



# Top 5

February 6th, 2024

## FEED TRACKING

AgPro'er Mike Young has made an easy feed tracking app. Handy to know what's been fed out, & what's on hand- and important this year as lupins disappear. Check it out: [HERE](#)

To set up:

1. Enter your available storage space in the settings window.
2. Enter current amount of grain on hand using the 'top up' command in the feed entry window.
3. Keep it up to date by entering each time grain is purchased or fed.

## FEED RATIONS

There's very few lupins out there, and even less coming- CBH southern zones have no stacks to open. So making smart rations is vital- lupins for weaners with their higher protein needs ( 30% of their diet is a good rule).

Use the App above, or back of the envelope:  
What have you got on hand? (the calculations below are for calculating dry matter)

.....tonnes of grain  $\times 0.9$   
..... tonnes of grain #2  $\times 0.9$   
.....tonnes of silage  $\times 0.35 \times 0.85$   
.....bales round silage  $\times \dots \text{kg weight} \times 0.5 \div 1000$   
.....bales of hay  $\times \dots \text{weight (kg)} \times 0.85 \div 1000$

By converting these Dry Matter numbers to 'energy' rather than tonnes, we can see how long what's on hand will meet sheep's needs.

It's simply the dry matter number multiplied by the energy value of a feed.

Barley 11.MJ/kgDM, oats 11, lupins 14, pasture hay 8., oaten hay 9MJ/kgDM. Straws and stubbles are 4-6MJ/kgDM based on our tests in the Great Southern.

How long will that last, based on each sheep needing roughly 8.5MJ/day?

Don't forget what's in the paddock- Ground covers are decreasing fast- Most pastures around 1,000kgDM/ha, and stubbles 2,000kgDM, both at 40% digestibility. They're providing less than a third of sheep's energy needs: Maximum consumption rates are at 0.6kg for ewes, which about 2.6MJ, and 0.4kg for weaners=2.1MJ.

## CHEAT SHEETS

Feed cost calculator: [HERE](#)

Ewe needs calculator (values higher than needed, better off using our calculator but this is quick and easy) [HERE](#)

## CLEAN UP THAT WATER

Water is precious this year, with low dam levels and a warm windy summer helping drop them faster than usual in many areas. Similar thinking to feed: what have you got on hand? Each animal needs about 6L day, so do your maths.

With a long summer/autumn predicted, this season is the one to clean up dams: algae, weeds, and silt.

Here's a reminder of the chemical options out there- all work best if you bother to remove some of the algae first, and mix in the chemical

with a fire unit pump or dragging something through the water.

To further help, dam averages:

Great Southern: 3,000m<sup>3</sup> (3,000,000L)

Wheatbelt & North: 5,000m<sup>3</sup> (5,000,000L)

South-west: 1,700m<sup>3</sup> (1,700,000L)

**Copper Sulfate**- kills everything. 1g/1000L.

Premix and spray. Keep livestock off for a week.

### **Simazine**

Simazine has different strengths, so check the label and use the rate it says to for dams!

Premix at 1:10 ratio and spray over the dam surface.

Don't use for livestock for a week- 2 weeks if it had blue-green algae. Is toxic to plants so don't use on the garden for a week.

**Barley straw**- best as a preventative rather than treatment. (Yes it's scientifically proven to work). 100g/1000L, best if bale is pulled apart. Lasts 6 months but takes 1 month to work.

**Cupricide**- a bit different as treatment rates calculated based on top 100cm of water (about 4.8L/1000m<sup>2</sup>). Also different: not toxic to plants or livestock, still toxic to crustaceans.

**Feric Alum** blocks- in a hessian bag attached to float (200L drums work well). 50mg/L. Better as a preventative/small issues.

**Calcium hypochlorite** (chlorine)- \$\$\$, often needs repeat treatments, application rates vary but 10-12g/1000L is normal. Kills crustaceans.