

MINERAL FEEDERS for sheep and goats

Minerals are an important part of the diets of sheep and goats. While minerals are usually incorporated into rations you feed, they should be offered free choice to grazing animals. You can purchase mineral feeders or make your own from various materials. There are many kinds of mineral feeders, including ones with multiple compartments. Loose minerals are preferable to blocks for sheep and especially goats.



Ideally, mineral feeders should be covered to protect the minerals from the elements and contamination. Feeders should be put in a dry accessible area, near water sources or high-traffic areas. They should be checked frequently to make sure they are adequately stocked and to monitor how much mineral the animals are consuming; typically, 0.25 to 1 oz daily. Be sure to have enough feeders, based on pasture size, number of animals, and flock/herd dynamics. Providing minerals to sheep and goats that are comingled can be challenging, since sheep are sensitive to the added copper in goat minerals.