



# Top 5

January 19th, 2024

## WORMS & LAMBS

We've all been caught with worm numbers building fast before, but now research has shown it can take only 3 weeks for worms to negatively impact lambs after they've been exposed. Recent studies showed after worm introduction it takes 3 weeks for dag and soiling to build up, and 4 weeks to see decreased weight gain.

This highlights the importance of keeping an eye on your lambs, and doing WEC regularly over summer and autumn.

Full study: [HERE](#)

## LOT FEEDING

Sort into liveweight or condition score so can best manage

Always include lime & salt.

Be prepared to draft off the shy feeders/poor do-ers: the bottom 20% once a month

Vaccinate for pulpy kidney, drench, and vitamin A as enter

About 2.5 square metres per head

Water: clean, fresh, 4-8L/hd/day. If a tough, 1m per 100 head. Bury pipes so it stays cool. Wedge end not bungs clean best!

## STUBBLE & HAY

For starters, we've seen stubbles around that are completely done. So check on your sheep, walk the paddocks, and review your feed budgets.



Send us your feedtests! If you've tested hay, silage, stubbles, please let us know. There's huge variation in the energy in these feeds, and we're trying to share the range.

Oaten Hay- Energy ranging from 8.7-10.5 MJ/KgDM

Pasture Hay- energy ranging from 9-11.3MJ/kg DM

Straw (similar to current stubbles): 4.3-6.1MJ/kg DM

Its particularly important to know what you're feeding out in years where feed is scarce, and if you want to do a test let us know.

## FIT TO JOIN

Its not just about feeding for condition score 3 at joining. "Unfit Ewes" are 3x more likely to die during pregnancy, and 4x more likely to scan empty. Lambs from 'unfit' mothers who didn't meet the criteria had a 21% high mortality

Unfit is also about:

- Udders- 5% of a normal flock has defects
- Lameness (feet)
- Teeth
- Age- less impact than other factors.

That's the crux of it, but more explanations on the MLA site: [HERE](#)

## LAMB WEIGHT GAIN

Some rules of thumb about weight gain- remember they've either growing or dying, so 'maintaining' isn't an option! Ideally you want them growing at AT LEAST 1kg/month over summer (35g/hd/day growth rate), more if they were under 25kg at weaning.

For finishing, aim for weight gains of at least 200g/h/day

You can use our feed calculator ([HERE](#), download and SAVE before using) to determine the energy in the rations you're giving them, and the table below to see what growth that means they should achieve. Call us if you want help with the calculations, or getting a ration sorted.

*Energy requirements for different weights & intended growth rates in weaners (based on 60kg when achieve adult size)*

Liveweight (kg)	Maintain weight	Weight gain of 50 grams per day	Weight gain of 100 g/d	Weight gain of 200 g/d
25	5.8	7.9	11	12.5
30	6.6	9.3	11.1	14.6
35	7.4	10.2	12.1	15.8
40	8.1	10.8	12.9	16.7
45	8.6	10.8	12.7	14.4