

31st March 2025

01 Confinement Feeding

With the season starting to change and seeding getting closer, the topic of confinement feeding is coming up again. 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 2m² -5m² 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.
- Vaccinate at entry with pulpy kidney vac.
- Feeding: 20cm/head if using a trough
- Water 1cm/hd, and away from feed

Check out our new confinement feeding factsheet [HERE](#)
Here is a short video on confinement feeding [HERE](#)

Touch base with us either through the Whatsapp or individually if you want to discuss further.

02 Vitamin E & Selenium

Coming predominantly from plants, sheep are likely deficient in both right now as the body only store hem sore 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.

03 Analysis of Australia Sheep Flock Fertility & Fecundity

The final session of the Productivity and Profitability Webinar Series by MLA, presented by Dr Gordon Refshauge and Agristar. The analysis of over 15,000 mobs and 7.5 million ewes revealed a median pregnancy rate of 76%, lower than the industry estimate of 90%.

Factors affecting pregnancy rates include: poor pre-mating nutrition, seasonal variability, and inadequate ram fertility assessments contribute

Strategies to increase pregnancy rates:

- Nutrition - Lupin supplementation two weeks before and one week into mating can boost pregnancy rates by 20%.
- Pregnancy scanning helps identify twin-bearing ewes, optimizing weaning rates and flock management.
- Teaser rams and genetic selection improve reproductive efficiency.
- Maintaining optimal weight and health before joining leads to higher conception rates.

Watch the full webinar [HERE](#)

04 Market Trends - MeatUp Forum

Did you miss the MLA MeatUp Forum last week? Here's a summary of the market trends for cattle and sheep presented on the day.

Slaughter trends in beef show a decrease in slaughter numbers but an increase in slaughter weights.

For the sheep industry both flock numbers and lamb slaughter numbers are predicted to drop in 2025 and 2026.

(slides on next page)

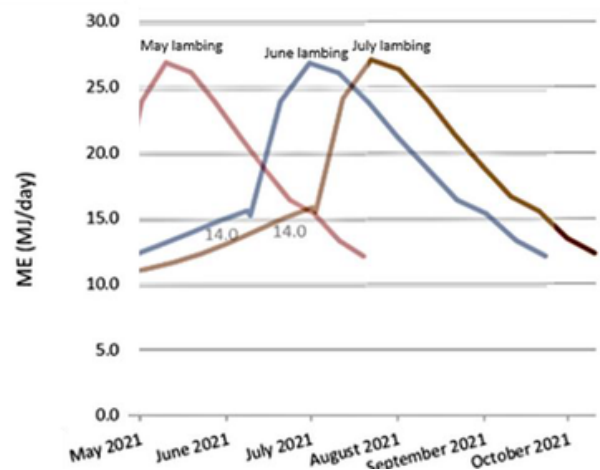
AGPRO TOP 5 NEWSLETTER



05 Ewe Energy 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



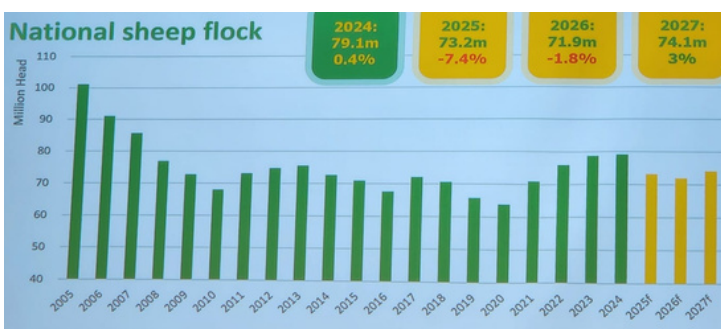
Podcasts

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](#)

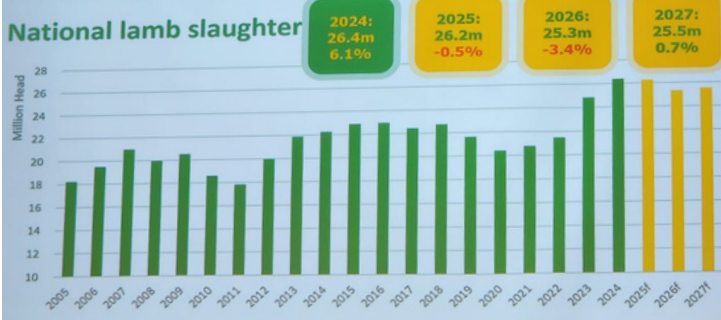
Close to record production – from lower slaughter



National sheep flock



National lamb slaughter



Big opportunities ahead in trade agreements

	Australia-UK FTA		Australia-India ECTA	Australia-UAE CEPA
	Beef	Sheep/goat		
Pre-FTA	3.7kt	13.3kt		
Year 1	35kt	25kt	30% tariff on sheep meat eliminated - Treaty-level interim outcome with more comprehensive FTA discussions continuing	- Negotiations concluded - likely to enter into force mid-2025 5% tariff on frozen beef and sheepmeat eliminated (chilled tariffs already 0%)
Year 10	110kt	75kt		