

AN INITIATIVE OF

Making More From Sheep



Getting a Jump with Genetics

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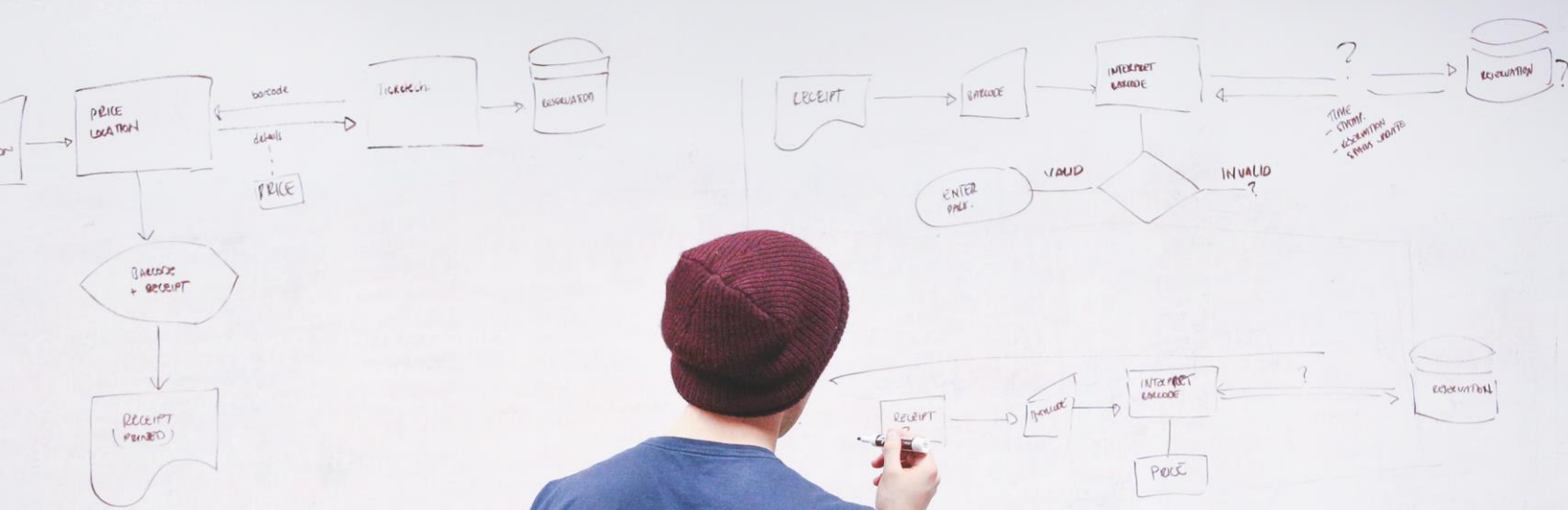


EVENT SUPPORTERS:



Today's agenda

- Having a plan
- Using your plan
- Getting help with your plan



HAVING A PLAN

Having a plan

1. Know your starting point
2. Know your system
3. Know what you want to improve

Knowing your starting point

- Identifies opportunities
- Helps make smarter decisions

Knowing your system

1. Environmental limitations

2. Money Makers

3. Money Breakers



Sheep connect NSW

Environmental limitations

Environmental limitations

Seasonable limitations

- Feed availability
- Parasite challenges
- Rainfall

Your farm enterprise

- Risk and stocking rate policies
- Labour availability
- Sheep in farm system

Money Makers

Product Quantity

- Growth
- Fleece Weight
- Weaning %

Market Specifications

- Carcase
- Fibre Diameter
- Staple Strength
- Staple Length

Money Breakers

Maternal Efficiency

Market Specifications

Welfare traits

- Birth weight / Lambing Ease
- Wrinkle
- Dag
- Worms



Bringing you plan together

Identify your breeding objective (SMART)

Specific

Measurable

Attainable

Relevant

Time Framed

I want to lose weight vs I want to lose 5kg by December







PLEASE USE OUTSIDE LANE



All Day Comfort



Making More From Sheep

Flat out speed

Ewe Production Systems



Fleece Values higher importance



Changing Profit Drivers



Fertility Rate higher importance

Making More From Sheep



Superior selections

USING YOUR PLAN

Using your plan

- Go through your current battery to identify requirements:
 - Updated figures
 - Structural and visual assessment
- Identify Superior genes
- Test them out

Using your plan

Which Gate / Sales



Which Pens



Using ASBVs

Available for many traits

The only way to compare between flocks

Sensible balance required



Using ASBVs

Use in 3 specific ways:

1. Pick higher
2. Pick lower
3. Set a threshold



What is an Index?

- Combines the ASBVs for several traits into one value
- Available to suit a range of different breeding programs
- Quick selection guide to narrow down which rams to look at
 - Still important to look at the individual ASBVs



**WHY
IDENTIFY
SUPERIOR
GENES?**

What you can choose from!

	Number of rams	Range between Studs	Range within Studs
Merinos	975	\$14	\$19
Maternals	536	\$10	\$29
Terminals	1254	\$9	\$6

What you can choose realistically?

	Range between top 20% & bottom 20%
Merinos	\$9.00
Maternals	\$10.90
Terminals	\$3.30

What could this mean for your flock?

Initially ~\$4,500 / yr / 1000 ewes joined

After 5 years (using better sires each year) this compounds to ~\$8,750 / yr / 1000 ewes joined

Testing your genes

Get Eyes and Hands on

Check:

- Type
- Teeth
- Toes
- Testicles



Don't forget your ewes!

- They provide half the genes!
- Phenotypic selection valuable
 - Current flock performance
 - Genetic gain
- Massive variation in performance exists
- Use any data you collect

**WHERE DO I GET
HELP?**



Having a plan

- Flock Profiling-Sheep CRC
- Rams Used
- Merino Bloodline Performance
- Merino Lifetime Performance project/AMSEA sites



SHEEPCRC



RamSelect^{Plus}

Using your plan

- RamSelect
- Sheep Genetics
- Private service providers
- Stud breeders

RamSelect ^{Plus}



Workshops/Training to attend

- Bred Well Fed Well
- Ramselect
- Sheep classing workshops
- Profitable Grazing Systems
- Making More From Sheep

What can you do right now?

- Get your breeding objective written down
- Stocktake your current genetics
- Track ram team usage
- Use your breeding objective with your eyes and hands

Key Messages

- Identify ASBVs and index for your breeding objective
- Ensure the ASBVs are better each year
- Balance visual and objective selection