

# Top 5

April 25th, 2024

## TROUGHS

A fair few troughs are going in, especially as some dams get 'cropped in'. Rules of thumb:

- 8L/hd/day
- 1m of trough per 100 sheep
- Recommended flow rate is 3-4L/second for 1000 sheep
- Limit walking in big paddocks- 2 troughs may be needed
- Quick scrub clean several times a week

There's rumours of water grants, but we haven't seen anything concrete. Keep receipts and records just in case.

## PLANNING FOR THE RAIN

- Post germination, let pastures grow for at least 2 weeks before grazing to maximise plant survival post graze, and get best bang for buck with it comes to growth (ideally this is 800 FOO)
- Growth rates are likely to be higher than previous years with the predicted warmer winter.
- If worried about a late break or sheep aren't looking great, consider trickling cereals into pastures to give more early season feed

## VIT E & SELENIUM

Coming predominantly from plants, sheep are likely deficient in both right now as the body only store them a short time.

You'll see it as ill thrift in weaners, increases in general illnesses (also exacerbated by dry conditions) and white muscle disease, where lambs and weaners can develop a stiff gait, arch their backs, look lame or not want to move, and as usual with weaners, have poor growth or just die.

Drench or inject, and if you suspect it is either deficiency, get a vet to take a sample.

## JOINING RATES

23/24 has seen significant decreases in joining rates- no we don't have accurate numbers yet! DPIRD modelling has shown the impact of decreasing at various rates, over different times (1-3yrs). Joining rates of 6% lower for only 1 year resulted in a flock decline of 12% over three years. Rates of 80% (11% lower) resulted in a 14% decline in total flock numbers over 3 years.

The different scenarios it runs is interesting to look at when you focus on the impact of changing joining rates on your own flock, rather than state numbers. Full article: [HERE](#)

## LISTENING...

Full cereal rations are approved: Ed and Adrian discuss how to do it safely as lupins, hay, straw and pellets become hen's teeth: [HERE](#)

If you attend Ag events in WA, at least one of them has been thanks to Esther Price. She's dynamic, she's fun and she's passionate about ag, she's worth listening to while you go back and forth in the tractor over the next few weeks: [Events Extraordinaire, Mountaineer, Plane Crash Survivor and all-round Incredible](#)

[Human - This is Esther Price — Humans of Agriculture](#)