

16th April 2025

01 MLA Feedbase Monitoring

With the recent rain in our southern areas over the last few weeks, pasture growth has now started. There is different options for monitoring biomass and ground cover, with MLA's Feedbase Monitoring available for free.

On it you will find:

- Images at a 1ha scale
- 30 day rolling mean of pasture growth updated every 5 days
- 5 year history of the paddock

Getting started:

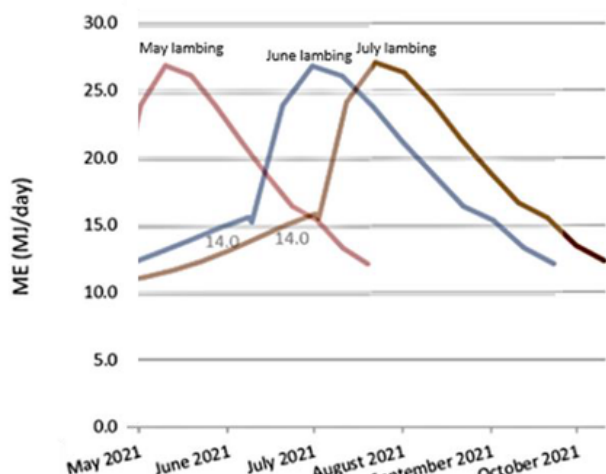
- create/login to your MyMLA account [HERE](#)
- Go to the Tools & Calculator tab and find the Australian Feedbase Monitor tool
- This will take you to the CiboLabs page where you can setup your own farm by adding your Livestock Production Insurance PIC

Find more information [HERE](#) or contact Brianna on 0457064777

02 Ewe ME Requirements

With seeding fast approaching it's time to starting thinking about pregnant ewe energy requirements for a 60kg ewe.

Ewe Energy Requirements During Pregnancy and Lactation



03 Increase the Weaning Rate of the National Sheep Flock Project

The project assessed whether supplementing ewes with melatonin, caffeine, betaine, or rumen protected (RP) amino acids could improve lamb survival by protecting against birth related oxygen deprivation. Done in a 3 stage approach - Stage 1: intensive research environment, Stage 2: extensive grazing research environment and Stage 3: commercial environment.

Results

Showed that for commercial producer environments, the supplements used had no positive benefits on weaner survival rates.

- Melatonin - Improved lamb survival in Stages 1 & 2 but showed no benefit on commercial farms in Stage 3 (SA & WA).
- Caffeine - Boosted thermoregulation in Stage 1 but reduced survival in Stage 2; not progressed further.
- Betaine - Late gestation supplementation improved early lamb behaviour and survival in Stage 1. No benefit in Stage 2; not progressed to Stage 3.
- Amino Acids
 - Citrulline and methionine-lysine-choline blends had no impact.
 - RP-arginine improved lamb thermoregulation (Stage 1) and increased survival by 12.5% to weaning (Stage 2). While Stage 3 trials on commercial farms showed no benefit, a parallel study at Turretfield Research Centre found a 12% survival increase in the first 24 hours, suggesting neurological protection.

For the full article check out this months Sheep Reproduction RD&A newsletter [HERE](#)

04 Planning for the Rain

- Post germination, let pastures grow for at least 2 weeks before grazing to maximise plant survival post graze, and the get best bang for buck when it comes to growth (ideally this is 800 FOO)
- If worried about a late break or sheep aren't looking great, consider trickling cereals into pastures to give more early season feed
- Monitor pasture growth with the MLA Feedbase Monitor or DPIRDs Pastures from Space.



Podcasts

Take a listen dive back in to Episode 63 of AgProCast with Ed Riggall and Dr Adrian Baker as they talk about feeding with 100% cereal rations [LINK](#)

05 Ed's 2025 Pasture Survey

Here's some of the results from Ed's pasture survey that was on Whatsapp. Barley still continues to be the dominant choice with standing fodder crops being made up of lupins or oats.

