1.3 tons
Feed weight (oats)	1.1 tons
Sheep or goats / feeder	150



#### **1200HD Grain Feeder**

24
420lbs
4'0"x5'5"x4'9"
0.7 tons
0.6 tons
0.5 tons
75



#### **200HD Grain Feeder**

Volume (bu)	4.25
Product weight	70lbs
Dimensions ( $L \times W \times H$ )	2'6"x1'6"x2'4"
Feed weight (wheat/corn)	250lbs
Feed weight (barley/pellets)	220lbs
Feed weight (oats)	180lbs
Sheep or goats / feeder	20

Note: Brackets come standard with the 150HD to hang the unit on gates, fences or steel posts.

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## **MOBILE GRAIN FEEDERS**



#### M2500HD Mobile Grain Feeder

Volume (bu)	51
Product weight	1100lbs
Feed weight (wheat/corn)	1.5 tons
Feed weight (barley/pellets)	1.3 tons
Feed weight (oats)	1.1 tons
Dimensions (L x W x H)	12'0"x5'5"x4'9"
Sheep or goats / feeder	150
Axle suspension	Yes
Tire size	195/55R13

Nº Nº

## ACCESSORIES



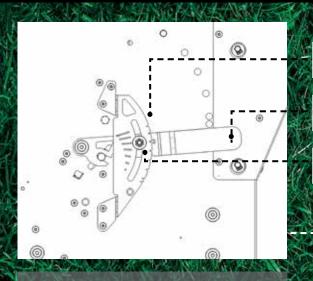
#### **Mineral Attachment**

Product weight Dimensions (L x W x H) Minerals weight

23lbs 2'6"x1'3"x1'9" 240lbs

Note: Brackets come standard with the Mineral Attachment to hang the unit on gates, fences or steel posts.

## **HEAVY DUTY FEATURES**



- A. Our notch and dot system provides consistent settings when set by multiple users
- B. The leverage of the 0.2" thick handle allows the Upper Adjuster to be moved in small, accurate increments
- C. The nyloc nut locking system makes it much faster to reposition the Upper Adjuster
- Adjustments are made from the end of the feeder, alleviating the need to kneel down (potentially in mud)
- Feeders require less cleaning because clumps of built-up feed can be removed by fully opening the upper adjuster
- The roof pivot has a solid lug welded to a channel to withstand robust use
- 2. Large sight glasses both ends
- 3. Upper Adjuster Handles
- Side lower wall gutters prevent moisture running into the feed area

A. GAUGE SYSTEM

**B. STRONG HANDLE** 

C. LOCKING NUT

- Chassis designed so the feeding height can be easily changed to suit all types of livestock
- 6. Reinforced stainless steel troughs and adjusters

7. Roof latch uses reliable drop lock pin locking system

1. STRONG ROOF PIVOT

2. SIGHT GLASSES BOLTH ENDS

> 3. UPPER ADJUSTER HANDLES

4. SIDE WALL

**GUTTERS** 

5. HEIGHT PINS

6. STAINLESS STEEL FEED AREA

- 8. Rain protection bracing increases the weather protection strength
- Cleaning tool and tube spanner are stored where stock can't access them



- 10. Adjuster Guards stop stock bull-dozing feed out
- Spring clips allow the Adjuster Guards to be easily removed and replaced for cleaning
- 12. Large 8"x4" adjustable fork guides make moving the feeder safe and easy
- Add-ons including Creep
  Panels for sheep
- Weather protection reduces
  the frequency of cleaning
- User guide and volume stickers make the feeders easy to use

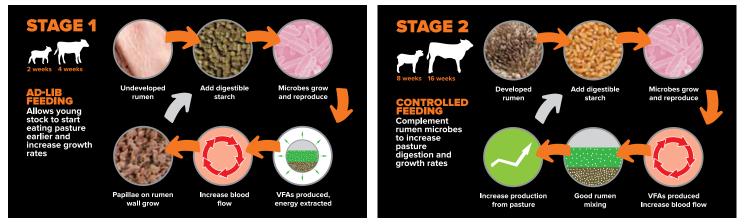
## **CREEP FEEDING**

Creep feeding is the method of supplementing the diet of young livestock, by offering feed solely to offspring who are still nursing. When calves and lambs are born, their initial digestive process is similar to simple-stomached (monogastric) animals that maximize digestion of milk. Rumen development begins soon after birth and is developed by exposure to starches that are contained within solid feed, such as pellets and grain. The image below shows rumen development in calves at six weeks of age, fed various feed combinations (Penn State University).

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Calves fed grain have a far greater rumen surface area that allows them to absorb energy from grass and feed much earlier.





Before the rumen is mostly developed (Stage 1), it is best to provide ad-lib supplement. After the rumen is mostly developed (Stage 2), it is often most profitable to restrict intake and complement the animal's diet.

### **Advantages of creep feeding**

#### **GROWTH FROM PASTURE**

Creep feeding increases pasture consumption because the animal's rumen develops earlier. This can double meat production from a given amount of pasture.

#### **INCREASE ADG**

Increase ADG and reduces pressure off of the ewe. In turn, ewes will reach reproductive puberty faster.

#### **DELAY BIRTH**

Higher growth rates mean stock can be born later, reducing maternal supplement costs outside of the growing season.

#### **INCREASE CONCEPTION**

Higher production is achieved because conception rates are increased in ewe lambs.

#### **WEAN EARLIER**

Lambs achieve target weaning weights faster, can be weaned weeks earlier, reducing the maternal supplement costs.

### How our revolutionary creep feeding systems work

The Creep Panel acts as a guard over the trough, denying ewes access to the feed area as their heads are too large to fit in the adjustable gap. The panels pivot to allow the feeder to operate either as a standard feeder or a creep feeder. During lambing, it is common for a feeder to be set to allow ewes access to a small ration on one side,

while the other side has the Creep Panel down allowing lambs to access more feed. It is best for ewes to train the lambs until they are about 4 weeks old. After this training period, ewes can be completely excluded. After 6 weeks of creep feeding, it can be most profitable to restrict intake to 0.5lbs/day.



### Can you afford not to creep feed?

Without creep feeding, spring born stock get little benefit from spring grown pasture because their rumen isn't developed to digest it. Feed conversion and return on investment of creep feeding is high because young ruminants can consume significantly more pasture than non-creep fed stock. When creep feeding starts between 2-4 weeks of age, supplement feed conversion up to weaning is often as high as 2.5:1. It is most profitable to ad-lib feed lambs until they are 8 weeks old, and then control their intake until weaning.

Number of days of creep feeding	100
Average consumption/head/day (lbs)	0.5
Total amount of feed/head (lbs)	50
Cost of feed/ton	\$225.00
Cost of feed/head	\$11.25
Additional weight gain/head (lbs)	15
Live weight value (Ibs)	\$2.25
Additional income	\$33.75
Additional profit/head from creep feeding	\$22.50
Stock/feeder	150
ADDITIONAL PROFIT/FEEDER/YEAR	\$3,375.00
Investment	\$2,500.00

#### **Creep Panels**

Weight: Assembled dimensions: Flat-packed dimensions: Compatible models: 37lbs 93'7"x7'9"x0'2" 93'7"x7'9"x0'2" 5300HD 2500HD M5300HD M2500HD

Note: All feeders comes standard with Creep Panels.



### **TRIAL RESULTS**

#### **Controlled feeding ewe trial**

OPERATOR: Mark Veale LOCATION: Wickliffe, VIC BREED: Dohne

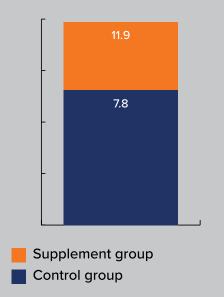
Two mobs of 84 twin bearing Dohne ewes, supplemented 0.8lbs/day of wheat through Advantage Feeders in late pregnancy and into lambing, were able to rare more lamb/Ha.

The supplemented mob ate significantly less pasture, providing potential to increase the winter stocking rate by more than 50%, from 3.2 ewes/acre in the control group to 4.8 ewes/ acre in the feeder group.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE TRIAL

OPERATOR: Despite poor pasture conditions, the weather was better on average for lambing as there were very few really cold days. It was a big help having feeders in the paddock.

We had never creep fed before, however we found it very easy to train the lambs. We put milk powder in the troughs and on the feed access area. The lambs were really attracted to this. Part way through the trial, we changed the feed to a 50/50 wheat and pellets mix. This flowed much better and lowered feed costs compared to solely pellets. Ewe/Ha Winter Stocking Rate



#### Lamb creep feeding trial

OPERATOR: Richard Leaver LOCATION: Riverton, SA BREED: Merino x White Suffolk

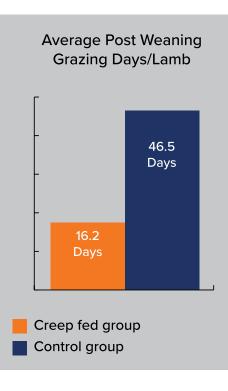
212 ewes supplemented using Advantage Feeders consumed 30% less grain and ended up an average of 3lbs/head heavier. In addition, 6% more lambs were weaned, when compared to the control mob of 200 trail fed ewes.

At the end of the trial period, the creep fed lambs averaged 105lbs/head while the lambs in the control group, averaged 96lbs/head. The creep fed lambs averaged an intake of 31lbs/ head of barley, achieving a supplement feed conversion of 3.5:1.

The creep fed lambs reached market weight earlier than the control group and averaged \$140.33/head compared to the control group of \$130.25/head. One Advantage Feeder increased net profit by \$4,917.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE TRIAL

OPERATOR: I was concerned about the potential of mis-mothering owing to the feeders through lambing. The results proved this wasn't an issue as the ewes appeared to have bonded well with lambs.



## HAY FEEDERS



#### Sliding Gate Hay Feeder

Weight: Bale capacity:

Assembled (LxWxH) Flat-packed (LxWxH) 485lbs 1x 8'x4'x4'square bale 1x 4'x5' round bale 2x 4'x4' round bales 5'4''x4'6"x6'0" 8'7"x3'8"x1'0"

Note: Additional bar kits are available to reduce the bar width for small animals to 0'3". Internal length is 8'4" for over-length bales.



#### **Tray Hay Feeder**

Weight: Bale capacity: Gap between bars: Goats per feeder: Dimensions - highest: Dimensions - lowest: Flat-packed dimensions: 400lbs 1x 4'x6' round bale 1'0" 100 6'5"x4'6"x5'9" 6'5"x4'6"x3'9" 6'5"x4'6"x3'9" 6'5"x3'8"x1'0"

Note: Gaps between bars are not suitable for bulls. Additional bar kits available to reduce bar width. Not recommended for sheep.

ALL BURGER



#### **Cradle Hay Feeder**

Weight: Bale capacity: Bale capacity: Gap between bars: Sheep or goats / feeder: Assembled dimensions: Flat-packed dimensions: 176lbs 1x 4'x6' round bale 8" 150 6'2"x4'5"x3'0" 6'2"x3'0"x0'4"

Note: Gaps between bars are not suitable for bulls. Additional bar kits available to reduce bar width.



#### Hay Feeder Roof

Weight: Assembled dimensions: <u>Flat-p</u>acked dimensions: 70lbs 3'0"x4'6"x1'0" 5'0"x2'3"x0'1"

Note: When using large diameter bales, a gap may initially exist between the two roof sections until some of the bale is consumed.

ALL MEASUREMENTS ARE LENGTH x WIDTH x HEIGHT

### TESTIMONIALS



Our new Advantage Feeders have been a great addition to our farm. It is an equal opportunity feeders.

Since it is a "Lick feeder" and depends on the saliva production to get the grain stuck to the tongue, and all goats of the same age have basically the same size tongue and ability to product goat spit; feed intake is limited regardless of dominance or age. The goats will lick and eat until they get "cotton mouth" with grain no longer sticking to their tongue. They then leave the feeder to browse and get a drink of water. The bottom line is, the bossy goats get just enough grain, no more or no less, before their tongue dries out and they leave the feeder to the more timid goats. The end result is a more uniform feed ration. The more aggressive goats are not over conditioned and the more timid goats are not under conditioned. Both of which are associated with pregnancy complications.

It is a well built and well engineered product, that works as advertised.

David Gilliam Gilliam Boer Goat Farms, Tennessee



I got this feeder in October right before kidding season. My does have kept their weight on, produced plenty of milk for their kids, the kids even figured it out, and it saves me a lot of time and labor hand feeding everyday!!!!

I love my little Advantage Feeder so much, that I am planning on getting another one in the future. These feeders are awesome!!!! The kids in this picture are just coming 8 weeks old and still with their dams. They all take turns in the feeder. We have saved alot of time, money, and feed by using this feeder.

Melissa Jacobs Hawk Shadow Farms, Missouri



Graham Farms purchased an Advantage Feeders 200HD and 1800HD with mineral attachment in December 2018, and we are loving them. The goats are keeping excellent body condition and I can control how much they eat each day. In our 1800, we use 2 different mixes. One is a pellet and one is a whole grain mix both flow very well. The convenience and advantage of not having measure feed and haul it to the goats every day have been amazing. We have much more time to spend watching and observing the herd doing our other farm chores. It's much easier to find someone to watch our stock when we are away and gives me peace of mind knowing they are fed while we are gone.

Graham Farms Myotonics, Arkansas











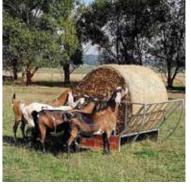
Share your story

Thank you to everyone that has shared their photos with us!

















Keep sharing for a chance to feature in our next catalogue. #advantagefeeders @Advantagefeeders











#### TESTIMONIAL

Here at Liberty Farms and 4-J Farms we have had the pleasure of purchasing two of the 1200 HD Advantage feeders. We use these feeders to feed around 120 head of registered and commercial boer goats. Since buying these feeders we have seen a tremendous amount of growth and improvement in both herds.

We have found that the smaller goats, who would typically get pushed out of the way when bucket fed, actually have a chance to eat at the feeder. This allows the smaller goats to gain more weight and grow to their full potential. Every goat gets an equal amount of time at the feeder without being pushed around by the more dominant goats.

We usually feel the feeder up once every few weeks. This saves us a lot of time every day since we do not have to feed the goats by hand. We could not be happier with these feeders or with the customer service that we have received. Anytime anyone asks us about these feeders we are so happy to share our amazing experience with them in hopes they will too buy a feeder.

Tucker West Liberty Farms, Georgia

#### **NOTES:**





#### AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR

Advantage Ag 1-800-806-0715 enquiries@advantagefeeders.com www.advantagefeeders.com

#### **SMALL RUMINANTS MANAGER**

Evie Gates 1-800-806-0715 enquiries@advantagefeeders.com www.advantagefeeders.com

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\*See www.advantagefeeders.com for the full terms and conditions.