# PRODUCT GUIDE







### **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 labour, 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 maximizing 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 paddock environment, 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.

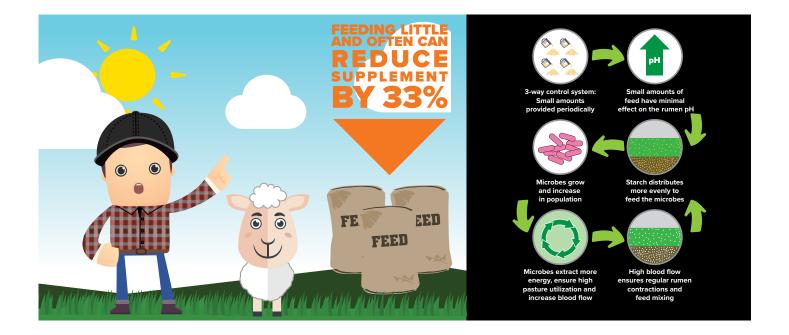
As such, the carrying capacity of a property is commonly restricted by the number of stock that can be run during this period. If however, more stock can be run through this time, it leads to a higher carrying capacity and more production/Ha. Early season grass is highly soluble, containing a lot of 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 wastage.

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 fibre. 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).

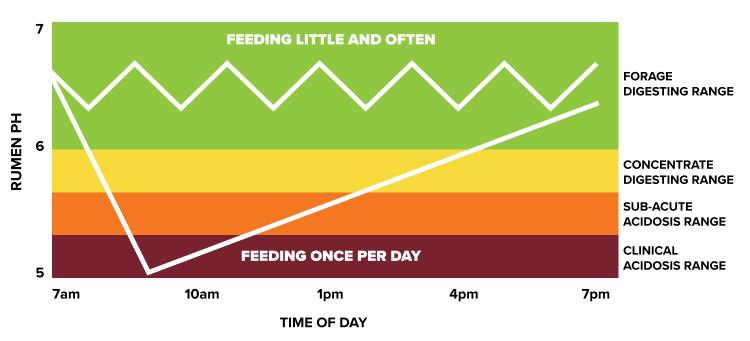
Microbes are most effective at converting forage (grass, hay and straw) into energy when the rumen's pH is between six and seven.

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 farm 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. **2** 

Feeding high starch cereal grain, like 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 - cereal feeds 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 10oz/day for weaned lambs and kide

### 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 behaviour 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. 10oz/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 x W x 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 200HD to hang the unit on gates, fences or steel posts.

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## **MOBILE GRAIN FEEDERS**



#### M5300HD Mobile Grain Feeder

Volume (bu)	108
Product weight	1350lbs
Feed weight (wheat/corn)	3.0 tons
Feed weight (barley/pellets)	2.8 tons
Feed weight (oats)	2.3 tons
Dimensions (L x W x H)	12'0"x8'0"x8'6"
Sheeo or goats / feeder	150
Axle suspension	No
Tire size	235/75R16
* NON-STOCK ITEM - CALL FOR	AVAILABILITY



#### 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

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## ACCESSORIES



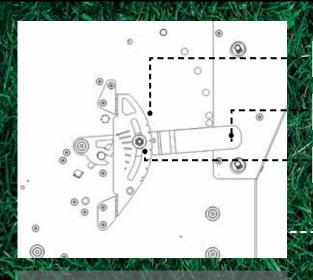
#### **Mineral Attachment**

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

A. GAUGE SYSTEM 1. STRONG ROOF PIVOT **B. STRONG HANDLE** 2. SIGHT GLASSES BOLTH ENDS C. LOCKING NUT **3. UPPER** ADJUSTER HANDLES 4. SIDE WALL **GUTTERS** 5. HEIGHT PINS 6. STAINLESS STEEL FEED AREA



PLEASE NOTE: OVERSEAS 2500HD MODEL SHOWN

- 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 tine 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

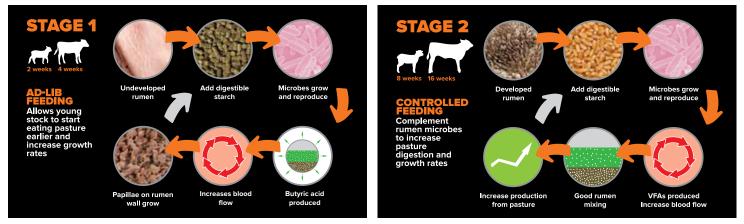
## **CREEP FEEDING**

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.

#### **DELAY BIRTH**

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

#### **INCREASE MATERNALS**

Creep feeding increases growth rates and stock reach saleable weight quicker. Once sold, pastures are devoted to maternal stock, increasing numbers by up to 15%.

#### WEAN EARLIER

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

#### **HIGHER PRICES**

Increased growth rates allow producers to sell more stock when prices are high. Selling before the season flush often delivers 5-10% higher prices.

#### INCREASE CONCEPTION

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

# How our revolutionary creep feeding systems work

#### LAMB CREEP FEEDING

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 7oz/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)	0.20
Total amount of feed/head (lbs)	20
Cost of feed/tonne	\$300
Cost of feed/head	\$6.00
Additional weight gain/head (lbs)	7
Live weight value (Ibs)	3.75
Additional income	\$22.50
Additional profit/head from creep feeding	\$16.50
Stock/feeder	200
ADDITIONAL PROFIT/FEEDER/YEAR	\$3,300
Investment	\$2,995

#### **Creep Panels**

Weight: Assembled dimensions: Flat-packed dimensions: Compatible models:

93'7"x7'9"x0'2" 93'7"x7'9"x0'2" 5300HD 2500HD M5300HD M2500HD

37lbs

Note: This product is sold as a pair and feeders can accommodate two Creep Panels. All feeders come standard with Creep Panels.



### TRIAL RESULTS

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

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

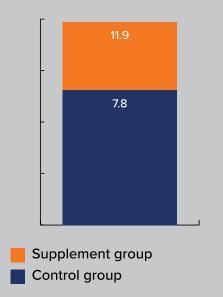
Two mobs of 84 twin bearing Dohne ewes, supplemented 10.5oz/day of wheat through Advantage Feeders in late pregnancy and into lambing, were able to rare more lamb/Ha.

The supplemented mob ate significantly less pasture, providing potential to increase the winter stocking rate by more than 50%, from 7.8 ewes/Ha in the control group to 11.9 ewes/Ha 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

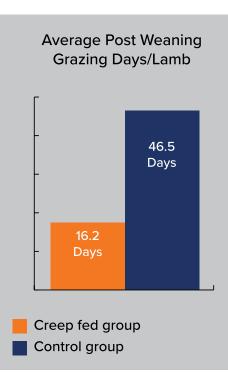
212 ewes supplemented using Advantage Feeders consumed 30% less grain and ended up an average of 3lbs/head heavier. In addition, 6% more lambs were weaned, when compared to the control mob of 200 trail fed ewes.

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.



### **TESTIMONIALS**



Advantage feeders have made a dramatic impact in our farm as to how we feed our ewes, rams, and lambs.

Before purchasing the Advantage Feeeders, we just had all-you-can-eat feeders, with no control in consumption. This meant that the process of getting the animals switched over to grain without them getting bloated was quite a chore and to be quite honest I didn't have the patience for it.

With Advantage Feeders I can comfortably control grain intake without worrying about overeating and bloating, which gives me more time to get on with my other farm chores. It's also handy and accessible to fill and transport the feeder.

Choosing Advantage Feeders for me was definitely a good choice as I have close to 400 ewes on the farm and a TMR is not always a option at certain times of the year.

Blaine Walter, Big Rose Farms, Biggar, SK



## HAY FEEDERS



#### **Cradle Hay Feeder**

Weight:	TARK -
Bale capacity:	1x 4'x6' rou
Gap between bars:	- and a
Sheep or goats / feeder:	
Assembled dimensions:	6'2"x4'
Flat-packed dimensions:	6'2"x3'

176lbs und bale 8" 150 '5"x3'0" '0"x0'4" ALL MEASUREMENTS ARE LENGTH × WIDTH × HEIGHT

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











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



## NOTES

#### CANADIAN DISTRIBUTOR

Myrna and Marlin Huber Huber Ag Equipment RR #3, Coronation, Alberta, TOC 1C0



www.huberequipment.com

#### TWO YEAR WARRANTY

You can rest assured that your feeders will last a long time. A two year warranty on all feeding products guarantees that they will be fit for purpose based on them having fair treatment.\*

#### **FREE DELIVERY**

Advantage Feeders prices include delivery to all current pick-up locations. Delivery to other locations can be arranged at local shipping rates.

See our website for current prices.

#### **ASSEMBLY OPTIONS**

Feeders may be purchased assembled or flat packed. This gives farmers the option to make savings on delivery and assembly. All products come with the relevant fasteners and instructions for full assembly.

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

#### 1-800-806-0715 | www.advantagefeeders.ca