



Top 5

February 14th, 2025

CHEAT SHEETS

An adult 50 kg sheep needs approx 8MJ of energy per day and 6% protein in their diet to maintain their body weight. Sheep eat 3% of body weight if they have appropriate protein (6% Adult, 15% Weaners) in diet.

If % protein falls below this then the sheep's intake is limited. Without adequate protein, the rumen bugs are not able to process the 3% of body weight, thus sheep intake might reduce to 1.5% of bodyweight. For a 50 kg animal this would equate to:

- $50\text{kg} \times 3\% = 1.5 \text{ kg}$
- $50\text{kg} \times 1.5\% = 0.75 \text{ Kg}$

So, the sheep might be in a paddock that has adequate energy if they were eating 3%, however at 1.5% of bodyweight they are losing weight or "melting in the paddock".

Feeding out lupins/cereals with high protein through summer increases the protein % of the sheep's diet to a level where they are able to digest and in effect "unlock" the stubbles energy.

For more information check out our Summer Feeding Management Factsheet [LINK](#)

STUBBLE VALUE

Stem and leaf material from barley stubbles was approximately 1MJ/kg higher in energy compared with wheat.

Fine stem, leaf and pod material from lupins had the highest ME content of the different crops.

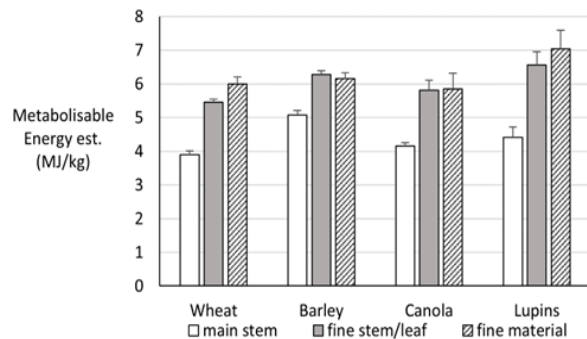


Figure 4. The estimated metabolisable energy content (MJ/kg DM) of chaff collected from winter crop stubbles in Western Australia (2018)

SHADE AND SHELTER

We've had some crazy temperatures over the last month! But it's not only us feeling the impacts of the heat. Heat stress exposed ewes and rams can have reduced fertility and impaired foetal development and lower lamb survival. A recent UWA project Shade and Shelter has been looking into the impacts that heat stress has on ewes and rams. This includes:

- Rams testes don't work optimally and more abnormal sperm is produced
- Ewes become difficult to get pregnant under hot conditions with an effect on oestrogen levels on ovulation being seen.

Leaving fleeces on sheep and providing some shade in paddocks during the summer and early autumn joining period may help to boost flock economic returns by increasing lamb conception rates.

Further information [HERE](#) or check out Farm Weekly article 'Sheep to benefit from shade and shelter during critical joining period'

MLA SUMMER LAMB AD

If you haven't seen it already, here is MLA's latest Lamb Campaign ad! Follow the link for a bit of a laugh [LINK](#)

CLEAN UP THAT WATER

Cleaning up dams from algae, weeds, and silt. Here's a reminder of the chemical options out there- all work best if you 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: 3,000m³ (3,000,000L)

Wheatbelt & North: 5,000m³ (5,000,000L)

South-west: 1,700m³ (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 at least a week- 2weeks 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 its 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/1000m²). 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, applications rates vary but 10-12g/1000L is normal. Kills crustaceans.

LISTENING...

As we start to make decisions about confinement and feedlotting different stock, Ed & Adrian's past podcast is worth a listen to:

Episode 57 – Lot feeding companion podcast [HERE](#)

Episode 47- Weaner illthrift and getting lambs up [HERE](#)