

achieve  
AG solutions

# Maximising Ewe Performance



Nathan Scott

0409 493 346

TURNING POTENTIAL INTO PERFORMANCE

achieve  
AG solutions

Whatever we do well  
today, we can do better  
tomorrow.

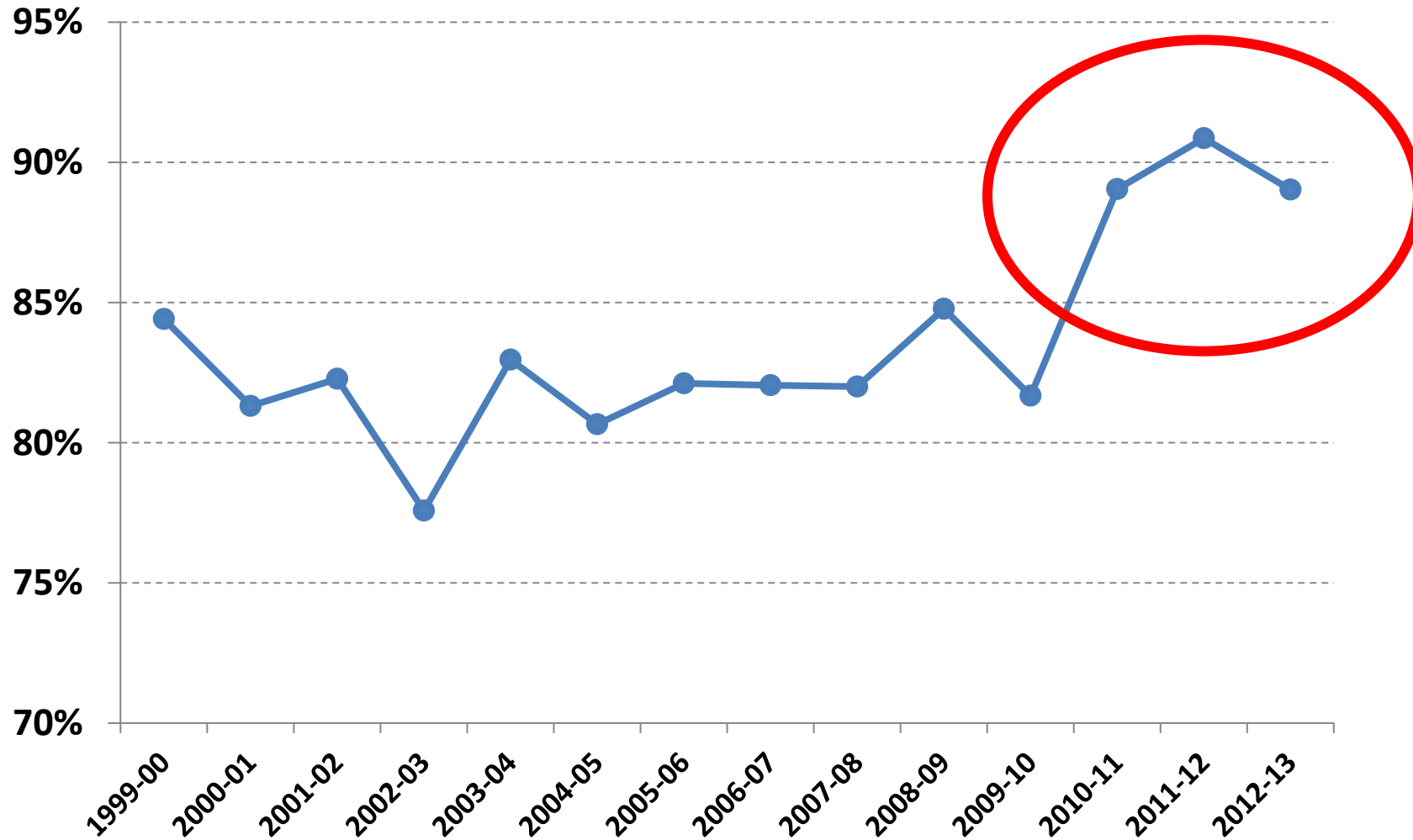
# Who needs to improve lamb survival?



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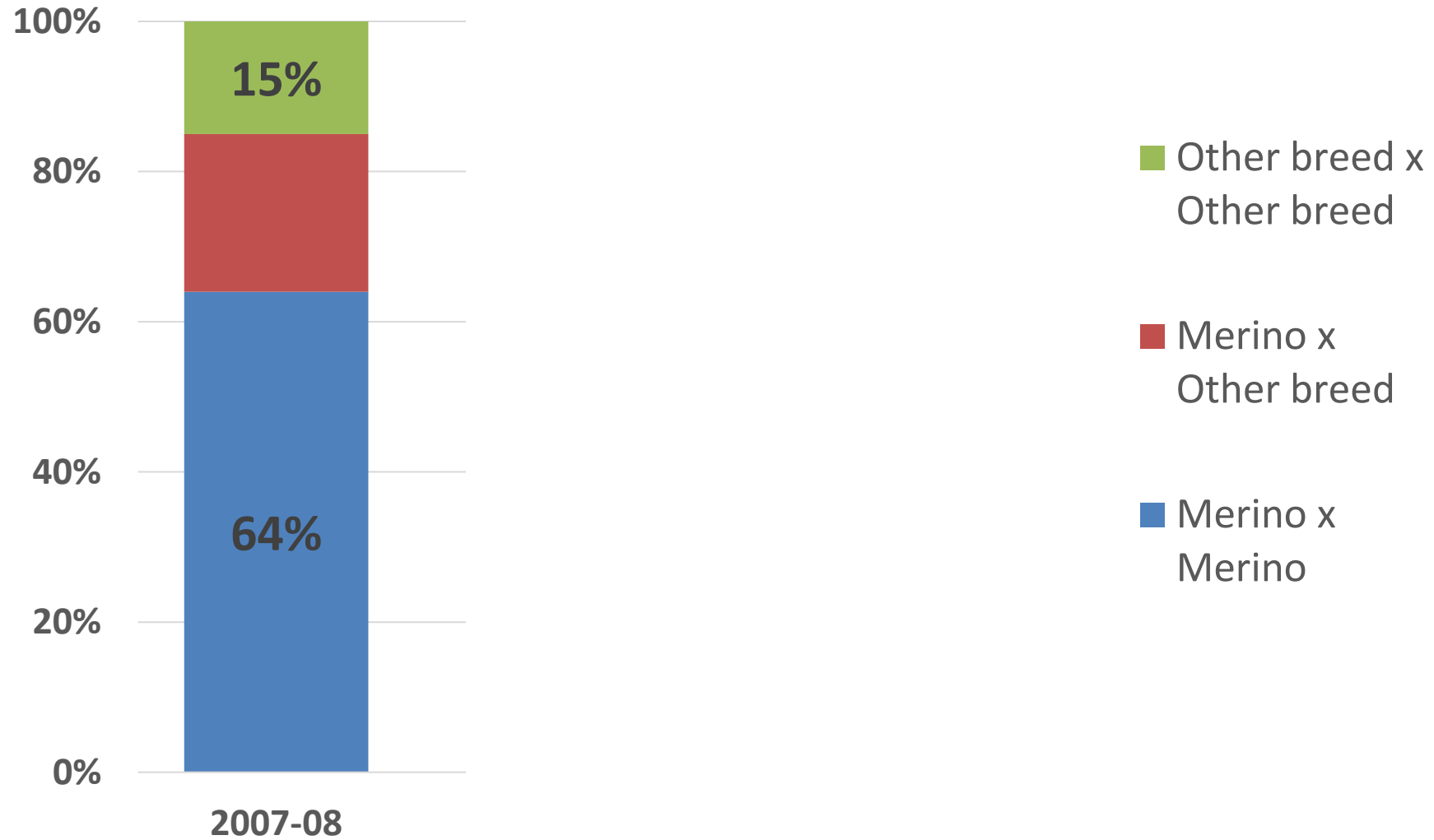
**Everyone**

# Australian marking rates (all ewes)

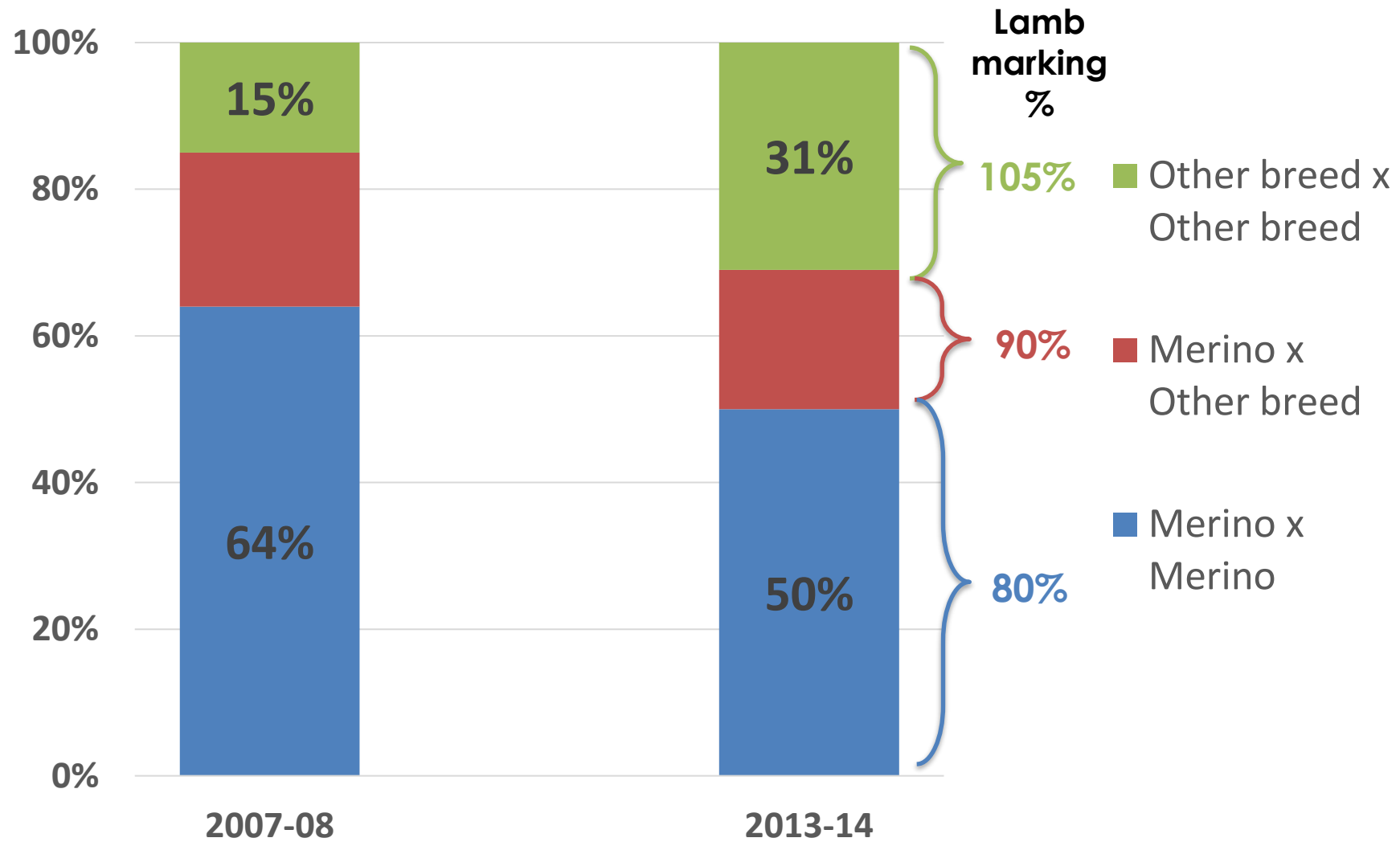


Source: Based on ABS data, DAFWA analysis

# Move to Maternals



# Move to Maternals



There is ALWAYS a  
limiting factor



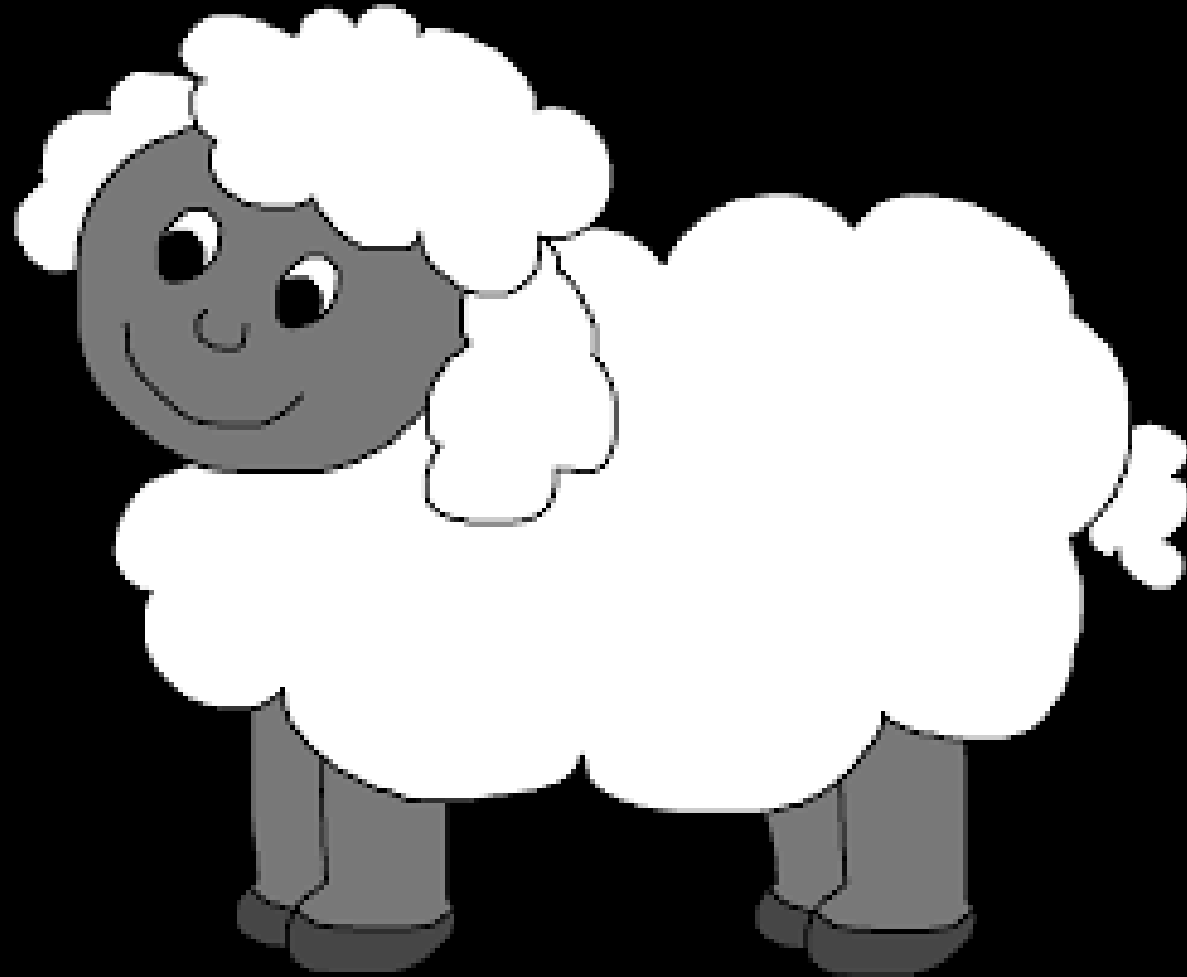
# Lieberg's Law



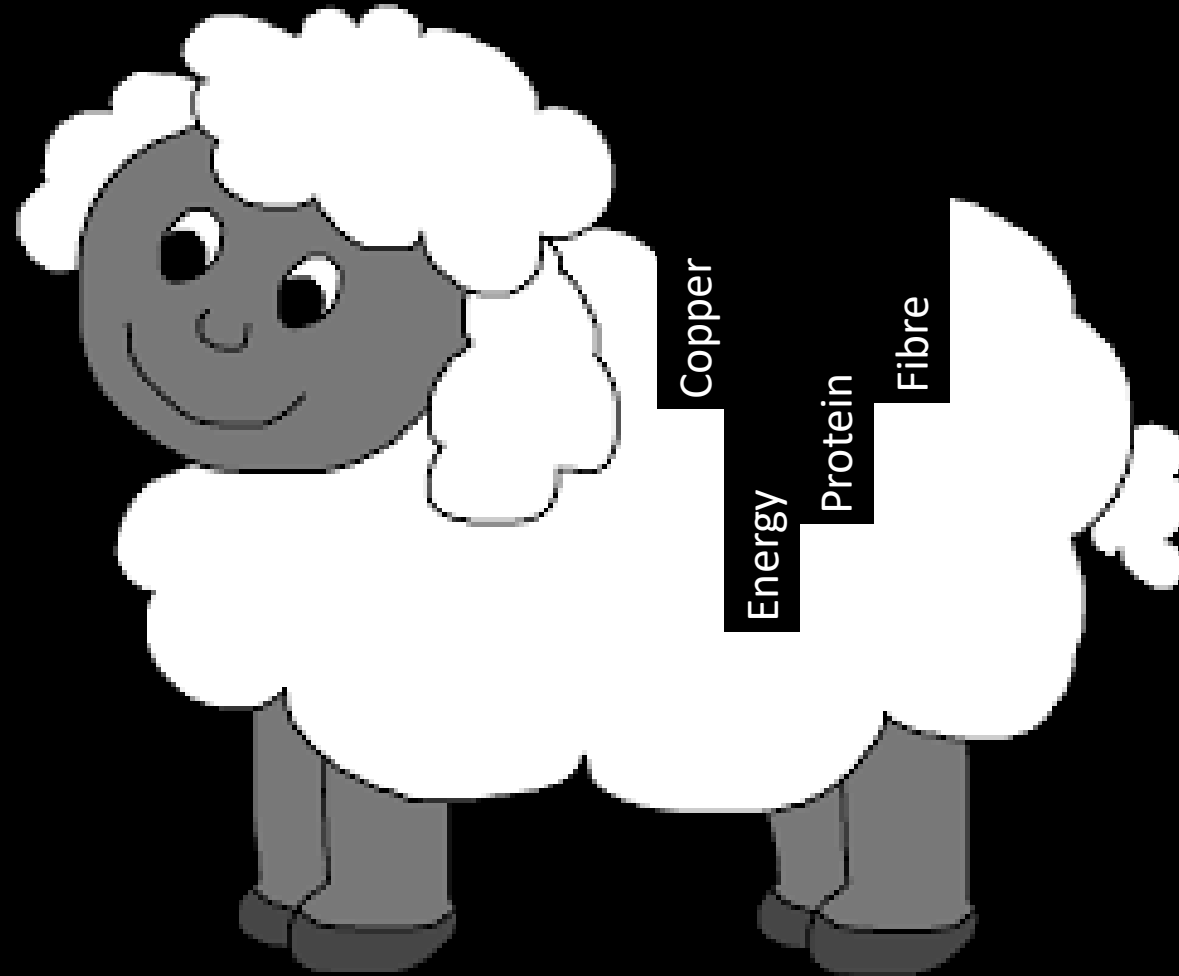
# Lieberg's Law



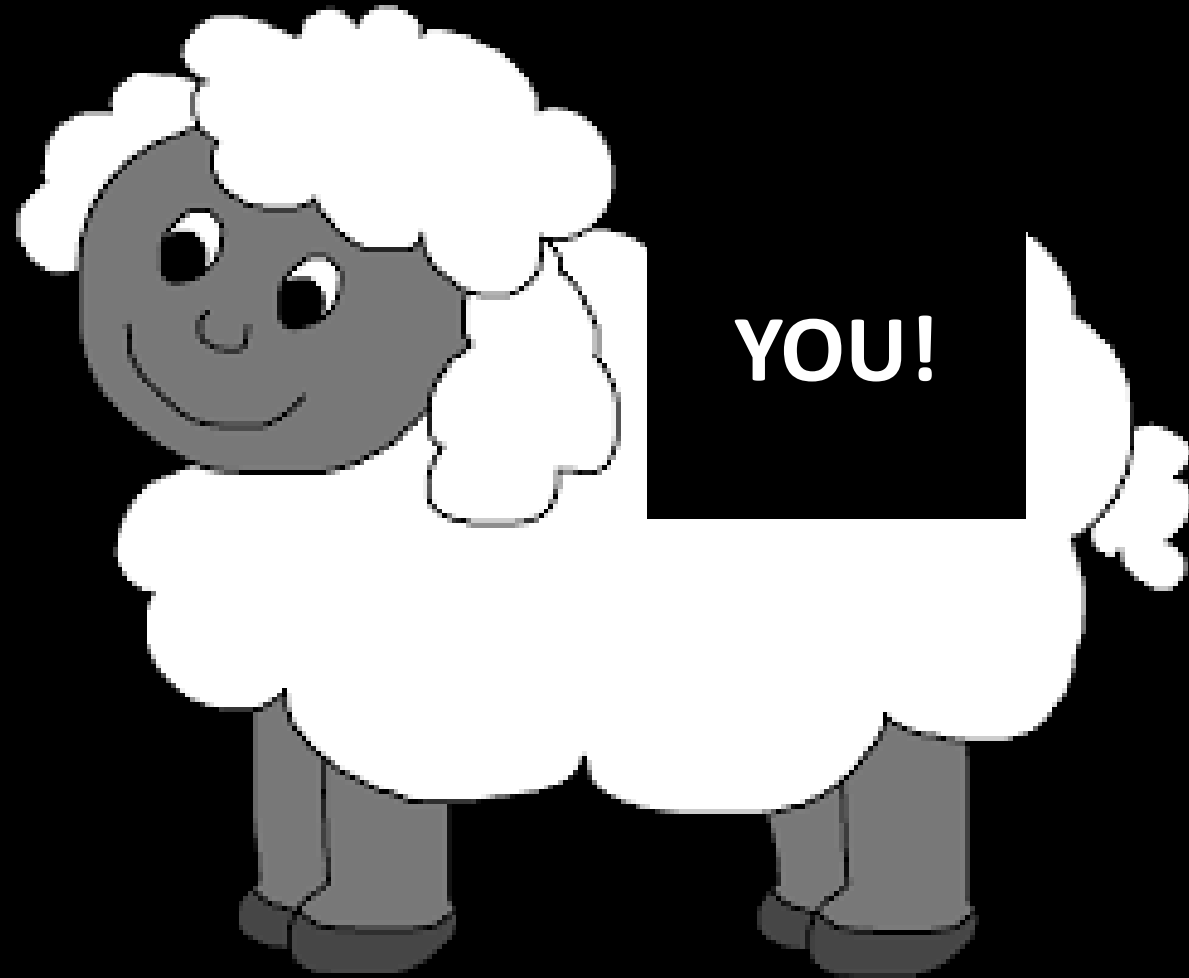
# Nathan's Law



# Nathan's Law



# Nathan's Law



How much is it  
costing you?

# Average Flock

1500 ewes

Marking 98% (1470 lambs)

Good Result?

Scanning at 140%

2100 foetuses

630 lambs lost @ \$80

= \$50,400

Average Flock

**30% Loss**

1500 ewes  
Marking 98% (1470 lambs)

Good Result?

Scanning at 140%

**\$33/ewe**

2000 ewes  
630 lambs lost @ \$80

= \$50,400



# Poor Performing Flock

1500 ewes

Marking 70% (1050 lambs)

Acceptable Result?

Scanning at 140%

2100 foetuses

1050 lambs lost @ \$80

= \$84,000

Poor Performing Flock

**50% Loss**

1500 ewes  
Marking 70% (1050 lambs)

Acceptable Result?

Scanning at 140%

**\$56/ewe**

2100 fetuses  
1050 lambs lost @ \$80

= \$84,000

# High Performing Flock

1500 ewes

Marking 130% (1950 lambs)

Great Result?

Scanning at 185%

2775 foetuses

825 lambs lost @ \$80

= \$66,000

High Performing Flock

30% Loss

Great Result?

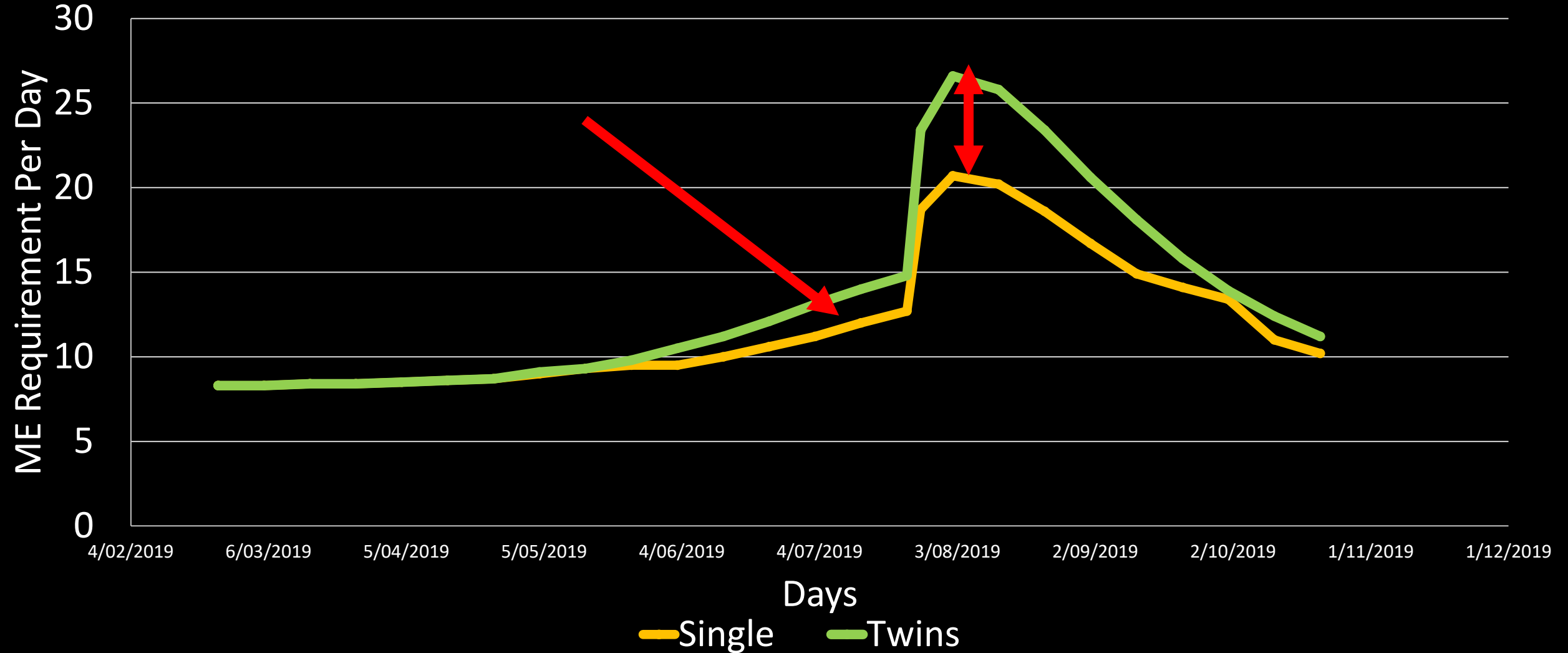
\$44/ewe

= \$66,000



If you're not scanning...  
you're not really trying

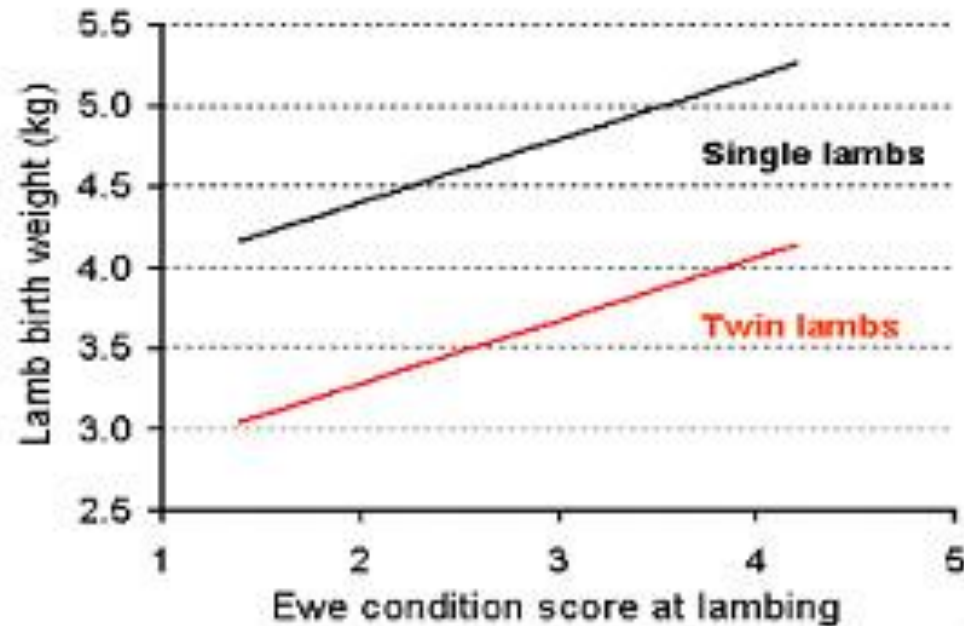
# Ewe Energy Requirements





# Condition Score Management

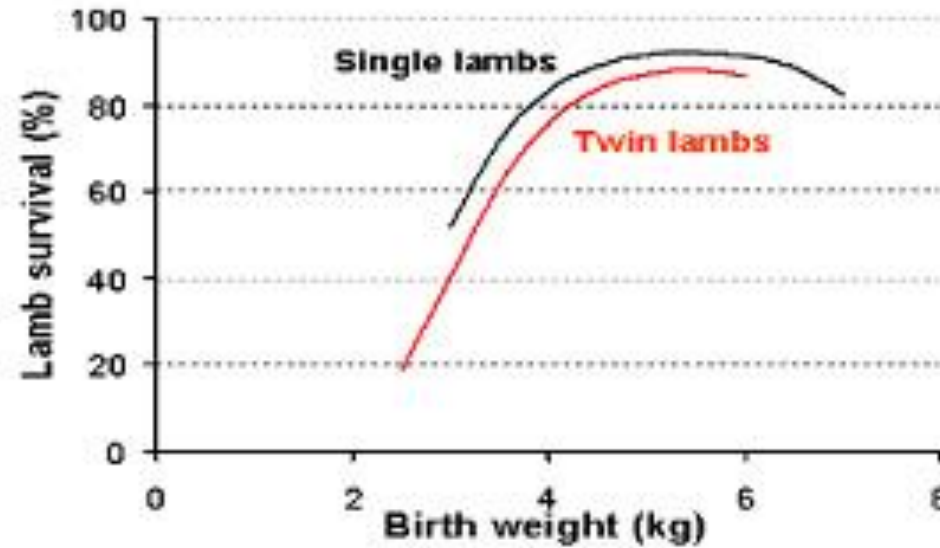
## Ewes in better condition at lambing have heavier lambs





# Lamb Birthweight

## Lamb birth weight and survival




# Lamb Birthweight

lifetimewool  
raise lambs, better wool, healthy ewes

LTEM 4.6

### Lamb b



**Exposure**

**Dystocia & Mismothering**

Lamb survival (%)

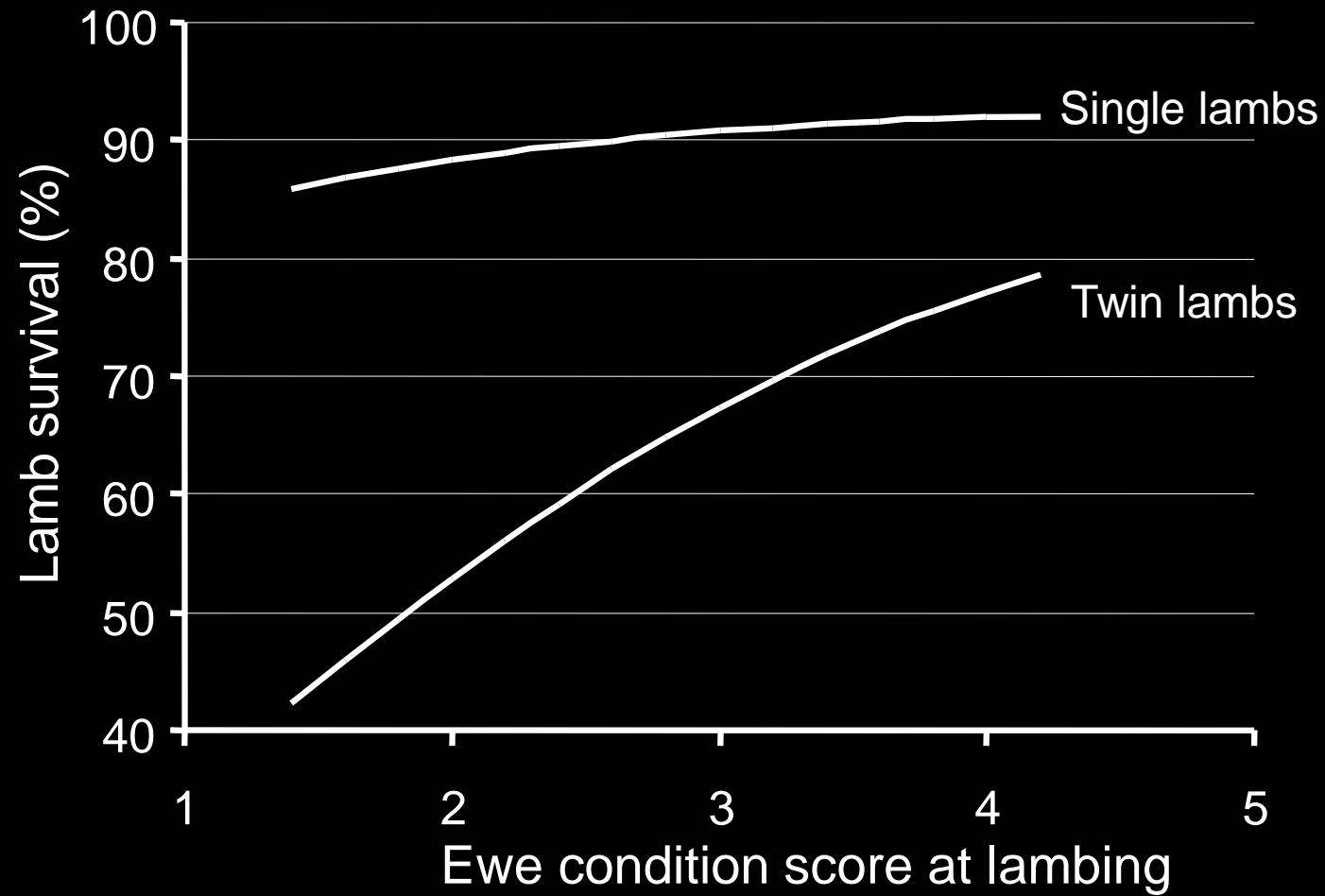
100  
80  
60  
40  
20  
0

0

www.lifetimewool.com.au

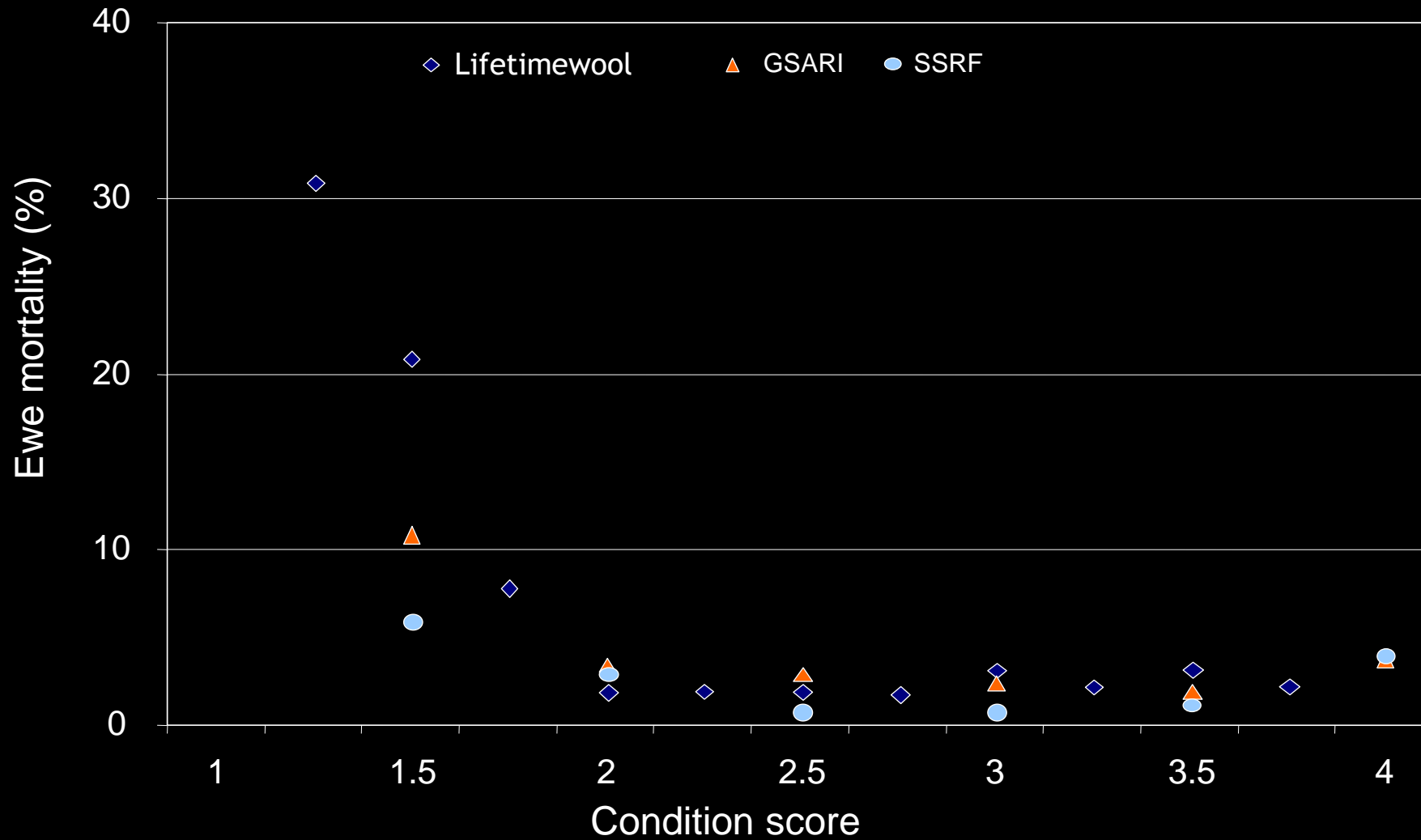


# Progeny survival increases with improved ewe nutrition



Source: [lifetimewool](#)

# Ewe Mortality



Source: *lifetimewool*

# The Five P's

Pasture

Paddock Size

Privacy

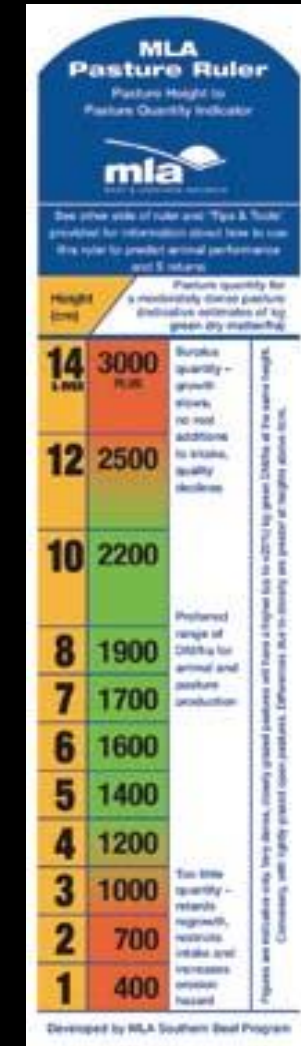


Protection

Past Performance

# Feed on offer at lambing

- Influences the amount of time that a ewe can spend on the birth-site
  - Takes 6hrs for ewe & lamb to bond
- Crucial to managing ewe condition and maximizing milk production









**MLA Pasture Ruler**  
Pasture Height to Pasture Quantity Indicator

**mia**

See other side of ruler and 'Tips & Tricks' provided for information about how to use this ruler to predict animal performance and returns.

Height (cm)	Pasture Quantity (kg)	Notes
14	3000	Surplus capacity growth slow, no real substitute to make quality decisions
12	2500	
10	2200	
8	1900	Preferred range of 100-150 for animal and pasture production
7	1700	
6	1600	
5	1500	
4		

Optimal pasture will have a nitrogen level of 0.25% to 0.35% by green DM (kg) of the sward. Pasture differences that are directly or indirectly related to nitrogen are greater at higher nitrogen levels.

Top of elastic = 3000kg

Half way up elastic = 2000kg

Top of toe = 1500kg

# Feed on offer at lambing

- Single Ewes – 1000kg+
- Twin Ewes – 1600kg+

How much feed do I need to get the performance I want?

Calculating minimum pasture quantity required (MQR) required to achieve target production levels of ewes.

Production level	MQR (kg DM/ha)		
	11.2	16.1	21.0
20 ewes	700	1100	2000
40 ewes, 14 lambs/ewe	900	1700	rp
Lambing ewes	1100	2200	rp
200 ewes	1800	2800	rp
400 ewes	3200	5000	rp
600 ewes	4800	7200	rp
800 ewes	6400	9400	rp
1000 ewes	8000	11600	rp
1200 ewes	9600	13800	rp
1400 ewes	11200	16000	rp
1600 ewes	12800	18200	rp
1800 ewes	14400	20400	rp
2000 ewes	16000	22600	rp

# Carnage!





**Which would you prefer?**

# Mob Size

- The most underestimated factor
- Physical number of lambs born on a given day
- Feed budget for pasture growth vs intake  
e.g. 8 ewes/ha

# Ideal Mob Size

- Twins
- Singles



# Ideal Mob Size

- Twins
  - One – Anything bigger is a compromise!
- Singles



# Ideal Mob Size

- Twins
  - Merino - <100 ewes
  - X-bred - <150 ewes
- Singles
  - Who Cares!





# Ideal Mob Size

- Twins
  - Merino - <100 ewes
  - X-bred - <150 ewes
- Singles
  - Merino - <250 ewes
  - X-bred - <300 ewes



# Predator Control

Devils, Foxes, Eagles, Crows, Dogs



No More Excuses!



## Rob Costin

- Apollo Bay & Glenaire
- Composite Ewe Flock
- Beef Cattle

300mm of Rain  
During Lambing!

Mature Ewes

300mm of Rain  
During Lambing!

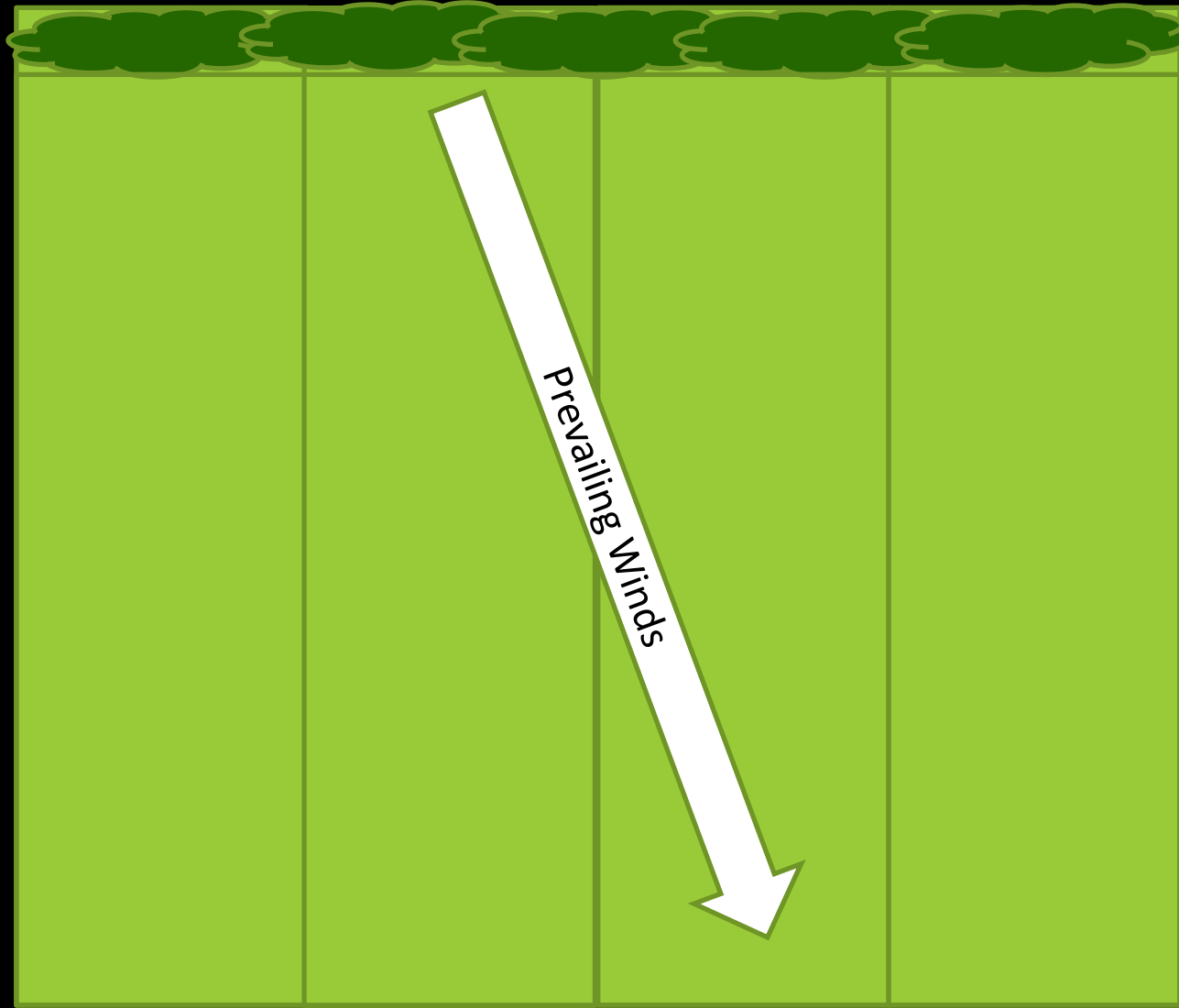
No More Excuses!

Ray Neville




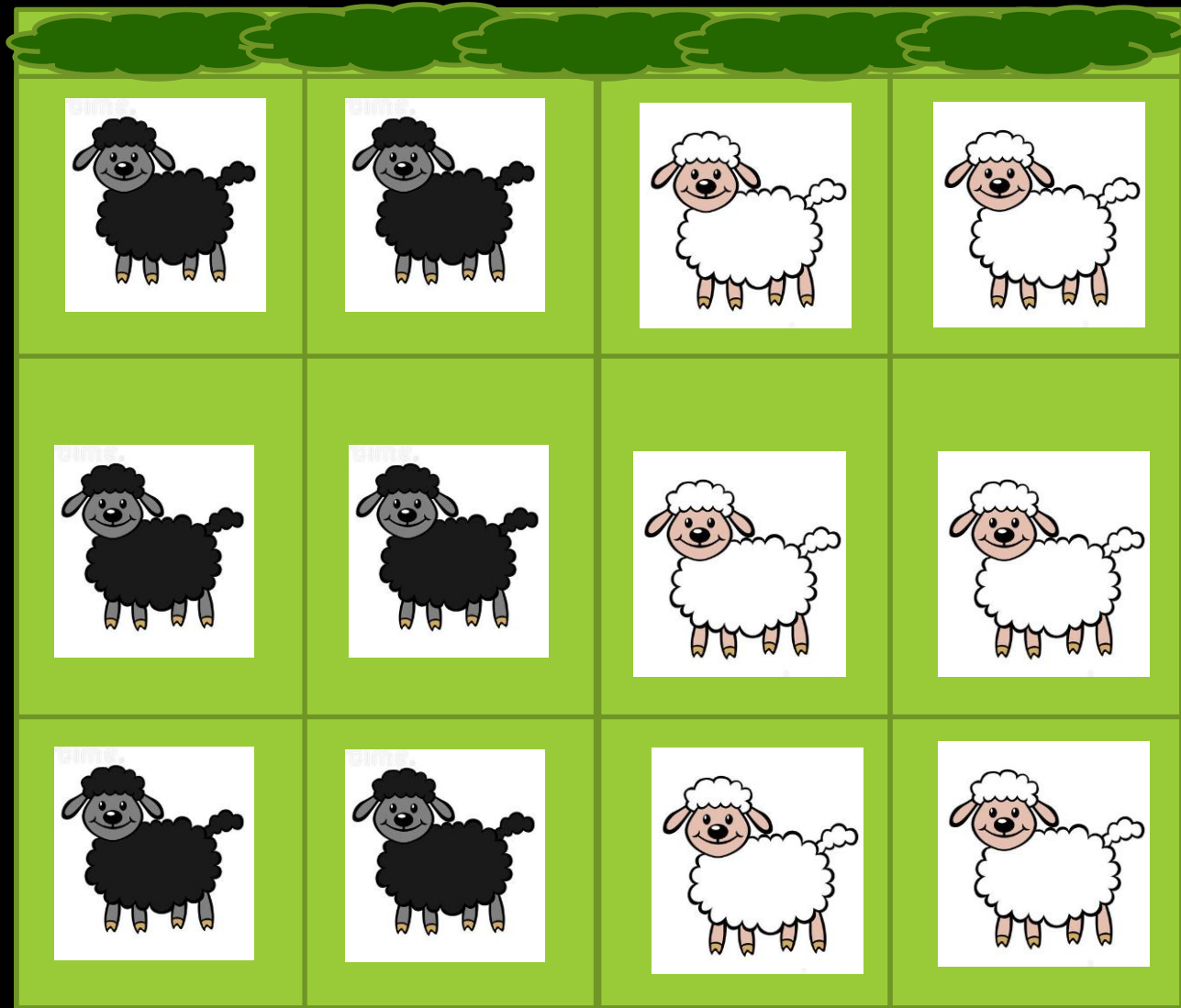
More than 5kg of 17  
Micron Wool

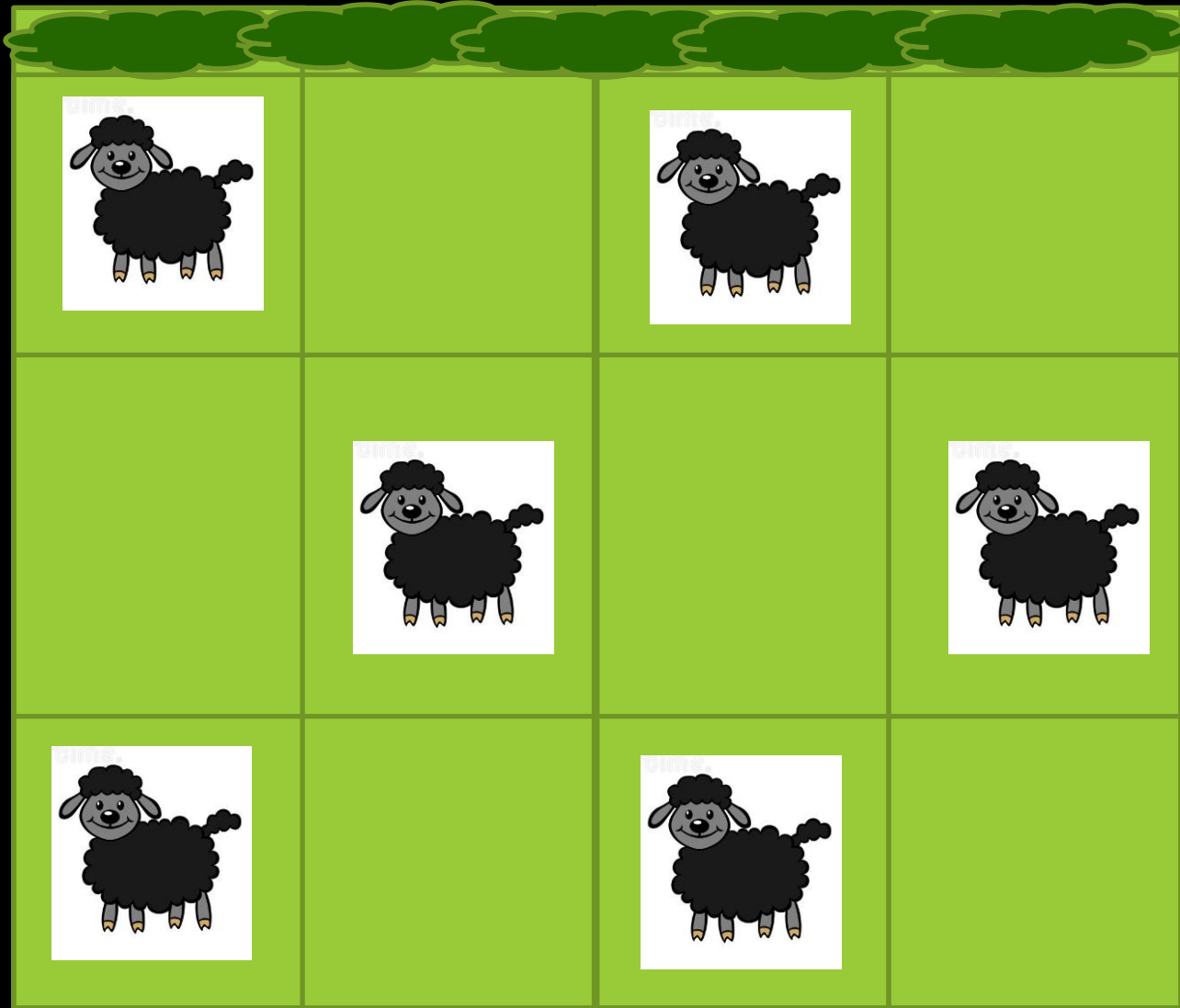
Survival  
Twin Survival

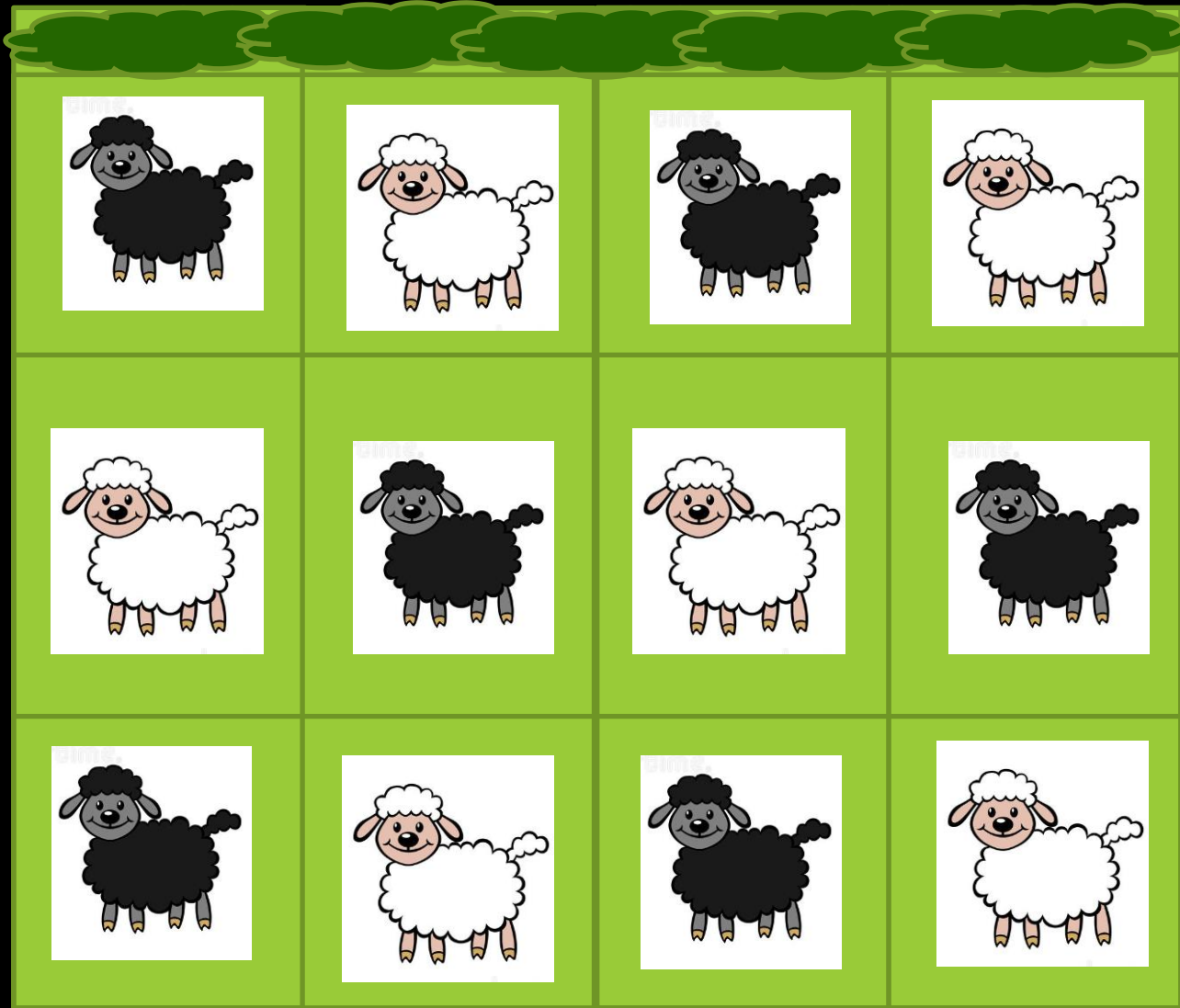










# Troy Keating

## Major Challenges for Lamb Survival?

- Birthweight – High & Low
- Paddock Size & Privacy for Lambing Ewes















# Lifting Lamb Survival

- Potential into Product



# Key outcomes of Profitable Grazing Systems

- Supportive environment
- Strong emphasis on

Celebrate the victories &  
commiserate the stuff-ups



**I'll show you mine, if you  
show me yours!**

# Lifting Lamb Survival –Development Team

**Ken Solly** – Agribusiness Consultant, Naracoorte, SA.

**Jason Trompf** – Sheep Consultant & Producer Wangaratta. Vic.

**Andrew Thompson** – Senior Consultant Murdoch University WA.

**Tim Leeming** – Specialist Sheep Producer, Harrow, Victoria

**Lyndon Kubeil** – Manager Best Wool Best Lamb Benalla. Vic

# Goals – “Lifting Lamb Survival”

- **Improve lamb survival**
- Best practice management for lambing
- Improve resource allocation on farm
- Increase the kg/wool and/or kg/lamb produced/ha



# Four Session Program

## Planning for Lambing

One day Workshop –30 to 50 days prior to Lambing

## Setting a Best Management Plan for Lambing

On farm Consultation – 20 to 30 days prior to Lambing

## Fine Tuning for Lambing

Half Day Session at Start of Lambing – Includes lamb autopsy session

## Lambing Review Workshop

Half Day Session – After Last Lamb Marking in group.

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**It's about you & your plan!**



# Program Features

- Accurate lamb loss and ewe wastage calculations
- Full lambing paddock planning & better resource allocation
- Lamb autopsy work
- Thorough recording systems & review



# Your Investment

Maximum Producer Payment - \$1260 + GST

MLA Profitable Grazing Systems Support - \$ 540 + GST

Max Total Investment - \$1800 + GST



**How many lambings do  
you have left in you?**

# Thank You!



Subscribe to our Achieve More Newsletter at [www.achieveag.com.au](http://www.achieveag.com.au)

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