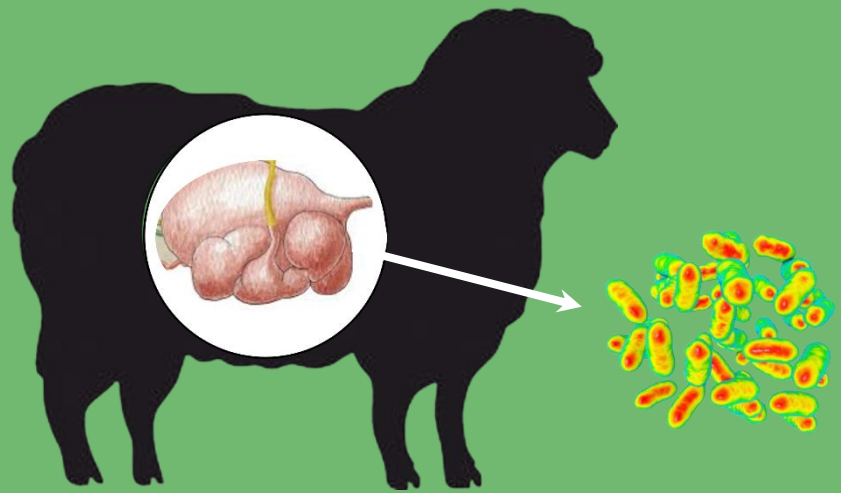


Take your

Vitamins

Vitamins are crucial for animal health and well-being. There are two kinds of vitamins required by sheep and goats: fat-soluble and water-soluble. The fat-soluble are A, D, E, and K. The water-soluble are B and C.



Sheep and goats generally do not require supplemental B vitamins or vitamin K. They are synthesized in the rumen by microbes. However, cobalt is needed for synthesis of B12. In areas with low cobalt, B12 supplementation may be required. Sheep/goats need vitamin B1 if they develop a deficiency due to polio. It is also common to give B vitamins when an animal is stressed or off-feed. Vitamin K is administered in specific situations.

Vitamin C is synthesized in the tissues. Under normal conditions, sheep and goats do not require vitamin C supplementation, though in some cases, it may be used to support certain health conditions. Research has shown that mastitis is associated with low vitamin C levels.

Sheep and goats generally get enough vitamin A, D, and E from their diet, especially when grazing green pasture. Some circumstances may require supplementation, such as poor-quality forage, drought conditions, or during late gestation and lactation. Limited sunlight exposure can lead to inadequate D levels. Commercial mineral mixes for sheep and goats typically contain added A-D-E. So do finishing diets.

