



# Top 5

January 5th, 2024

Happy 2024 everyone, and welcome to a longer Top 5 to make up for the silly season respite.

## FLIES

With a bit of mizzle around the place, there are perfect fly conditions that might have slipped your notice post harvest. Keep an eye out, and if you want to test your chemical resistance, give as a call- its free!

## CONFINEMENT/FEEDLOT

The difference: Feedlotting is to put on weight, confinement is to maintain.  
In feedlot aim for a MAXIMUM of 10kg increase. After this, its less effective and simply costly.

For both:

- Vaccinate on entry (pulpy kidney)
- 10% diet is roughage
- Mob size max 1500
- SR max 2,000hd/ha

More info on each next Top 5.

## SALEYARDS

As you know, still a buyers' market. BUT Mid November marked a turning point in the Eastern States Trade Lamb market indicator- sitting at an average of \$120/hd, its steadily increased over the last 8 weeks (except right at Christmas!) to average \$150. Our prices usually follow the trend, (but not the actual price!)

Katanning market has certainly shown this positive increase, with prime lambs nearly doubling in that period (to about \$95/hd), with Merino lamb and Ewe sale prices also lifting.

## FEED STATUS

With the early spring finish, consider all stubbles/pasture to be the equivalent of what would usually be around in February. We've seen sheep condition slip- its sneaking up on people with the sharper decline in feed quality and quantity. So get your hands on those sheep, especially if in full wool, and CONDITION SCORE. We know it takes time, but this is the season to be doing it.

We've all said it: Supplementary feed this year is going to be higher with the earlier harvest. So keep reviewing your rations-The importance of not letting the plane of nutrition drop is about reproductive performance, general health & production, and simple economics: its

## RAMBOS

Need prepping now for all their hard work ahead! Most of the sperm they'll use is made now- in the 8 weeks prior to joining. Flushing with 500g/hd/day of lupins during this time can double production. Anything other than this doesn't have significant impacts. You can do a 10 day flush of 500g/h/day- starting 5 days before joining- which impacts % of twins rather than dry.

There's been discussion around shorter joinings (4/5 weeks)- you'll be glad to know that most sperm is used in the first 21 days, after that, joining success drops drastically. Throw in an extra ram per mob to cover yourself.

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## SURVEYS

Did you know that less than 25% of people do a survey sent to them?

So let's improve that, as both these surveys are about improving practices and targeting research FOR US.

Current weaner & maiden management, for focusing a project on strategies to improve survival and lifetime performance of Merino ewes, which Murdoch Uni is part of: [Murdoch survey](#)

WA focused AWI survey to see how they can better support levy payers, and assess our needs: [AWI Industry Survey](#)