



Top 5

October 28th, 2024

WEANERS

Remember, if a weaner is going to die, its likely to be in the next 3 months post weaning!

Rules of thumb:

Growth rates through summer with current lamb weight to ensure survival and in good nick:

20kg + = 1kg/month growth

20kg - = 2kg/month

On stubbles: feed 100g lupins

Full ration: 50g/day= about 7 ME or
600g lupin:cereal

Guidelines.....

If you haven't started feeding, do it. Don't let them slip between weaning and stubbles being available.

Draft tail-moves mortality from 12% to 2%. So draft off the bottom 20% every couple of months.

MIKE'S FEED APP

Feed tracking-When it comes to budgets, it's a hassle to go back to find the feed data you need. Mike Young's app aims to simplify this by tracking all feed info, including what's on hand. Simple, easy. 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.

EARLY JOINING: RAM CHECK

It takes about 7 weeks for sperm to develop from initiation to ejaculation so prep for December/Jan joining needs to start now!

To check your rams are good to go complete the Five T's:

1. Teeth – check for sound mouth and gums. Check for overbite/underbite as this is a highly heritable trait.
2. Testes – Feel that testes and epididymides are firm and no lumps. Get rams tested that have unexplained lumps/swelling in epididymides for ovine brucellosis
3. Tackle/Tossle – Check the penis for abnormalities or swelling.
4. Toes – trim feet if toes appear to long and treat and monitor rams with signs of lameness.
5. Torso – check body formation is sound

STUBBLES

Some rules of thumb for your feed budgeting (which we're sure you're all doing like we keep reminding you to!). Plan for stubbles to fully support sheep for 4-5 weeks per paddock.

CANOLA stubble remaining: 3x grain yield

CEREALS stubble remaining: 1.75x grain yield

Amount of stubble (tonnes per hectare) = grain yield (t/ha x (1-HI)/HI.

The harvest index (HI) is the ratio of grain yield to total above-ground biomass. For winter

cereals ranges between 0.2 and 0.5. Wheat stubble volumes can be 1.3 to 2.8x grain yield

REMEMBER: Sheep only eat about 6% of stubble remaining, so its more about ground cover and trash/weed/disease management. For livestock, the focus should be on grains remaining- this is within a 0.1m quadrant:

The amount of residual grain required to equal 100 kgs of grain per hectare

Wheat and Oats	28*
Barley	25*
Lupins	8*
Field Peas	5*
Chick Peas	5*
Faba beans	2*

TRAIL FEEDERS

There's a huge difference between a bin on wheels and the latest tech available for sheep feeders these days, and Kondinin have done a great comparison of what's on the market.

TAKEAWAY: get scales retrofitted, even if its just you and eBay, \$800.

Read [HERE](#) or LISTEN [HERE](#) on the latest AgPro cast.