



# PRACTICAL TECHNOLOGIES

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## LAMB FATTENING

### Adaptability of the Technology

This technology is best suited to small or medium sized farms. Small-scale farmers carry out lamb fattening to increase their family income, while medium-scale farmers do it to gain more benefit from their ranch.

### Advantages of Lamb Fattening

Lamb is a meat animal. Fattening lambs has the following advantages.

1. Lambs can adapt to a range of environments;
2. There is a relatively small investment;
3. The lambs offer a form of savings in case of emergency needs;
4. Manure production;
5. Protein supply.

### The Technology

This leaflet will inform the farmers about lamb selection, the rearing house, feed, diseases and their control, and harvesting time.

### 1. Lamb Selection

In lamb fattening, it is lamb selection which determines the success of the fattening. The selection of the lamb should be based on the following criteria:

- Male lambs aged 10-12 months;
- Weight of the lamb about 20 kgs.;
- Good health, lean, good posture, and without handicaps.
- Local lamb, can be fat- or thin-tailed breed.

### 2. Feed

It is important to consider which feeds are to be given during fattening, because these are 70% of the production cost. The feed should consist of water and dry materials. Dry materials consist of organic and inorganic materials, including fodder and concentrates. Fodder can include green leaves, cut grass, legumes, etc., while concentrates can be made from tubers (cassava, sweet potato, or potato), grains (corn, sorghum, soybean, peanut, etc.) and animal protein (fish flour, blood flour, skim milk, and meat flour, etc.)

The daily feed consumption of a lamb should be 3.1% of its body weight. Concentrates can be given to a level of about 2.5% of body weight daily. Clean drinking water should be available at all times.

### 3. Rearing House

The rearing house is to protect the lamb and stop it from wandering. It also enables farmers to inspect the lambs and control any diseases. The rearing house should be:

- Separate from the farm house, and in a quiet place;
- Large enough to meet the space needs of the lambs;
- Free of damp and puddles, it should receive enough sunshine but not be too hot;
- It should be protected from wind blowing directly inside, particularly at night;
- It should be clean, to keep the incidence of disease to a minimum.

The rearing house should be constructed as follows:

- It should be divided into several rooms. (In Indonesian, "Panggung" style). The size of each room should be large enough to allow 0.4 x 1.2 m for each lamb.
- Fodder concentrates and water should be made available outside the room.
- The floor of the rearing house should have slats at intervals of 2-3 cm, so that the dung falls directly to the ground.

### 4. Diseases and their Control

To protect the lambs from diseases, the following program should be followed.

- Quarantine new lambs for 1-2 days, to ensure that no new lamb is infected with disease.
- Provide the new lambs with worm control medicine.
- Isolate any diseased lambs from healthy ones, and give them appropriate medication.
- Keep the rearing house clean.

Common diseases of lambs which need to be kept in mind include diarrhea, scabies, bloat, pink-eye and worms.



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