

Sheep Planning Budget

This sheep budget is designed to reflect the economic costs and returns of a 50-ewe, spring-lambing flock (March/April) with lambs marketed between 65 and 75 pounds the following January. This management system takes advantage of spring forage production and the fall breeding season.

Table 1. Missouri hair sheep planning budget for 2026 (50 ewes, 180% lambing rate).

| | Head per ewe | Quantity | Unit | Dollars per unit | Dollars per ewe | Dollars per enterprise |
|---|--------------|----------|---------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Income | | | | | | |
| Heavy lambs | 0.22 | 75 | pound | 3.11 | 51.32 | 2,566 |
| Light lambs | 1.48 | 65 | pound | 3.48 | 334.78 | 16,739 |
| Culled ewes | 0.14 | 170 | pound | 1.33 | 27.13 | 1,357 |
| Culled rams | 0.02 | 200 | pound | 1.43 | 5.72 | 286 |
| Total income | | | | | 418.94 | 20,947 |
| Operating costs | | | | | | |
| Ewe replacement | 0.14 | | head | 282.63 | 39.57 | 1,978 |
| Ram cost and breeding supplies | 0.04 | | head | 429.00 | 9.58 | 479 |
| Pasture | | 1.06 | acre | 50.00 | 53.08 | 2,654 |
| Hay | | 846 | pound | 0.039 | 32.70 | 1,635 |
| Supplement | | 67 | pound | 0.139 | 9.30 | 465 |
| Mineral | | 5.9 | pound | 0.6 | 7.13 | 357 |
| Animal health | | | | | 5.59 | 279 |
| Guard dog replacement and food | | | | | 13.55 | 677 |
| Bedding and stock supplies | | | | | 3.25 | 163 |
| Marketing | | 7 | percent | | 29.33 | 1,466 |
| Machinery fuel, lube, repair | | | | | 24.14 | 1,207 |
| Facility maintenance | | | | | 3.90 | 195 |
| Operator and hired labor | | 3.76 | hour | 22.00 | 82.72 | 4,136 |
| Operating interest | | 7.25 | percent | | 10.70 | 535 |
| Total operating costs¹ | | | | | 324.53 | 16,227 |
| Ownership costs | | | | | | |
| Business overhead (professional fees, utilities, misc.) | | | | | 4.50 | 225 |
| Property taxes and insurance | | | | | 11.00 | 550 |
| Economic depreciation, facility and equipment | | | | | 37.96 | 1,898 |
| Interest on capital investment | | 7.00 | percent | | 39.50 | 1,975 |
| Total ownership costs | | | | | 92.96 | 4,648 |
| Total cash-based costs² | | | | | 257.31 | 12,866 |
| Total costs³ | | | | | 417.49 | 20,875 |
| Income over cash-based costs | | | | | 161.63 | 8,082 |
| Income over operating costs | | | | | 94.41 | 4,721 |
| Income over total costs | | | | | 1.45 | 73 |

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

2. Cash-based costs exclude operator labor, depreciation, business overhead and operating interest.

1. \$2.59-per-pound lamb price needed to cover operating costs. 3. \$3.41-per-pound lamb price needed to cover total costs.

Developed by **Jennifer Lutes**, Field Specialist, Agricultural Business

Table 2. Budgeted production rates in sheep budget for 2026.

| Rates | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| Lambings, per ewe per year | 1 |
| Ewe numbers, start of breeding season | 50 |
| Rams for breeding | 2 |
| Lamb crop (live birth per exposed), percent | 180 |
| Lamb crop (raised to sale weight), percent | 170 |
| Adult death loss, percent | 2 |
| Lamb death loss, pre-weaning, percent | 3 |
| Lamb death loss, post-weaning, percent | 2 |

Table 3. Feed and labor assumptions in sheep budget for 2026.

| Cost description | Unit | Units per head, adults | Units per head, lambs | Total units per ewe | Weighted price (dollars per unit) | Total dollars per ewe |
|------------------|-------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Pasture | acre | 0.60 | 0.25 | 1.06 | 50.00 | 53.08 |
| Hay | pound | 813.27 | 0.00 | 845.80 | 0.04 | 32.70 |
| Supplement | pound | 57.00 | 4.42 | 66.90 | 0.14 | 9.30 |
| Mineral | pound | 7.98 | 4.99 | 11.89 | 0.60 | 7.13 |
| Labor | hour | 2.75 | 0.50 | 3.76 | 22.00 | 82.72 |

Table 4. Capital investment assumptions in sheep budget for 2026.

| Investment description | Unit | Quantity | Dollars per unit | Enterprise total dollars | Dollars per ewe |
|---------------------------------|------|----------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Breeding stock unit | ewe | 50 | 341 | 17,060 | 341 |
| Buildings and facilities | | | | 11,500 | 230 |
| Machinery, equipment and pickup | | | | 26,000 | 520 |
| Total | | | | 54,560 | 1,091 |

Note: Building and machinery investment for the farm is allocated across multiple enterprises.

Farmers can customize this budget using the [Missouri Sheep Budget workbook \(XLSX\)](https://extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pro/AgBusinessPolicyExtension/Docs/sheep-budgets.xlsx) (extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pro/AgBusinessPolicyExtension/Docs/sheep-budgets.xlsx).

The publication revises and replaces MU Extension publications G685, Sheep (Early Lambing) Planning Budget, and G686, Sheep (Late Lambing) Planning Budget.



Check out the complete collection of Missouri crop and livestock enterprise budgets at muext.us/MissouriAgBudgets