

Top 54

August 25rd, 2023

OHS SUMMARY FROM STOCKCON

KEY: Need to prove are actively trying, so start with staff inductions.

Freebies and templates at [farmsafe](https://farmsafe.com.au)

Paid packages or software- start at \$2,500. Still have to do a lot of work, but keeps you up to date with legislation changes

You need to have:

- WHS policies
- Processes and safe work procedures
- Inductions for contractors and staff
- Safety meetings and annual review
- Contractor and visitor register
- Emergency management plans
- Incident and risk register

Or just call Georgia because she's now spent hours doing this!

CULLING FOR UDDER & TEATS

With marking and crutching happening at the moment, get out the rattle, because this is a heritable trait and dodgy udders lead to increased lamb mortality. The perfect time to cull for udder & teat traits is during lactation- so now.

Udder depth & cleft, Teat size and placement are the traits, with wool cover having no impact. More info with pics [HERE](#) and full scientific paper [HERE](#)

UDDER DEPTH: 1- udder floor at abdomen, (no udder/dry) 3, udder floor approx. half way to hocks, 5 udder floor at or below hocks.

Udder depth



ASBVs and DNA TESTING

No its not just for studs-Plugging the Merino Flock Profiling test again!

Easiest to do at weaning or marking with a tissue or blood sample.

Xytovet's Jason Ledger made a great point at StockCon that by testing the current lambs and the oldest ewes on farm, you get an instant comparison of how your genetics are changing over time. Genius shortcut.

If the rams you look at have ASBVs listed, it makes sense to know which rams will give you genetic improvement by knowing where your flock sits - so get a test and figure out what your genetics are. Reports fleece weight, fibre diameter, staple length, weight, eye muscle depth, curvature, CV, fat and indexes.

Companies include Neogen, Xytovet, but here's the basic info: [ProfileTest](#)

MEAT MARKETS

The key points from Clark Skinner (Elders Cranbrook) at StockCon was basically step it up with sale prep. It's the first winter without live export & Eastern States rebuild demand. NSW and USA in drought= high red meat slaughter rates. Feedlot market likely swamped. AU kill rates at best been for 2-3 years, with reliable kill space promises.

SO:

Have conversations with your agent:

Understand specs rather than just continue to 'just get them in', and make animals appealing

to as many processors & feedlotters as possible-
they have choice, you don't.

"Do a bit more, make a bit less" -grass seed
control, shear when can, crutch, bungle-
Present right. scabby guard if have in the past
(ie its present on your property already)

Don't throw last 'shit' ones on the truck- might
cost you whole consignment as they pick
another line

**JUST OVERDELIVER. There's oversupply, and
underdemand. You need them off the farm. Its
that simple.**
