

Lifetime Ewe Management Ensuring impact for SA Producers

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LTEM Organisation and Delivery

- * Run by Rural Industries Skills Training Centre in Hamilton
- * Australian Wool Innovation provides strong financial support
- * Delivered right across Australia

LTEM in South Australia

- * Commenced delivery in SA in 2010
- * App 300 Participants completed LTEM in SA so far.
- * Currently 10 Accredited Deliverers of LTEM in SA
- * Currently 20 LTEM groups running presently in SA
- * Mix of Private Consultants, Elders and Landmark

LTEM Structure

- * 5 producers (4 min – 6 Max) within 50 kilometres
- * 6 sessions per year – Year 1
- * Visit everyone's farm each time
- * Monitor ewe flock on each farm
- * Condition score 50 ewes out of mid section flock
- * Assess the pastures that ewes are about to graze
- * Set targets for both ewes and pastures
- * Do feed budgets each time to meet targets
- * Cover relevant section of LTEM Manual each time

LTEM Sessions

- 1 - Principles and Practices of LTEM
- 2 - Preparing the ewe for joining
- 3 - Ewe nutrition in early to mid pregnancy
- 4 - Ewe nutrition in late pregnancy
- 5 - Ewe nutrition in lactation and post weaning
- 6 – Weaning & Review of Year 1 LTEM.

Participant Investment

- * Full cost - \$2100
- * AWI supporting Lifetime Ewe Management so it costs \$865 per producer.
- * An extensive manual and resource kit is provided to each member of the group at the first session
- * Gain a trained consultant as facilitator

Change in productivity in LTEM

| | Pre-LTEM | Post-LTEM | % Change |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Farm size (ha) | 1295 | 1316 | +2% |
| Stocking rate (dse/ha) | 11.4 | 13.0 | +14% |
| Lambing % (Crossbred) | 111 | 125 | +13% |
| Lambing % (Merino to Merino) | 75 | 83 | +11% |
| Lambing % (Merino to Other) | 84 | 94 | +12% |
| Ewe mortality % | 4.9 | 2.8 | -43% |

Change in practice in LTEM

| | Pre-LTEM | Post-LTEM |
|--|----------|-----------|
| Assess pasture quality and quantity | 26% | 91% |
| Condition scoring ewes | 4% | 94% |
| Joining length 5 weeks or less | 28% | 70% |
| Pregnancy scanning ewes for multiples & separate | 18% | 71% |
| Regularly calculate the ME balance of ewes | 2% | 82% |

Creating our own destiny

- Major focus on the five

- * **Conception** – Good Starting Point
- * **Survival** – Optimising your potential
- * **Growth Rate** – Wool & Lamb
- * **Ewe Wastage** – Stop what is slipping through your fingers
- * **Ewe Efficiency** – Better not necessarily bigger

Focus where it counts

Stocking Rate x Wean % x Kgs/Head x Price

Less

**Costs (Enterprise, Overheads, Labour, Tax,
Interest)**

=

Profit

Scanning – Strong Emphasis in LTEM

| Name | 2 YO | | | 3 YO | | | 4 YO | | | 5 YO | | | 6 YO | | |
|--------------------|------|----------|--------------|------|----------|--------------|------|----------|--------------|------|----------|--------------|------|----------|--------------|
| | Mer | No Lambs | % | Mer | No Lambs | % | Mer | No Lambs | % | Mer | No Lambs | % | Mer | No Lambs | % |
| No Ewes | 445 | | | 392 | | | 292 | | | 291 | | | 225 | | |
| No Multiples | 129 | 258 | | 172 | 344 | | 147 | 294 | | 151 | 302 | | 150 | 300 | |
| % Multiples | | | 51% | | | 67% | | | 70% | | | 72% | | | 83% |
| No Singles | 245 | 245 | | 169 | 169 | | 126 | 126 | | 119 | 119 | | 63 | 63 | |
| % Singles | | | 49% | | | 33% | | | 30% | | | 28% | | | 17% |
| No Dry | 71 | | | 51 | | | 19 | | | 21 | | | 12 | | |
| % Dry | | | 16 | | | 13.0 | | | 6.5 | | | 7.2 | | | 5.3 |
| % Ewes in Lamb | | | 84.0% | | | 87.0% | | | 93.5% | | | 92.8% | | | 94.7% |
| Total Foetuses | | 503 | | | 513 | | | 420 | | | 421 | | | 363 | |
| % Foetuses | | | 113.0 | | | 130.9 | | | 143.8 | | | 144.7 | | | 161.3 |

Ewe is too costly to be a passenger

| Starting Point | | | Overall Ewe Wastage at Lambing | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Total Ewes | No Lambs | % | | | | | |
| 1645 | | | Ewes Lose Lamb | | | | |
| Twin Ewes | Twin Lambs | | Twin Survival | Live Twin | Dead Twn | 1/2 One | 1/2 Both |
| 749 | 1498 | 67% | 60% | 899 | 599 | 200 | 200 |
| Sing Ewes | Single Lambs | | Single Survival | Live Single | Dead Single | Ewes Lost | |
| 722 | 722 | 33% | 85% | 614 | 108 | 108 | |
| Drys | | | | | | | |
| 174 | | | | 1513 | Alive Lambs at Marking | | |
| | % Drys | 10.6 | | 68% | Survival of scanned foetuses | | |
| | Ewes SIL | 89% | | 708 | Lost Foetuses & Dead Lambs | | |
| | | | | 92% | Lambing % | | |
| | Tot Foetuses | | | 308 | Dry Ewes at Lamb Marking | | |
| | 2220 | | | 18.7% | Ewes Lost lambs | | |
| | Scan % | 135.0 | Ewe Lambing Wastage Summary | | | | |
| | | | 3.0% | Dead Ewes | | | |
| | | | 10.6% | Drys at Scan | | | |
| | | | -8.6% | Remate Drys | | | |
| | | | 18.7% | Drys at Lm Marking | | | |
| | | | 23.7% | Ewes no Lamb | | | |
| | | | 1645 | Ewes at Start | | | |
| | | | 390 | Ewes no Lamb | | | |

Measure to Manage

| XYZ Lifetime Ewe Group Monitor Flocks Production Data 2014 | | | | | | | |
|--|----------|---------|----------|-------|---------|-------|----------|
| Members Name | A | B | C | D | E | F | Tot/Ave |
| Ewe Breed | WS X Mer | 1st X | MM X Mer | SAMM | Mer | 1st X | |
| Sire Breed | WS | WS + PD | PD | HD | BL | WS | |
| Total Ewes | 4500 | 3250 | 2240 | 3800 | 4000 | 1980 | 19770 |
| Total Adult Sheep | 4700 | 3310 | 3900 | 3890 | 4500 | 2500 | 22800 |
| Shearing Month | Oct | Sept | Nov | Aug | Nov | Sep | |
| Original Monitor Flock No | 330 | 578 | 360 | 340 | 188 | 198 | 1994 |
| Cond Score 3 Ref Wt - Kgs Lwt | 65 | 60 | 60 | 55 | 55 | 60 | |
| Joining Date | 9-Jan | 2-Jan | 15-Jan | 1-Oct | 15-Dec | 3-Dec | |
| Finish Joining | 14-Feb | 3-Mar | 15-Feb | 1-Jan | 26-Jan | 3-Feb | |
| Joining Length in Days | 35 | 62 | 28 | 84 | 42 | 60 | |
| Ave Con Score Mating 3/03/14 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3.2 | 3 | 3.6 | Earliest |
| Scan DNS, W/D or D/S/T | D/S/T | D/S/T | D/S/T | D/S/T | D/S/T/T | D/S/T | |
| Ewes Scanned Triplet | 31 | 0 | 99 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Potential Triplet Lambs | 93 | 0 | 297 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Triplet Lambs Marked | 53 | 0 | 175 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Ass 70% |
| Ewes Scanned Twin | 183 | 310 | 135 | 63 | 47 | 61 | |
| Potentail Twin Lambs | 366 | 620 | 270 | 126 | 94 | 122 | |
| Twin Lambs Marked | 305 | 574 | 228 | 85 | 78 | 104 | Ass 80% |
| Ewes Scanned Single | 83 | 260 | 50 | 259 | 127 | 120 | |
| Potential Single Lambs | 83 | 260 | 50 | 259 | 127 | 120 | |
| Single Lambs Marked | 75 | 259 | 47 | 200 | 120 | 112 | Ass 90% |
| Total Potential Foetuses | 542 | 880 | 690 | 385 | 222 | 242 | 2961 |
| Total Scanning % | 164% | 152% | 192% | 113% | 118% | 122% | |
| % Ewes in Lamb - 1st Scan | 90% | 99% | 79% | 95% | 93% | 91% | |
| % Dries - 1st Scan | 10% | 1% | 21% | 5% | 7% | 9% | 8% |
| Ave CS at Scanning | 3.5 | 3.5 | 2.7 | | 2.7 | 3.6 | |
| Fercundity Ratio Multipl:Single | 5.5 | 2.4 | 11.3 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 1.0 | |

LTEM significant changes

- * Changes in timing of management
- * Containment feeding common practice
- * Lambing in pregnancy status not age group
- * Lambing in early and late groups for feed budgeting
- * Much more astute with decision making - feed
- * Joining lengths reduced

LTEM significant changes

- * Awareness of capability of some strains of sheep
- * Importance of genetic decisions
- * Now same level of management as the crops
- * Increase in the use of technology
- * Prepared to invest in training
- * More confidence in what they are doing.
- * Course motivates participants to learn more
- * Every sheep is an now an employee of the business.

Participant Investment

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- * Gain services of a trained consultant as facilitator

Unintended Benefit of LTEM quite often match the intended ones.

- * Confidentiality leads to the truth being told –Deal with reality
- * Teaches that guessing is not good enough
- * Demonstrates the importance of keeping good records
- * Provides a high level of motivation to improve
- * Teaches that \$865 (8 lambs?) is not a large investment for the gains that can be made – slow change of culture.
- * Allows participants to assess the potential in other systems
- * Provides a high level of motivation to keep learning
- * The learning model – small group learning really works

Other Learning Opportunities

- Training Workshops include

- * Bred Well Fed Well - Genetics & Nutrition
- * Managed Scanned Ewes
- * Lamb Survival
- * Lambing 50:50 – Being piloted this year
- * Cost of Production - Lamb and Wool
- * Sheep Benchmarking
- * Ram Select
- * Lambing Density trials
- * Customised workshops using Making More from Sheep Funding