Haddon Rig – Andy Maclean

Why do we run Merinos?

Overview of the HR program

Dealing with drought

EIDs and data

HR Poll Stud

What's next for the future of merinos?

Haddon Rig Merino Breeders Day

11 – 8 - 2023

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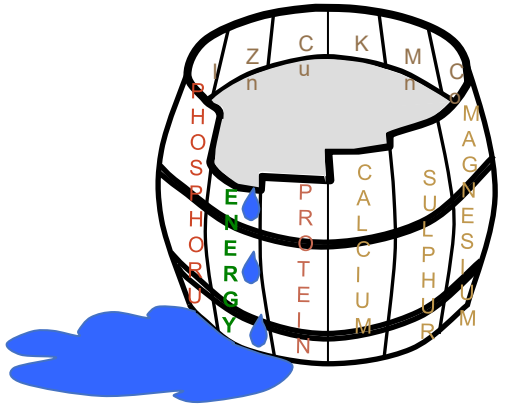
HEALTHY PASTURES
HEALTHY LIVESTOCK
HEALTHY SOILS
Betta Livestock
$$$

‘Managing the Extremes’

- Planning ahead
- Knowing what you are starting with
- Setting Benchmarks / Targets
- Balancing the excesses and filling the deficits
- Analysing the costs > ROI
- Executing



Planning for Lambing.
‘Knowing what you are starting with’
Looking back: 2022 – Worm management

Good information, helps to make good decisions

Drench Resistance testing

Summary Results

Percent Faecal Egg Count Reduction

Drench	Levamisole	Benzimidazole	Abamectin/Derquantel	Abamectin	Moxidectin	Monepantel	ABA/BZ/LEV	Closantel
All species								
Sp. Haemonchus:								

Measuring the effectiveness of multiple drench actives

‘Knowing what you are starting with’ 2023

From a **Livestock** perspective: - Planning began - Post Scanning

- Ewes
  - Pregnancy Status: Singles or Multiples (7-10% difference in gestational nutrient req’s)
  - Standard Reference Weight Dry, bare shorn, curfewed, CS 3
  - Condition Score (CS) (1 full CS = 19% Liveweight)
  - Days until lambing starts – finishes

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‘What the ewe needs’ & Setting Benchmarks

- Nutrient Requirement tables can be sourced from various industry sites

- Key nutrients in order of importance: (after water)
- **Energy** > Protein > Minerals > Vitamins

Alternatively, ‘Rules of Thumb’

- Energy Requirement of a dry, mature ewe:

Maintenance = (Lwt x 10%) + 1.8

Growth = 42Mj / kg liveweight gain

Nutrient Tables: Ref: Lifetime Ewe Management

Table 1. ME Requirements (MJ/day)

Pregnancy		
Day	Single	Twins
Dry	8.3	8.3
10	8.3	8.3
20	8.4	8.4
30	8.4	8.4
40	8.5	8.4
50	8.6	8.5
60	8.7	8.7
70	9.0	9.1
80	9.3	9.3
90	9.5	9.8
100	9.5	10.5
110	10.0	11.2
120	10.6	12.1
130	11.2	13.1
140	12.0	14.0
150	12.7	14.8

Lactation		
Day	Single	Twins
1	12.5	14.4
10	18.7	23.4
20	20.7	26.6
30	20.2	25.8
40	18.6	23.4
50	16.7	20.6
60	14.9	18.1
70	14.1	15.8
80	13.4	13.9
90	11.0	12.4
100	10.2	11.2

Table 2. Requirements Multiplier for Different Liveweight Ewes

LW @ CS 3	40	45	50	55	60	65	70
Multiply by	0.84	0.92	1.00	1.08	1.16	1.24	1.32

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‘What we have’ – Pasture Status

2022

- Quantity – Very high
- Quality – Moderate > Good
  - Legume content > Low
  - Energy > Good
  - Protein > Moderate

- Summary:
- Major Nutrient classes (Energy & Protein) ✓
- Focus turns to balancing the minor elements (& parasites)

2023

- Quantity – Moderate
- Quality – Low
- Legume content > Low
- Energy > Low
- Protein > Low

- Summary:
- Insufficient Energy & Protein to meet the requirements of high producing ewes

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Providing the balance

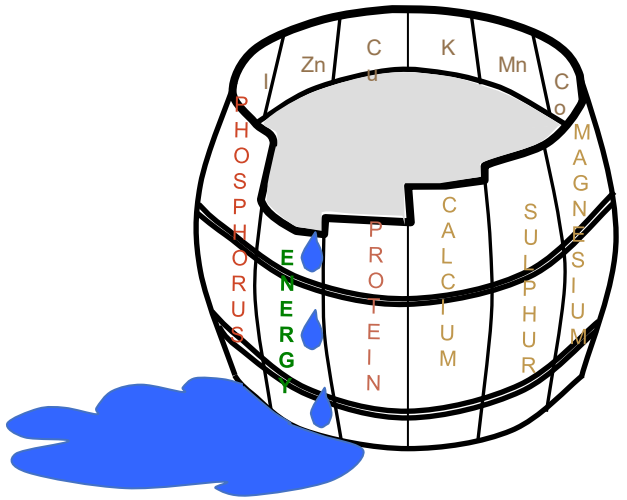
Feed Sources					Energy Requirement			
	Met Energy	C Protein	Dry Matter	As Fed' Energy Supply	Point of Lambing		Peak Lactation	
	Mj/kg (DM)	% (DM)	%	Mj/kg	Single	Twin	Single	Twin
Pasture	6	4%	85%	**5.1**	16 MJ/day	18 Mj/day	25 Mj/day	32 Mj/day
Barley	13.3	12%	90%	**12.0**				
Lupins	13.5	32%	90%	**12.2**				
Silage	10.6	8%	41%	**4.3**				
Silage (70%) : Barley (30%)	11.4	9%	56%	**6.6**				

Example

A twin bearing ewe consuming pasture alone to maintain Condition:

- @ the point of lambing would need to eat 3.5kg / day
- @ Peak lactation would need to eat 6.2kg / day.

$\neq$ IMPOSSIBLE



Feeding Program: 'start early'

- Barley : Lupin ration 'trail feeding' building to 1kg/hd/day Point of Lambing
- Introduce Silage : Barley ration ~ 5 days pre lambing
- Silage : Barley ration building to 4 kg/hd/day

Note: Induced imbalances to be aware of: Calcium Supply

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Execution

- Quantities to mix?
- Methods of feeding out?
- Regularity of feeding?
- Feeding in one spot v multiple dumps?
- Near or away from water points?
- To return to trail feeding and when?

Reassess

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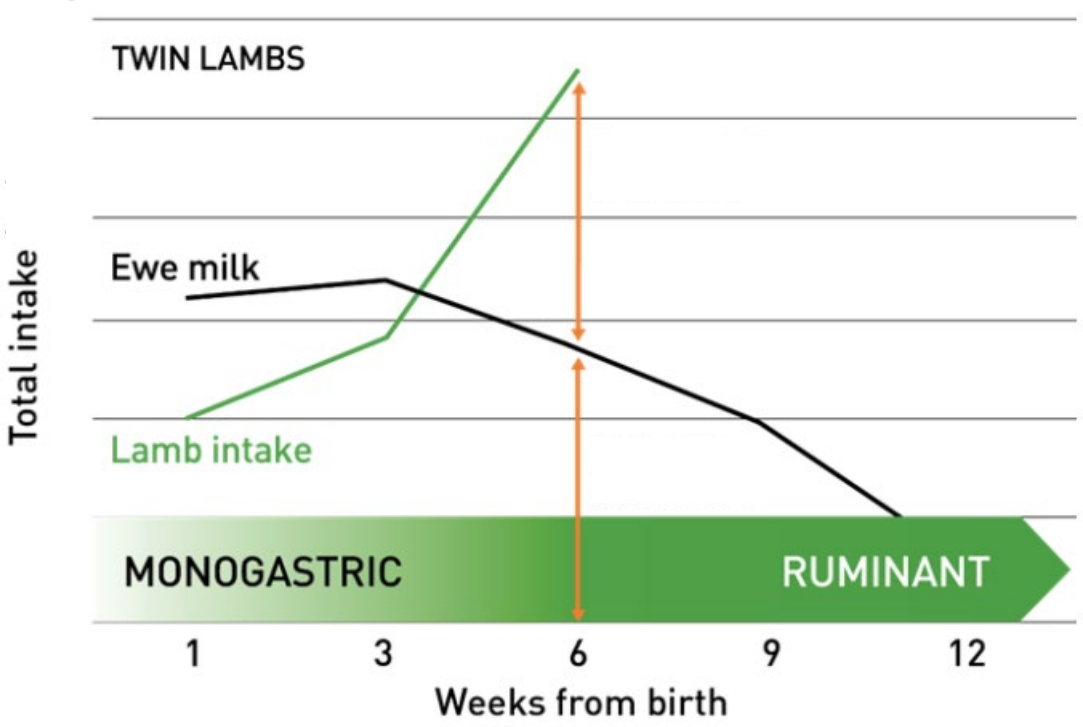
Re-assess – Factors to consider when planning for weaning

- Why wean?
- When is the ideal time to wean? What age, How big?
- What impact or influence is my current feeding program having on my weaners?
- What have I prepared to wean onto?

What we cant see but can manage / influence



- Twin lambs transition to pasture quicker than singles due to lower milk availability
- Twin lambs @ 6 weeks of age approx. 50% pasture intake
- Singles @ the same age approx. 35% pasture intake

Source: Winning With Weaners

Lamb Feed Conversion Efficiency

Ewes converting pasture > milk > lamb liveweight

- < 6 week old lamb very efficient at converting milk to liveweight gain (50%)
- > 6 weeks of age (30%)

- Why is this important to know?
- For every 1kg of grain being fed to the ewe (12Mj Energy / kg), only 30% or 4Mj of it is being utilized for lamb growth

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Take Homes

- *No two seasons are the same*
- *Planning and early preparation is key and prevents surprises*
- *Know what you are starting with and set some targets*
- *Continually assess and reassess*
- *Execute*

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Feeding & trading sheep for profit

Charlie Blomfield

Boridgeree Farming Pty Ltd

11 August 2023

Feeding Sheep

- Feedlot design
- Cost to build
- Alternative uses
- Other considerations
  - Labour
  - Machinery
  - Expertise

Trading Sheep

Understand pub talk vs. reality.

Know when to hold ‘em, know when to fold ‘em.

Before buying, you need to know:

1. Cost-of-carry (variable + overhead)
2. Cost-of-gain
3. Exit price (today’s value)
4. Exit point (weight & customer)

Trading Sheep

Know what you can afford to pay.

Use today's prices and information.

Reduce speculation and emotion.

To make 20% net ROI in today's market:

- Feedlotter can pay $41 per head
- Crop finisher can pay $60 per head

2XB Lamb Trade Scenario - Feedlot ($/hd)		
Purchase Price (landed)	40kg LWT	95.00
Ration Cost		29.00
Variable Costs		20.96
Overhead Costs		3.61
Breakeven Price		**148.57**
Cost of Gain	$/kg CWT	7.76
Cost of Carry	$/day	1.28
Sale Price ($5.20/kg CWT)	24.5kg CWT	127.40
Wool Income		-
Skin Price		(3.00)
Total Proceeds		**124.40**
Net Profit/(Loss)		**(24.17)**
ROI		-16%
ROI annualised		-141%

What can you afford to pay? ($/hd)		
Sale Price		124.40
Less Ration Cost		29.00
Less Variable + Overhead Costs		24.57
To breakeven		70.83
To make 20% ROI (net)		**41.12**

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