

It's ewe time!

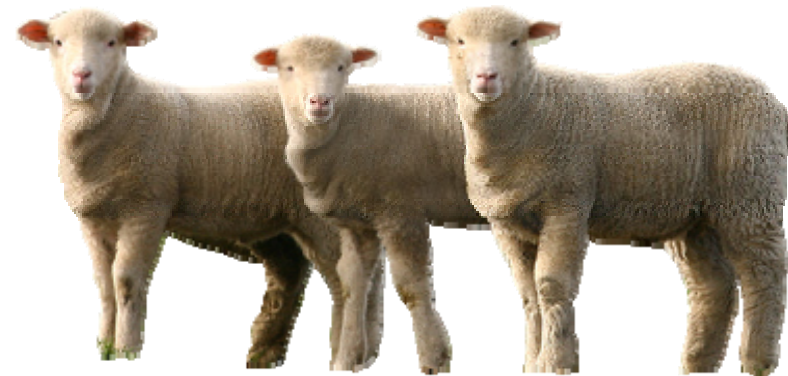
Making More From Sheep



# Making sheep easier to manage

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Event partners:



Event supporters:



State primary industry agencies

# Principles

Making sheep easier to manage should result in:

- Savings in time
  - Infrastructure and handling improvements
  - Linking operations
- Savings in money
  - Reduce labour costs
  - Improved animal health
- Ability to make more money
  - Run more sheep for the same labour
  - Make more profit from the existing number of sheep

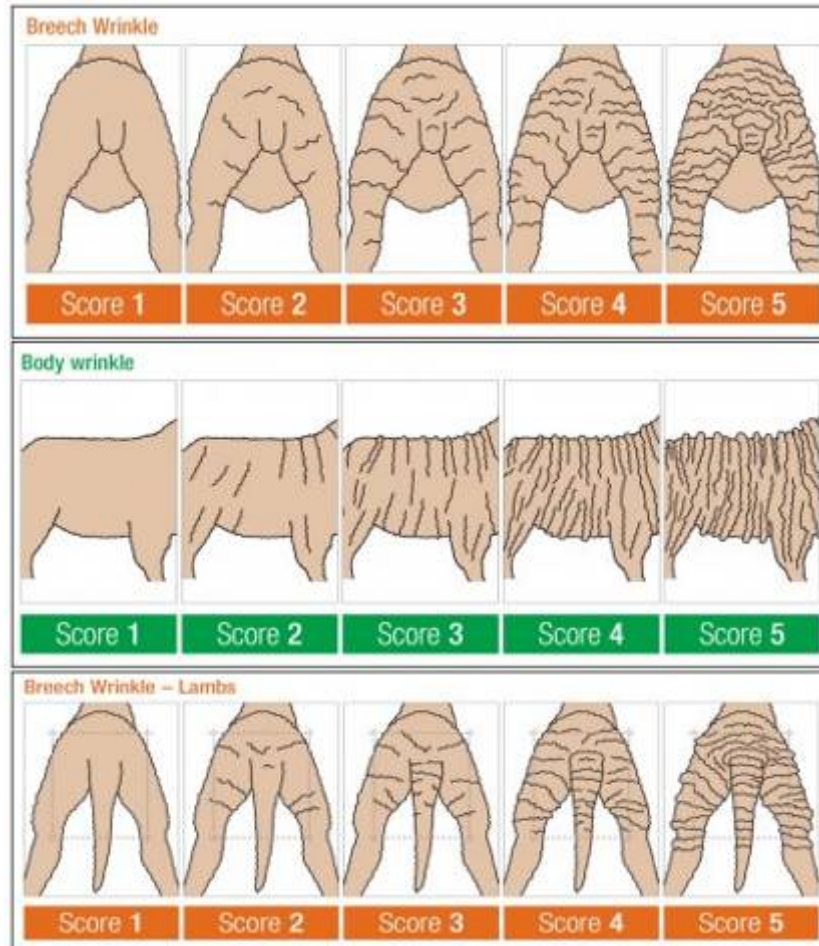
# Practices

1. Choice of sheep
2. Management systems
3. Infrastructure
4. Labour management

# Choice of sheep

- Conformation
- Fertility
- Temperament
- Growth rate
- Clean face and legs
- Well adapted to their environment (size, wool, genetic attributes)
- Breeding improvement program
- Low wrinkle scores

# Use visual sheep scores to assist in selection



(Source: Visual Sheep Scores, AWI & MLA)

# Management systems

- Understand your feed base
- Match sheep need with feed – Needs of different livestock classes; Feed test different feeds
- Time of lambing relative to “normal” season break
- Reduce the need for hand feeding
- Ewe management – Monitor target condition scores

# Management systems

- Lambing and marking – Portable yards, *Better Choices* pain relief, Use a Tpari knife for tail docking (bare tail butt)
- Develop Stop:Go points for the season:
  - Rainfall and key dates
  - Management actions that will be taken
  - Use a wall planner to assist

# Tpari Knife





## Mules or not?

- Dags increase fly risk
- Use *Better Choices* if you mules and declare on the NWD
- Incorporate into your breeding goals
- Consider mulesing options as they emerge

# Intradermal mulesing option – SkinTraction



(Source: AWI Website)

# Management systems

- Link activities where possible
- Minimise the number of mobs managed
- Three shearings in two years?
- Jet prior to harvest to reduce fly risk
- Use tools such as Worm Check and Fly Boss to assist management

# Infrastructure

- Invest in good yards – Fixed and portable
- Improve the yard design to assist stock flows
- Create laneways to assist in stock movement and access
- Good sheep loading and unloading facilities
- Good wool loading area
- Telemetry systems – Water

# Water Telemetry System – 8.5 B:C



(Source: Australian Pastoral Property Innovations Manual)

# Infrastructure

- Raised board to improve wool handling
- Well reticulated watering system with adequate storage
- Shared investment in infrastructure Covered area for workers
- Crutching trailers reduce sheep movements

# Crutching Trailer – 3.75 B:C



# Infrastructure

- Auto-drafters and other automatic technology options
- Incorporate sheep handlers or cradles
- Shared investment - Good boundary fences
- Open to ideas – *Innovations Manual*



# Innovations Manual



# Labour

- Aim to run more sheep for the same amount of labour:
  - Assess the number of DSE/labour
  - Good dog(s) and good infrastructure
  - Increase area grazed
- Invest in infrastructure and tools to make sheep work easier and more enjoyable

# Assess

- Opportunities to share labour
- Ideas that save labour
- The use of contractors to improve efficiencies

## Key messages

Making sheep easier to manage should result in:

- Savings in time
- Savings in money
- Ability to make more money

This will be achieved through:

- Your choice of sheep and your breeding improvement program
- Well considered management systems
- Infrastructure improvements
- Labour management and labour efficiencies