

05 Vitamine E

When sheep and weaners graze stubbles, dry pasture or grain-based rations for extended periods, Vitamin E deficiency becomes a significant risk. Vitamin E, together with selenium, is essential for immune function, growth, reproduction and prevention of white muscle disease.

- Signs of deficiency: poor growth, stiffness, lameness, reluctance to move, or sudden death.
- Prevention: Supplement if sheep have been on dry or grain-based diets for 6+ weeks. Apply Vitamin E at 2.5 g per head, either as an oral drench or via treated grain.

02 eID Tag Incentive

REMINDER: Tag incentive payment scheme has been approved for 2026.

- Orange, yellow and pink eIDs all discounted by 60c.
- Don't be shy to order more orange and yellow tags than you need in 2026 as they can be used again in 2029 and 2034.
- Don't go crazy on pink tags - you only need to put them in sheep that have been bought in (not bred on farm) and lost their original eID.

For more info follow the [LINK](#)

03 Captive Bolt Stun Guns

Captive bolt stun guns are a practical and humane option for euthanising sheep, offering a safer alternative to knives or firearms. They do not require a firearms licence, and present lower workplace health and safety risks compared to using knives or conventional guns.

It uses a retracting bolt (instead of a bullet) is fired into the head. Different activators are used depending on the size of the animal (the correct activator is required for different sized animals to ensure the applicator works correctly).

Place to purchase include [Ebay](#) and [Bainbridge](#)

04 Summer Feed

Summer feeding requires more than just bulk feed — protein is often the limiting factor in stubbles, and when dietary protein drops below requirements (6% adults, 15% weaners) intake can halve, resulting in weight loss despite apparent feed availability.

Strategic lupin supplementation helps lift protein levels, improving rumen function and allowing sheep to utilise available energy, while drafting off the lower-condition tail prevents shy feeders from slipping further behind. Weaners need particular attention due to higher protein demands for growth, and water quality, cleanliness and flow rate must not be overlooked, as poor supply can significantly limit intake and performance.

Proactive feed budgeting and regular condition scoring remain critical to maintaining productivity through summer and autumn.

Follow this [LINK for the Summer Feed Factsheet](#)

05 Fit to Join

'Unfit' ewes are 3x more likely to die during pregnancy and 4x more likely to scan empty, while lambs born to unfit mothers have 21% higher mortality.

Unfitness isn't just condition score — it also includes:

- Udders: around 5% of ewes have defects
- Lameness: feet and leg issues
- Teeth: reduced ability to maintain intake
- Age: generally less impact than the factors above

More information on the MLA Fit to Join page [LINK](#)



Podcasts

AgPro Cast new episodes

- Episode 91 – Ed discusses work safety the value of carrying a mobile phone! We also discuss his system and pastures for the coming year [LINK](#)