

a starter's guide

'Venture' out with ewes

How to get
started in
sheep farming



The document is part of a series of information products providing snapshots to young aspiring entrepreneurs regarding viable business opportunities in the state.

Starting pointers to help those

Sheep farming is a rewarding activity particularly for livelihood. However, it requires good planning and persistent management of the farm to fetch you a decent earning.

Thanks to its agro-climatic conditions, rich alpine pastures and host to other natural endowments, the state of Jammu and Kashmir is ideally suited for sheep rearing. Sheep has multifaceted utility for wool, meat, skin and manure.

Market Snapshot:

1. Demand/consumption of Meat: 600 lakh kg
2. Local production : 310 lakh kg
3. Deficit/ imports: 290 lakh Kgs
4. Supply sources (local): chopans, Gujars, Bakerwals etc
5. Increase in demand (2 years) : 5-7%
6. Future projections: Will continue to grow at 5-7%

So, you think you are game for the trade? But be sure you are strong enough to raise sheep. Or, have someone employed who is strong enough to flip sheep over for various activities such as checking feet, trimming feet, shearing, vaccinating, birthing etc.

The activity is loaded with huge challenges and advantages as well

Take a look at opportunities

1. Sheep farming is considered one of the most vibrant sectors for economic development
2. The market for meat is readily available
3. The production of wool, meat and manure provides three different sources of income
4. Sheep waste is a better garden fertilizer than horse or cow manure
5. Wool and manure have tremendous market within and outside the state. 75% of locally sheared wool is exported
6. It has a good scope for expansion as foundation stock and flock can be multiplied rapidly
7. Construction cost for pen is low as compared to other similar activities
8. Equipments are provided by the department at subsidized costs

There may be some hiccups also

1. Pasture fields have shrunk due to illegal encroachment and occupation
2. Shearing machines are difficult to procure
3. No skilled manpower for wool extraction is readily available
4. Harsh winters may pose extra challenge to farmers

Money matters...

Capital Expenditures:

Capital Cost	Rs.11.95 lakh
a) Land	Owned/leased
b) Building	Rs. 4.90 lakh
c) Machinery/Equipments	Rs. 0.23 lakh
c) Livestock	Rs.6.82 lakh

Operational Cost	Rs.2.60 lakh
Grand Total	Rs.14.55 lakh

Returns (from sale of stock, wool and manure)	
First year	Rs.26,000
2nd year	Rs.4 lakh
3rd year	Rs.5 lakh

There are certain strict dos and don'ts

Do

1. Ensure the availability of land at a place having adequate green pastures around
2. Build mud sheds and take expert help
3. Ensure your farm has good road accessibility so that timely transportation of raw materials and stocks is made
4. Meet people around to know if there are any apprehensions of hostility towards such kind of activity
5. Look for support in respect of availability of veterinarian in or nearby the area
6. Ensure a steady supply of fresh water and electricity
7. Get building permission from concerned local body
8. Get a pollution free certificate from State Pollution Control Board

Don't

1. Start the venture without proper planning and experience
2. Start with a flock of more than 100 ewes
3. Leave everything to the people or caretaker, your timely presence is must
4. Hire or purchase land without proper legal documentation

Relevant government departments to approach for

1. Department of Sheep Husbandry for registration and expert advice
2. Department of agriculture for cultivation of green fodder to check fodder availability
3. Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology for improved livestock
4. State Pollution Control Board for no objection certificate
5. Power Development Department (PDD) for electricity connection
6. Public Health Engineering (PHE) for water connection
7. Revenue department tehsildar, local body for land rent or lease purpose

Checklist:

1. Land

- Area: 2 ½ kanal
- Nature: Hard
- Legal documentation: Lease deed, no-objection from PCB

2. Building

- Size: 1400 sq feet (Shed 1200 sq feet and two stores with 10X10 sq feet dimension)
- Structure: Concrete with east-west orientation
- Permissions: Revenue department, NoC from PCB, Electricity permission, water connection permission, registration with Sheep Husbandry Deptt.

3. Equipment

- Hard coke iron bukharis
- Feeding troughs
- Waterers for drinking
- Electric and water fitting appliances

4. Money

- Check various schemes at JKEDI

5. Buyers

- Households (on special occasions like Eid-ul-Azha, marriages)
- Wholesale dealers
- Retailers
- Hotels and restaurants

6. Suppliers

Registered dealers of

- Feed
- Medicine
- Equipments

