

# Top 5

March 26th, 2024

## VIT E

Reports of having to order it in as there's a shortage- so call stores ahead just in case.

## BENCHMARKING

If you're a benchmarker, check your emails- there should be one from Brianna kindly asking you to fill out the form. Ideally by seeding! If you want help, or want to benchmark this year, don't hesitate to reach out to any of us.

## ACIDOSIS

Barley is the main problem- once reach 0.5kg/day, there are risks with high starch (acidosis).

Can use acidbuffers, or add lime- covers calcium needs too! Have 20% of the diet consisting of roughage- older stubbles, straw or hay.

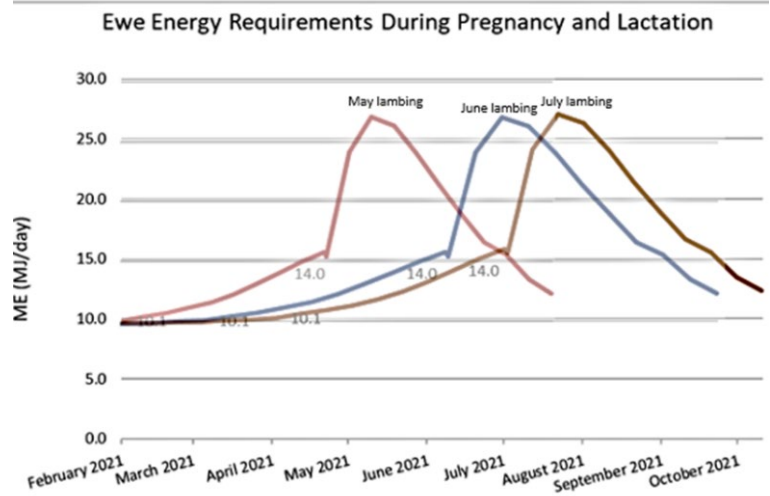
Don't forget to introduce barely slowly if you haven't already-start at 50g/hd/day and increase by 25% each 3 days until reach desired ration. This applies to moving stock into fresh stubbles too- fill their bellies with hay before they move to reduce impact.

If affected, feed only hay. For individuals (eg expensive rams!) drenching with Bicarb soda can help (13g bicarb in ~2L water, but check with a vet!)

Relisten to AgPro Cast's episode 11 for more.

## FEED DEMANDS

We're on the way up with feed demands, with a 60kg June lamb needing the equivalent of 10.2MJ (550g barley/hd/day in a bare-bones paddock). Despite the graph saying 2021, we started feeding earlier this year, so your rations should be higher than this time last year- nearly the full ration. We've said it before and will say it again- do you have enough feed to get through to what is likely a late break?



Weaners are still at the point where they are growing or dying. A 30kg Merino weaner growing slowly (less than 50g/day) currently needs 8MJ+, the equivalent of 500g/h/day of a lupin barley mix.

## CONFINEMENT FEEDING

With the season changing and feed becoming limited, the topic of confinement feeding is becoming common. The key question to ask yourself before is, WHY are you doing it? Is it to allow pastures to establish, manage sheep condition score, or manage limited resources (feed, water, labour), or increase efficiency? Always keep in mind your aim.

There is no perfect system, but a few rules of thumb include:

- Space 2m<sup>2</sup> -5m<sup>2</sup> per head. Most common size is 50x50m for 500 sheep. If using a small paddock, you can have up to 1500 sheep.
- Ideally draft mobs by condition.
- Draft the tail off after 4 weeks.
- Induct with Pulpy kidney vac.
- Feeding: 20cm/head if using a trough
- Water 1cm/hd, and away from feed

Here are some short videos that show a few simple set ups being successfully used in the Great Southern, discussing how each set up works, rations and some steep learnings:

#### **Zadow House Addis**

Confinement feeding can vary depending on your resources and genetics, please touch base with us either through the Whatsapp or individually if you want to discuss further.

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### **LISTENING...**

As we start to make decisions about confinement and feedlotting different stock, Ed & Adrian's past podcast is worth a listen to:

Episode 57. Here's one on weaners if they're struggling: Episode 47