

# Top 5

April 24th, 2023

## KEEPING AN EYE FOR LUPINOSIS

Lately, Lupinosis has become a key talking point, with many producers reporting of signs of it in their flocks. We suspect this has been caused by an extended growing season period last year and by recent rain events. Surprisingly we have reports of it being found in Jurien lupins, which are resistant to the fungus.

If infected sheep will contract a liver disease, which causes severe or chronic liver disfunction. It's mainly caused by the consumption of lupin stubble, colonised by the fungus *Diaporthe toxica*.

Signs of lupinosis:

- Lethargy
- Reduced appetite
- Weight loss
- Hollow flanks
- Jaundice (yellowing of eyes and mouth)
- Photosensitisation
- Death

Treatment:

- Remove stock from suspected lupin stubble and place in small paddock with shade, water and mature pasture.
- Contact local vet to confirm diagnosis
- Provide a low protein diet e.g. oaten hay/oats as the liver can't handle high protein feed once damaged.

- Avoid paddocks with greenery due to susceptibility of photosensitisation
- Reduce stress when moving
- If they have photosensitization move to darkened area such as shearing shed

Prevention:

- Graze lupin stubbles early, prior to summer rains
- Check stock regularly for signs of lupinosis. As we have found, even lupins with a resistance to the fungus can still carry it in some cases.
- Remove stock from stubble paddocks before the lupin seed count gets below 40 seeds per metre square (equates to 50kg/ha of lupin seed) as sheep will seek more stem material, increasing the risk of consuming the fungus from the stem.

For more information, follow the [LINK](#) to the DPIRD Lupinosis in Sheep factsheet.

If you have any questions or suspect lupinosis, please reach out to your local vet or contact us, either via the Whatsapp groups or individually by contacting Ed on 0428299007.

## EID TAGS: WHAT WE KNOW

Check out this helpful and informative factsheet that The Sheep's Back have been busy putting together! It looks at all things EID Tag related, and what we know so far and covers off on the major topics that producers are wanting to know more about. These include:

- Legislation and Rules
- What is an eID Tag
- Common Questions
- Current NLIS accredited tags
- EID equipment and infrastructure
- What data can be collected?
- EID Software

To take a look at the factsheet sheet, follow the [LINK](#) or find it on the AgPro Client Portal

The transition into eID tags can be confusing, so if you have any questions, please reach out to us, either via the Whatsapp groups or individually.

Thank you again to The Sheep's Back, this will be a helpful tool to use as we start the transition into eID's.

## BENCHMARKING

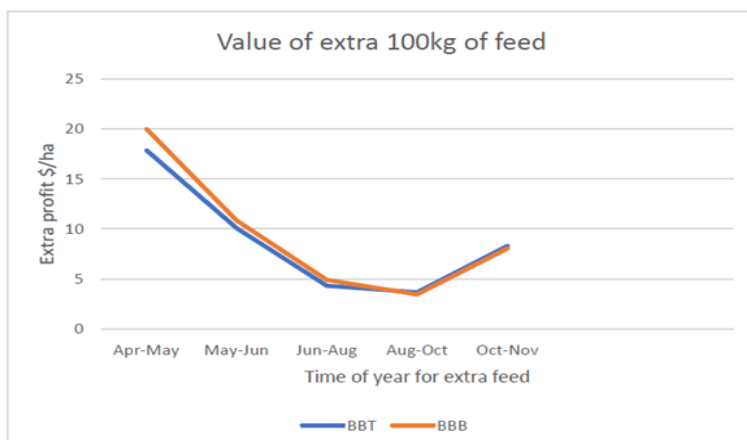
A quick reminder that the 2022/23 benchmarking input forms were emailed out in March. These will be due by the end of May. Once completed please email back to [brianna@agpromanagement.com](mailto:brianna@agpromanagement.com)

If you are unable to find the benchmarking input email with the document, follow the [LINK](#) to DOWNLOAD and SAVE or visit the AgPro Client Portal.

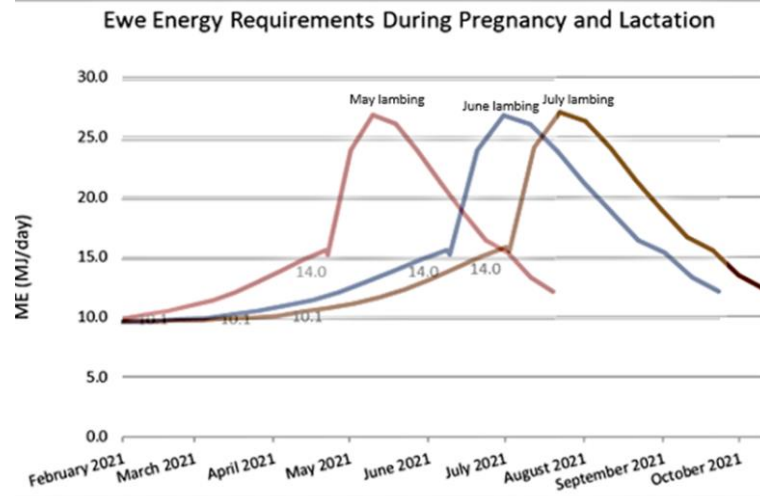
If you have any questions about the input sheet, please contact Brianna or Ed.

## EARLY SEASON FEED VALUE

Fantastic economic analysis by Mike Young has shown that extra feed is most valuable in April & May. The value varied slightly based on your flock but the trend remains- BBT is ewes to terminal sires, and BBB is a full Merino flock.



## FEED CURVE IS CHANGING



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.

The exact amount is determined by the growth rate needed- the smaller/poorer they look, the more you feed to catch them up (and not let them slip over seeding!).