

# Production feeding in drought

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### Introduction

'Production feeding' involves feeding animals above what is required simply for their maintenance. The amount needed will depend on the type of production required.

### Production feeding of cattle

Cattle will need to be fed for production purposes in the following situations:

Type of stock	Reason for production feeding
<b>Weaners</b>	Increasing weight of heifers or steers for sale.
<b>Heifers</b>	Increasing weight or condition for first joining or for sale as store cattle.
<b>Steers</b>	Increasing weight or condition for sale.
<b>Cows</b>	Increasing weight or condition: prior to joining, to improve conception rates; prior to parturition, to increase calf birthweight and improve performance for lactation and return to service.
<b>Bulls</b>	Increasing weight or condition prior to joining to increase fertility.

### Production feeding of sheep

In general, the aims of a sheep enterprise may be:

- optimising per hectare production of wool and lambs;
- meeting market specifications for the products (wool, meat, surplus sheep);
- being cost-efficient.

This may mean that feeding is required at certain stages of production. For example:

Type of stock	Reason for production feeding
<b>Weaners</b>	Increasing weight for production: to increase weight and subsequent wool growth; to increase weight for joining or sale.
<b>Ewes</b>	Increasing weight or condition: prior to joining to improve conception rates; to increase lamb birthweight and improve performance for lactation; to increase tensile strength of wool.
<b>Rams</b>	Increasing weight prior to joining to improve fertility.

For more information on production targeting for sheep, see Primefact 332 *Ewe management and body weight at joining*.

### Acknowledgment

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