



AN INITIATIVE OF

Making More From Sheep



Making your ewes work for you

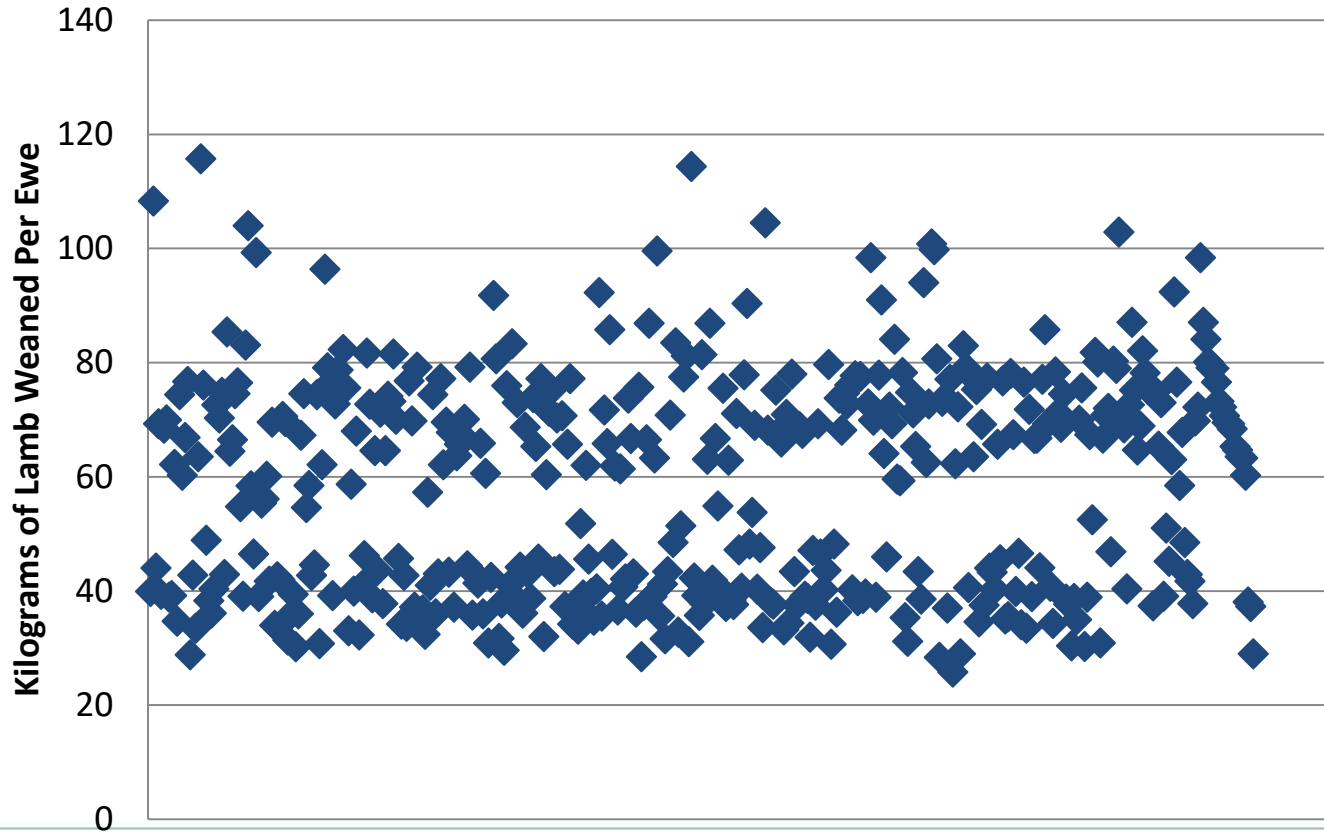
Helen McGregor



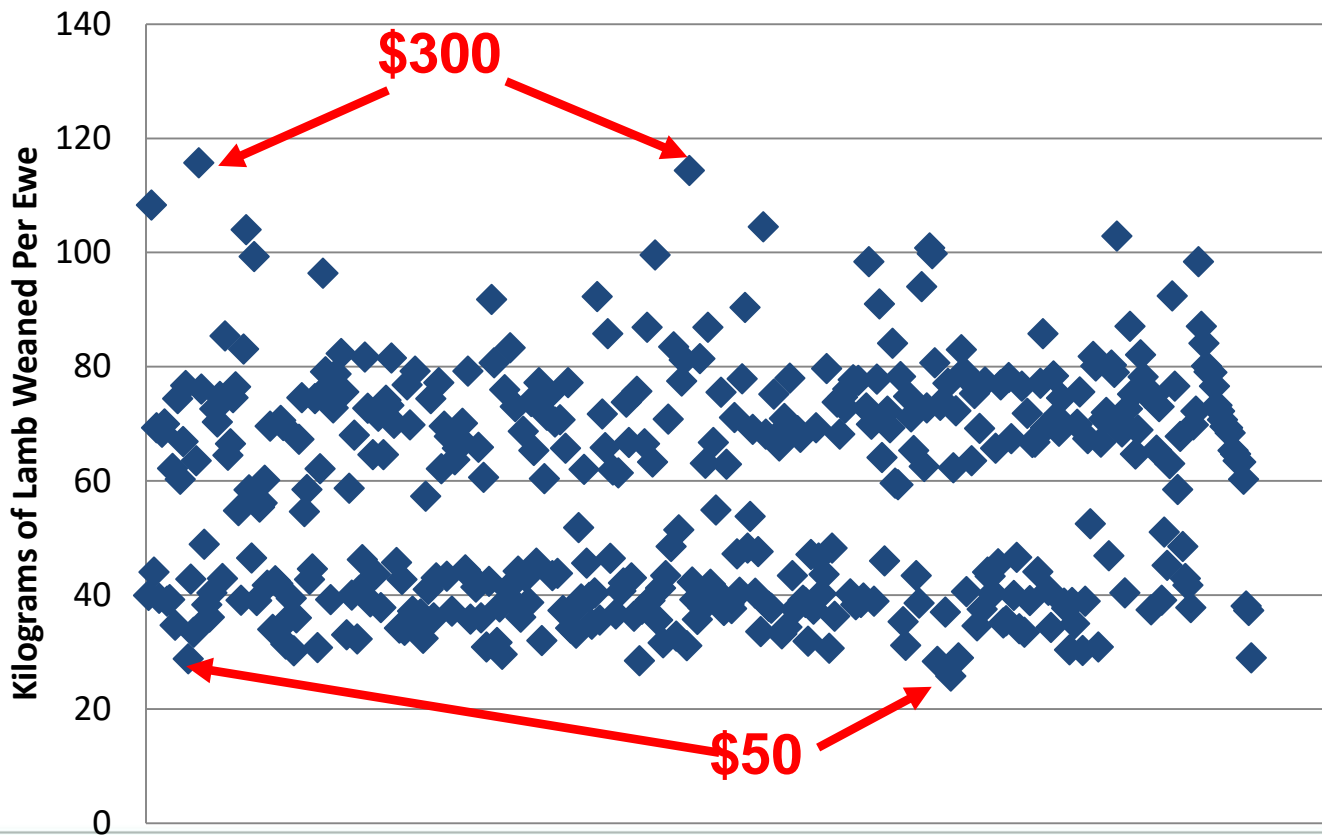
EVENT SUPPORTERS:

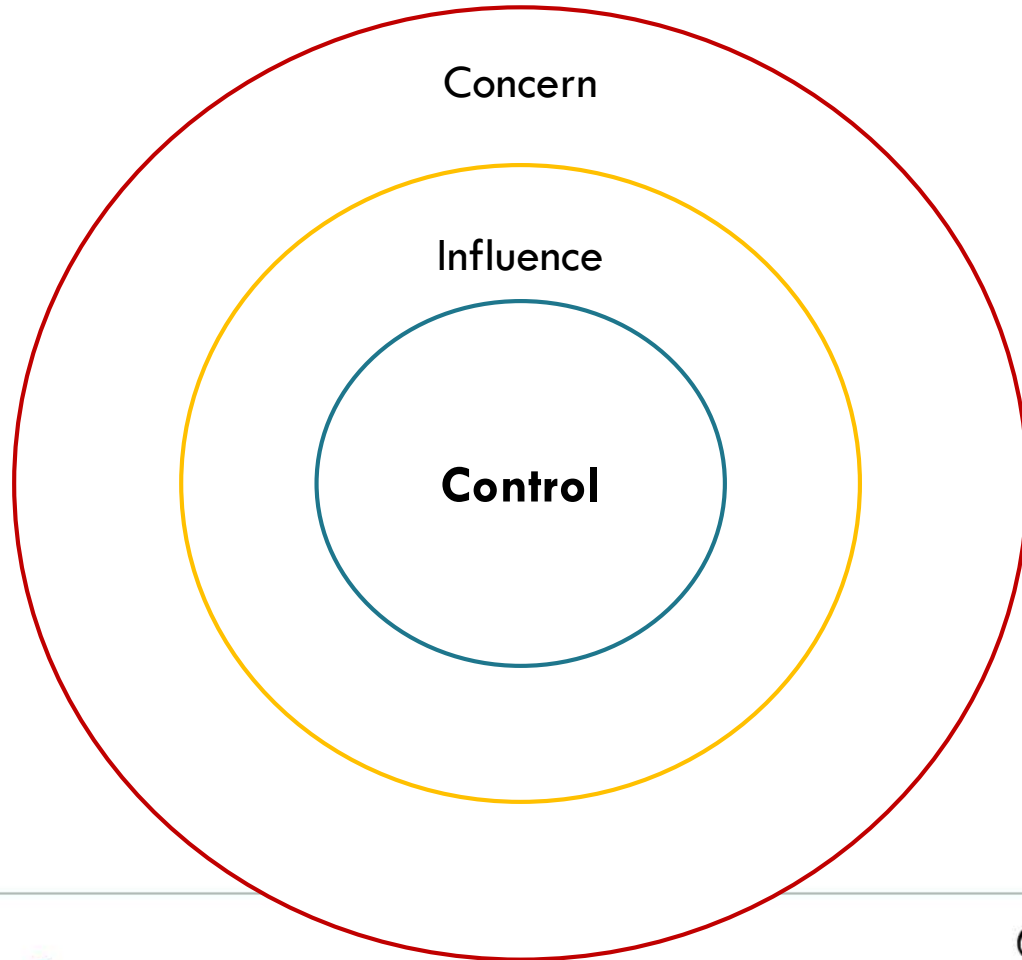


Kilograms of Lamb Weaned Per Ewe

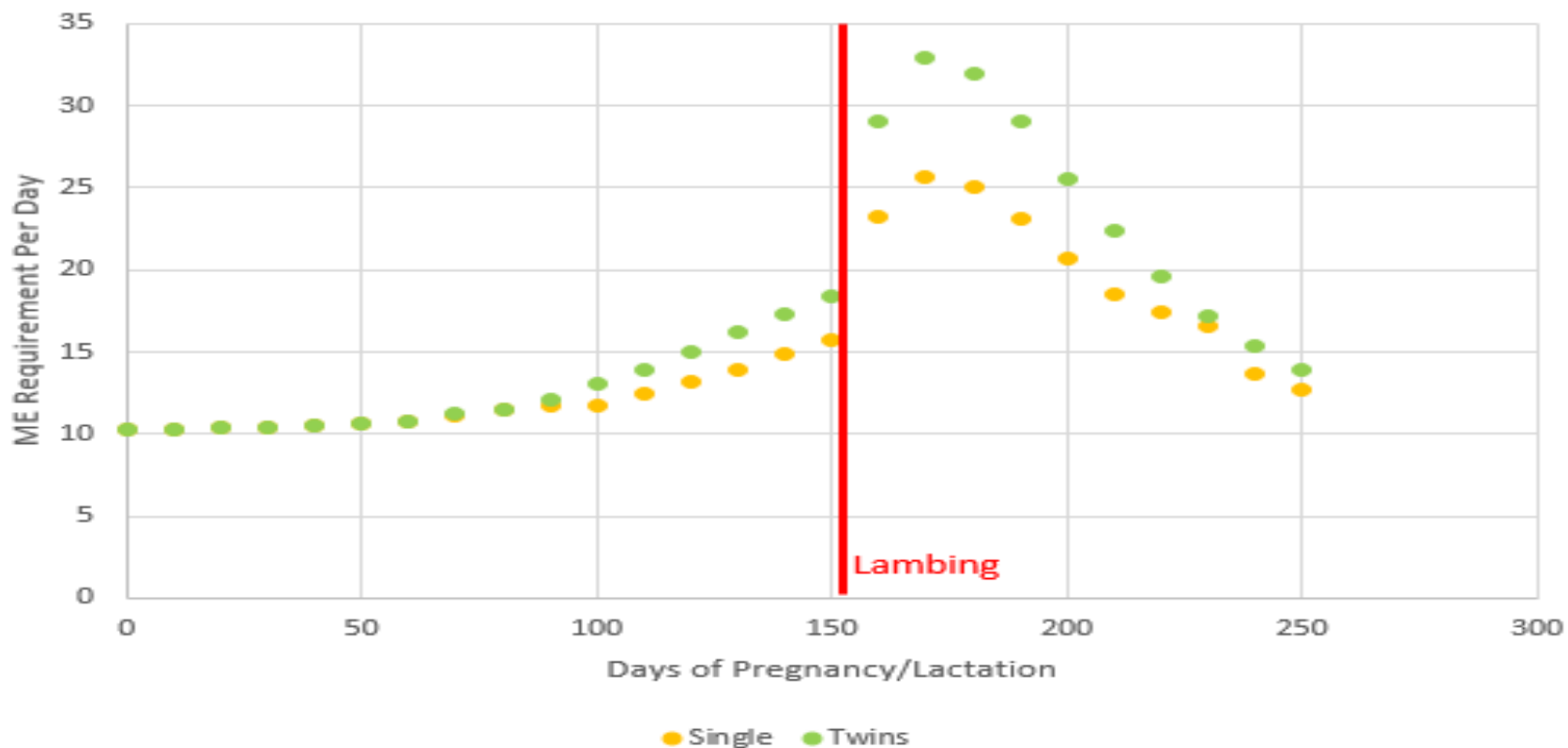


Kilograms of Lamb Weaned Per Ewe

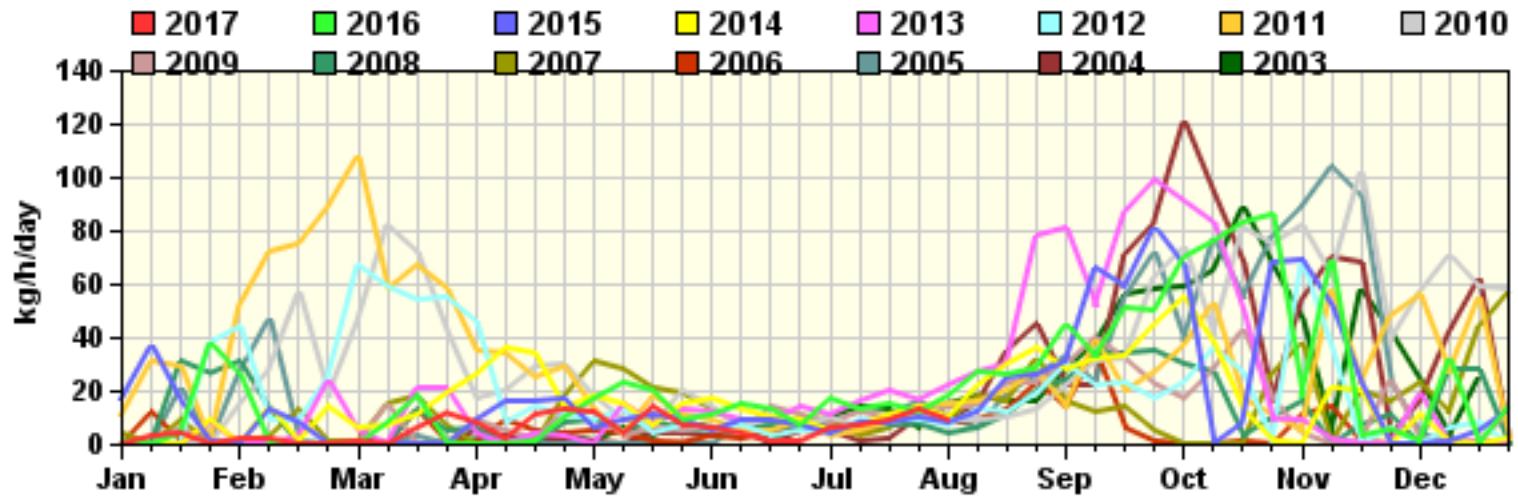




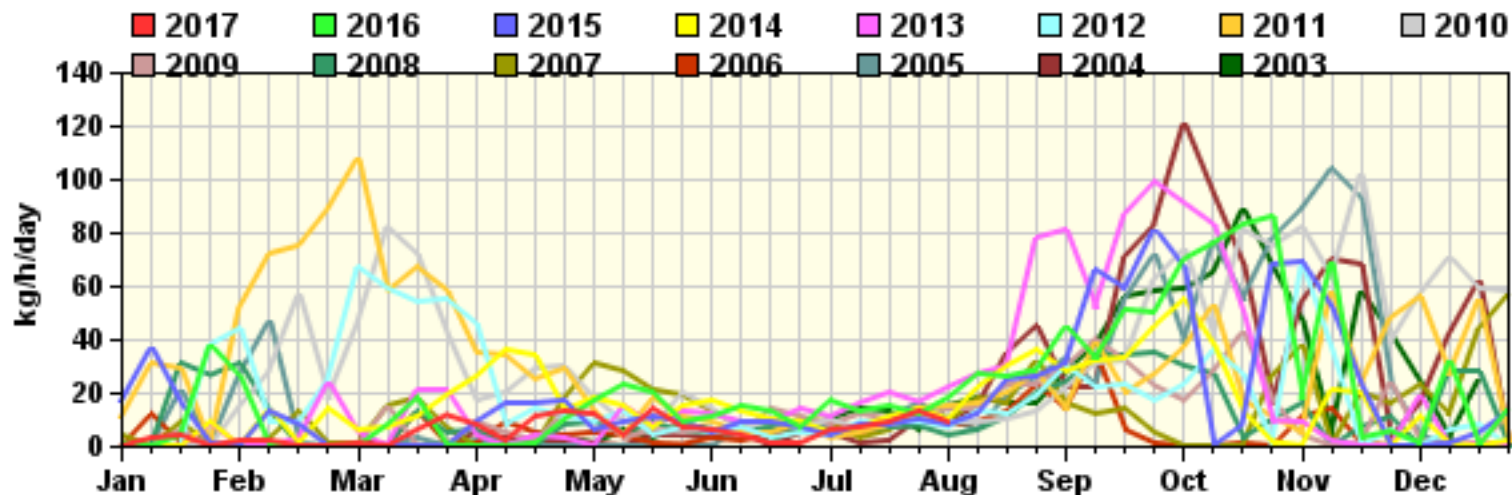
Ewe ME Requirements



Wagga Wagga (C) PGR Comparisons



Wagga Wagga (C) PGR Comparisons

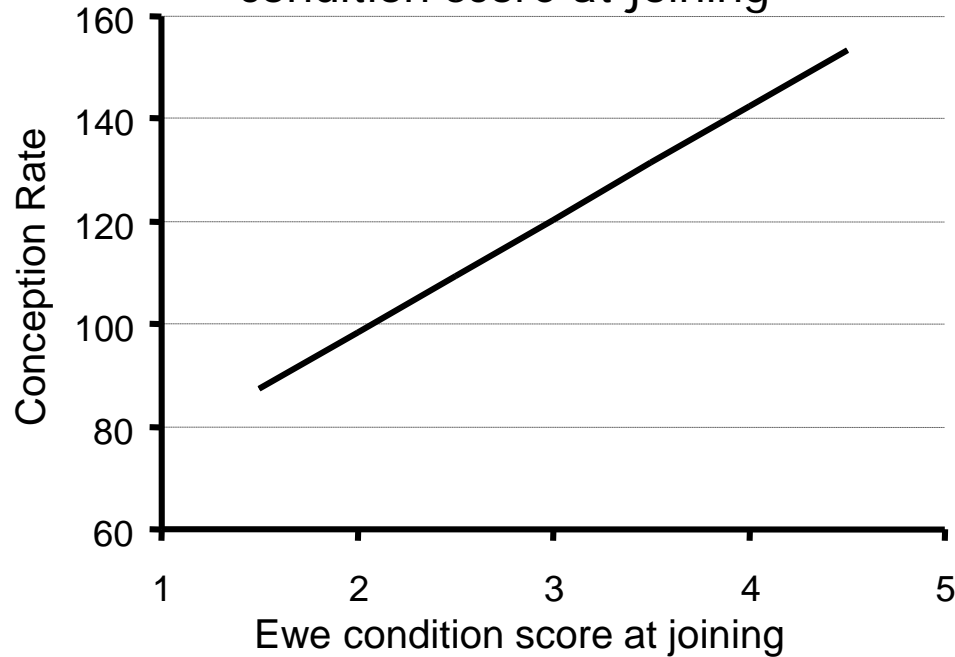




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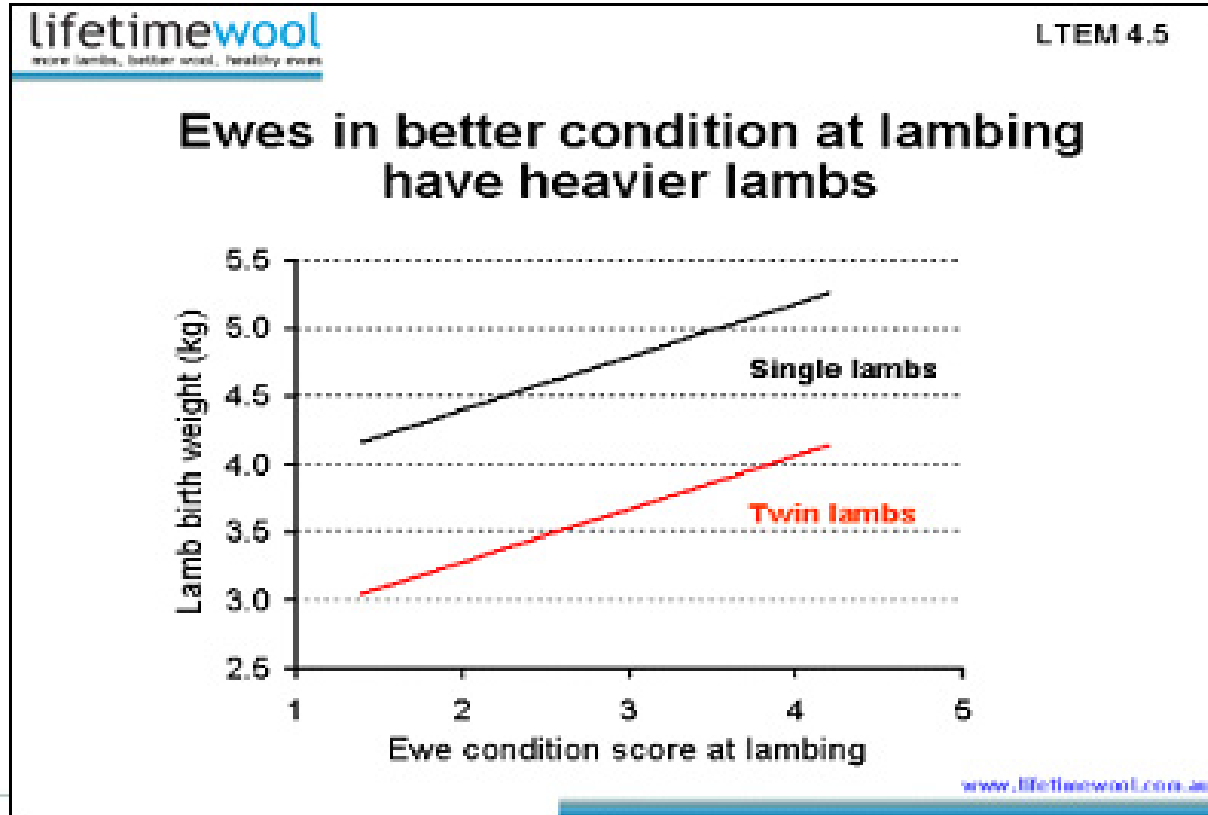
Ewe conception rates

Number of lambs conceived is determined by ewe condition score at joining

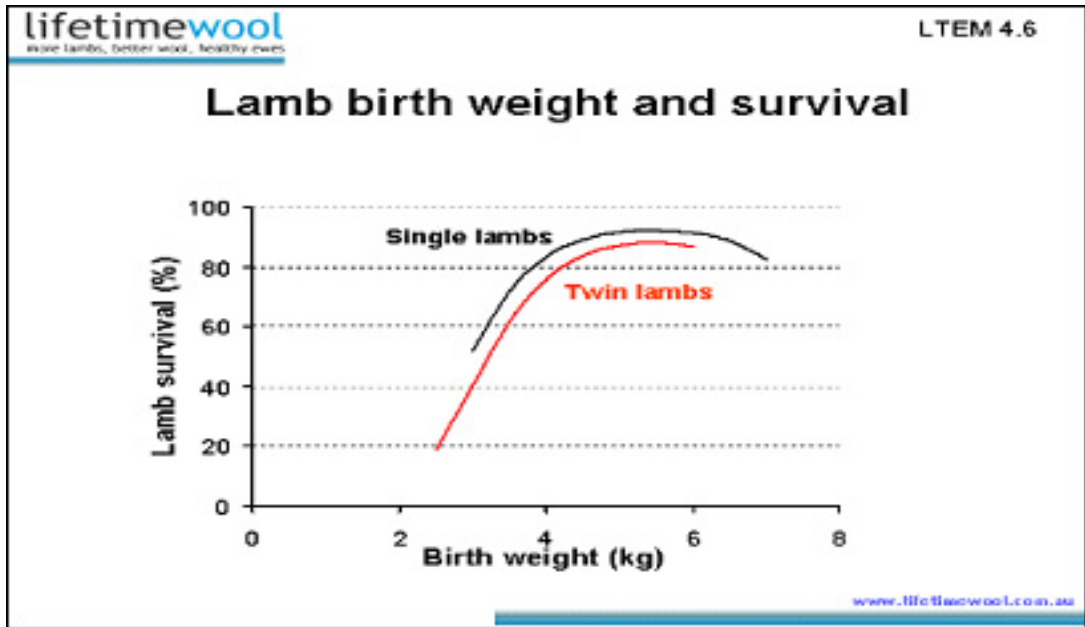


lifetimewool
more lambs, better wool, healthy ewes

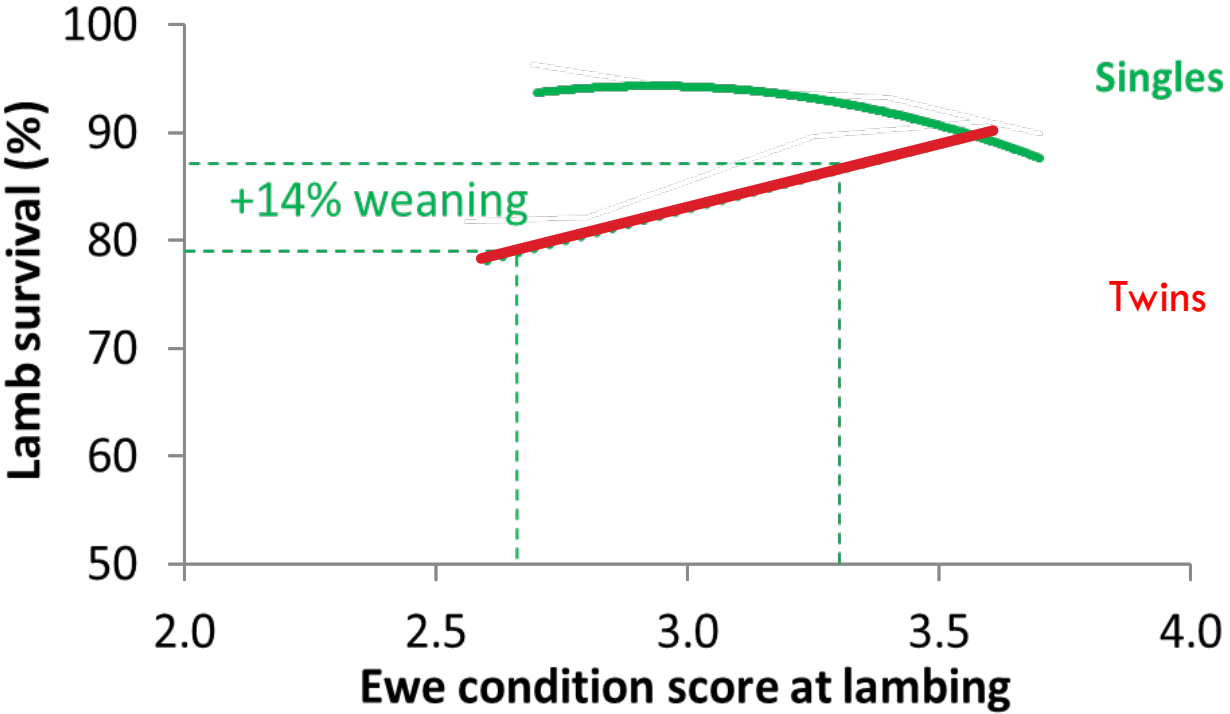
Lamb birthweight



Lamb survival



Lamb survival





Lamb Survival

Average Flock

1500 ewes

Marking 130% (1950 lambs)

Great Result?

Scanning at 185%

2775 foetuses

825 lambs lost @ \$80

= \$66,000

High Performing Flock

1500 ewes
marking (30% (950 lambs))
Great Result?

30% Loss

Scanning at 185%

2775 foetuses
25 tonne lot @ \$8
= \$66,000

\$44/ewe

What can we do about it?

- Scanning
- Ewe condition & nutrition
- Feed on offer at lambing
- Paddock Selection/Size
- Lambing mob size

- Disturbance
- Predator Control
- Sire Selection – Birth weight

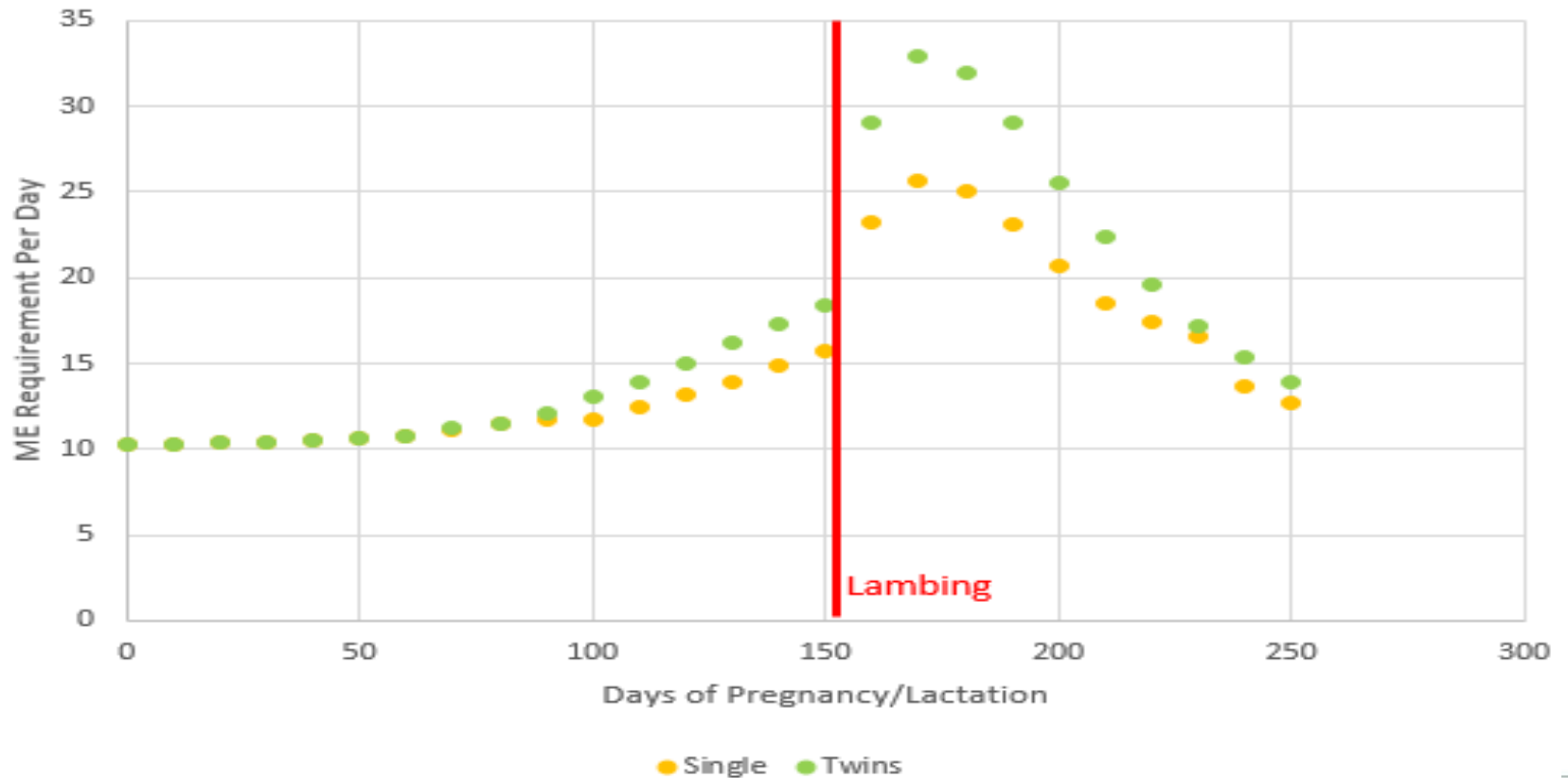


Scanning and Ewe Management



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Ewe ME Requirements



Feed on offer

- Feed budget
- Measure and monitor
- Predict pasture growth rates
- Pasture quality not just quantity



Feed on offer

- Time at birth site
- Ewe condition and milk production
- Shelter
 - Single Ewes – 1 000kg+
 - Twin Ewes – 1 600kg+

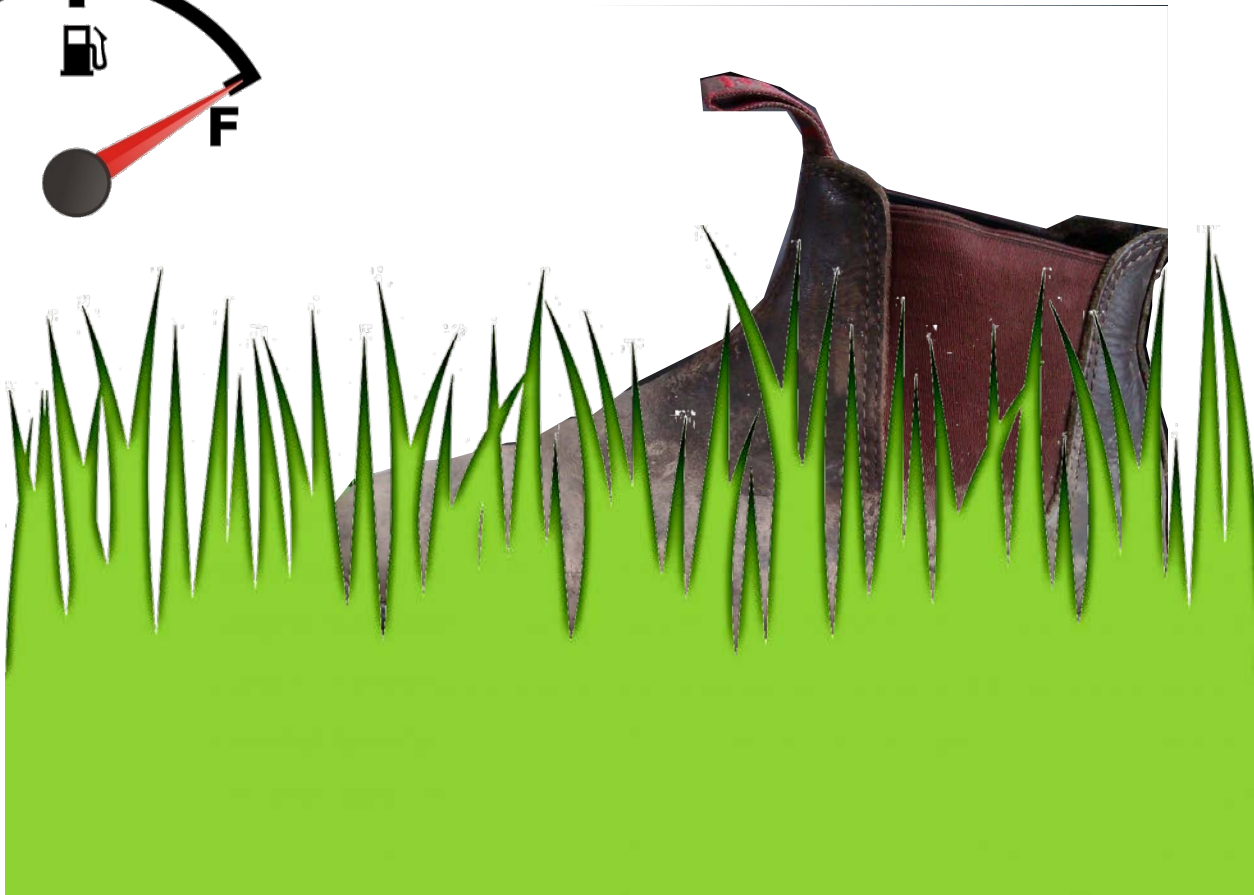




Top of elastic = 3000kg

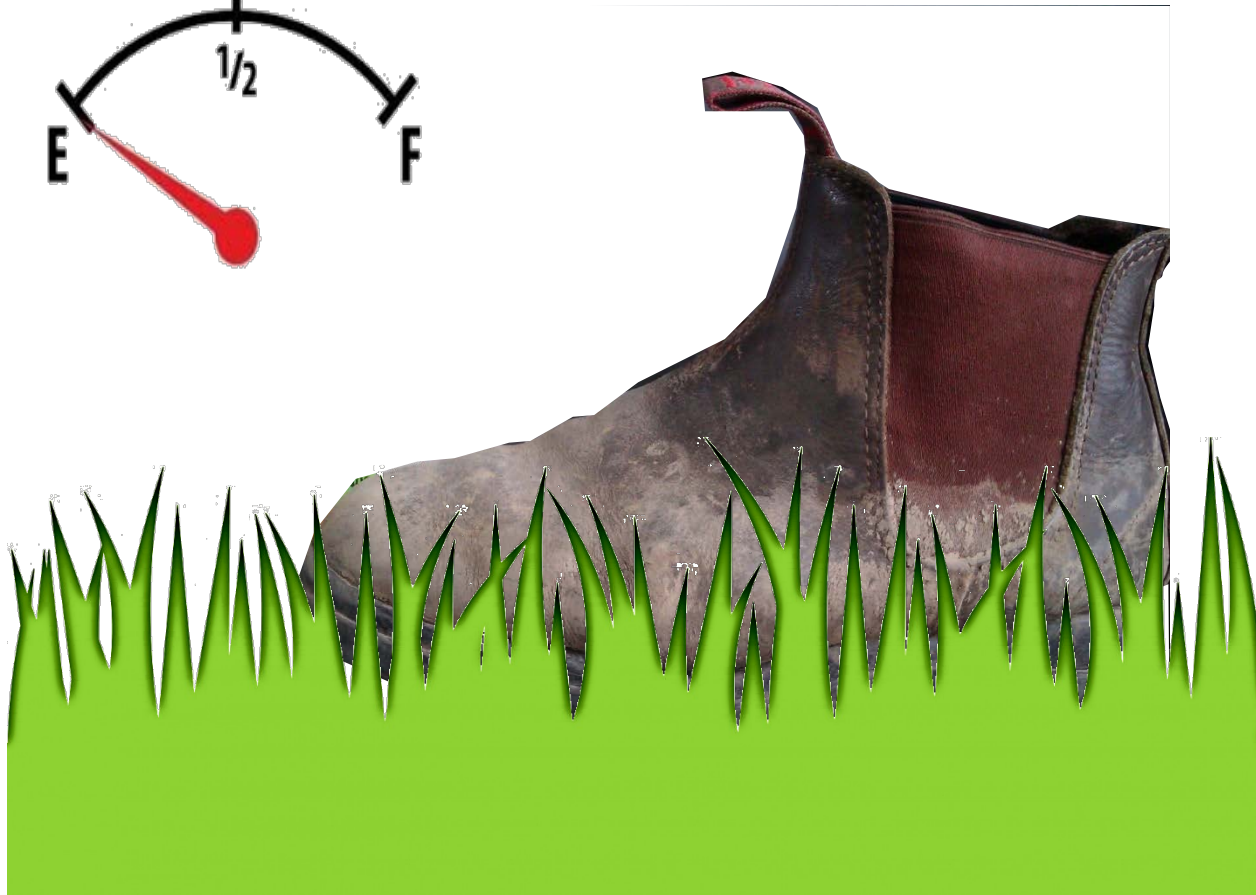
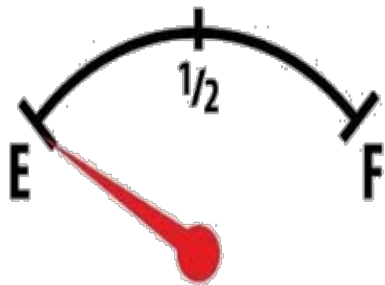
Half way up elastic = 2000kg

Top of toe = 1500kg



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Prioritize Paddocks

Twin lambing low
condition score

Twin lambing high
condition score

Single lambing low
condition score

Single lambing high
condition score

Best Pasture/Best Shelter



Least Pasture/Worst Shelter

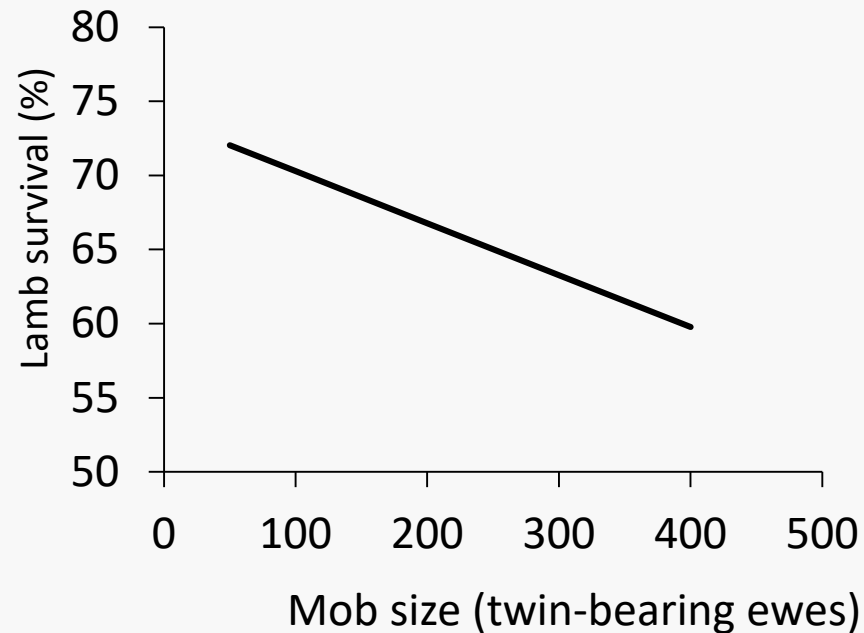


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Mob Size

- The most underestimated factor
- Physical number of lambs born on a given day
- Feed budget for pasture growth vs intake



Ewes lambing/Mob/Day

	Lambs/day (range)	Born	Survival	Survival %
Singles	low 0-16	219	217	99.1
	med 17-32	262	247	94.3
	high 33-48	323	309	95.7
Twinners	low 0-16	37	31	83.3
	med 17-32	40	32	80.0
	high 33-48	20	13	65.0

ALS Doug Fowler 2006

Current work

- 70 sites on commercial farms (on going)

Survival of twin-born lambs			
Mob size (number of ewes)		High (231)	Low (92)
Stocking rate (ewes/ha)	High (7.8)	71.5	74.5
	Low (5.4)	73.4	76.2

Mob Size Recommendations

Twins

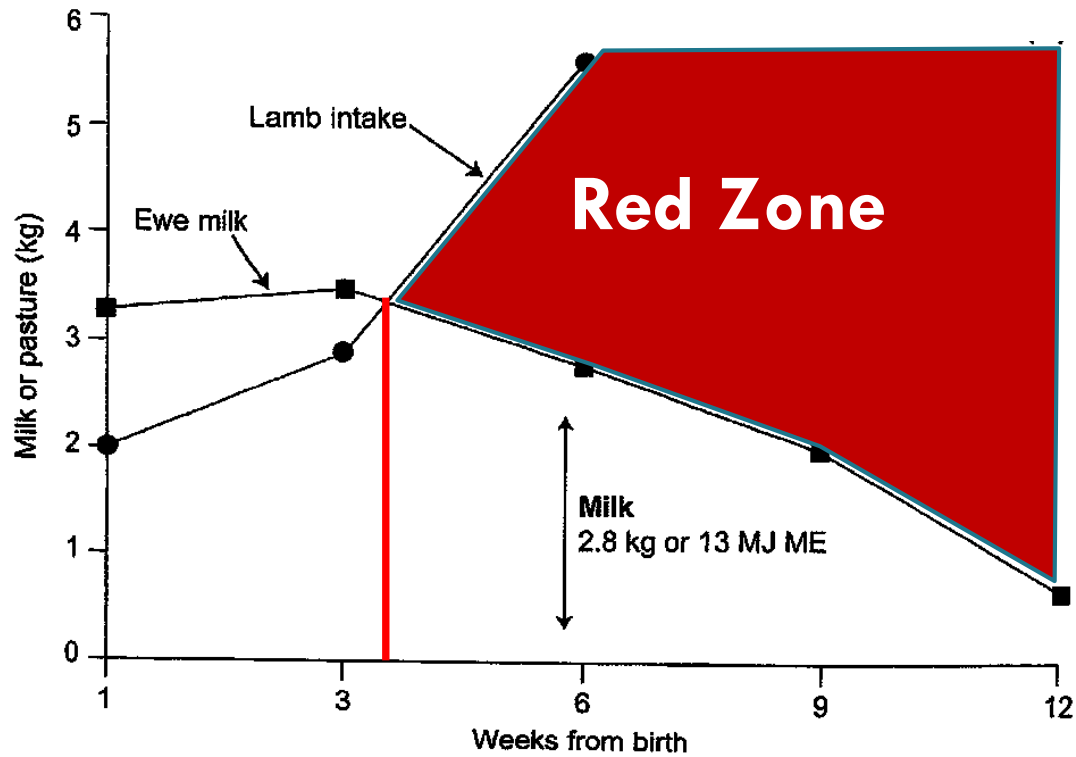
- ✓ Merino - <100 ewes
- ✓ X-bred - <150 ewes

Singles

- ✓ Merino - <250 ewes
- ✓ X-bred - <300 ewes



Lamb growth to weaning



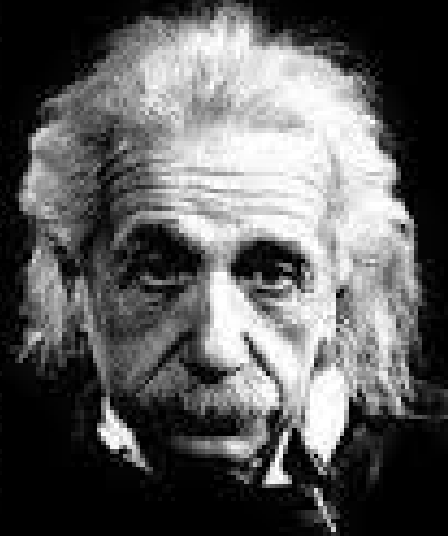
To do list.....

- Condition score ewes – joining, lambing, weaning, joining.....
- Feed budget and feed to requirements....FTFT
- Scan for multiples
- Manage multiples preferentially
- Wean early – 13 weeks

Workshops and learning programs

- Bred Well Fed Well
- Lifetime Ewe Management
- Realising Performance Potential
- Profitable Grazing Systems

"WE CANNOT
SOLVE OUR
PROBLEMS
WITH THE SAME
THINKING WE
USED WHEN WE
CREATED THEM"





*Start where you are
Use what you have
Do what you can*

Predator Control

Foxes, Eagles, Crows, Dogs





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