

# 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	
<b>% Multiples</b>			<b>51%</b>			<b>67%</b>			<b>70%</b>			<b>72%</b>			<b>83%</b>
No Singles	245	245		169	169		126	126		119	119		63	63	
<b>% Singles</b>			<b>49%</b>			<b>33%</b>			<b>30%</b>			<b>28%</b>			<b>17%</b>
No Dry	71			51			19			21			12		
<b>% Dry</b>			<b>16</b>			<b>13.0</b>			<b>6.5</b>			<b>7.2</b>			<b>5.3</b>
% Ewes in Lamb			84.0%			87.0%			93.5%			92.8%			94.7%
Total Foetuses		503			513			420			421			363	
<b>% Foetuses</b>			<b>113.0</b>			<b>130.9</b>			<b>143.8</b>			<b>144.7</b>			<b>161.3</b>

# 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	<b>Ewe Lambing Wastage Summary</b>				
			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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# 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