AN INITIATIVE OF
Making More From Sheep

awi Australian Wool Innovation Limited

mla MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

MERINOSELECT ASBV

LAMBPLAN ASBV

Getting a Jump with Genetics
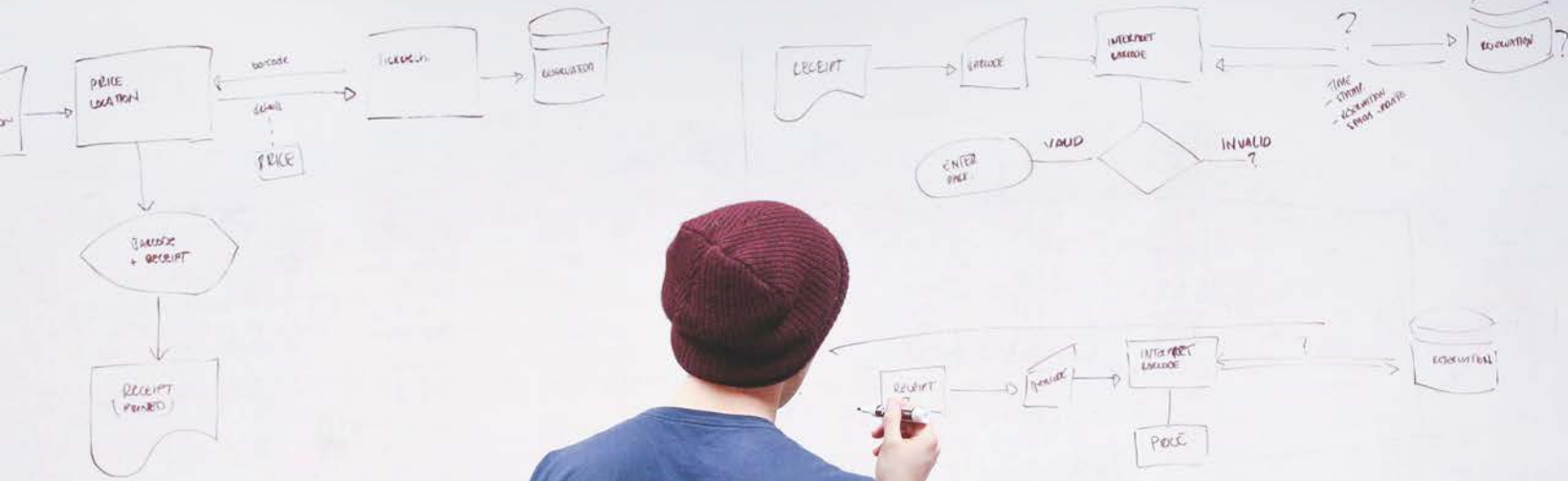Daniel Brown (Luke Stephen)

EVENT SUPPORTERS:

Elders

LANDMARK

SHEEP CRC

Todays 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

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Knowing your starting point

- Identifies opportunities

- Helps make smarter decisions

Knowing your system

1. Money Breakers

2. Money makers

3. Environmental limitations

Money Makers

Product Quantity
- Growth
- Fleece Weight
- Weaning %

Market Specifications
- Carcase
- Fibre Diameter
- Staple Strength
- Staple Length

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Money Breakers

Maternal Efficiency

Market Specifications

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

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Weighing them up

Money Makers

Product Quantity
- Growth
- Fleece Weight
- Weaning %

Market Specifications
- Carcase
- Fibre Diameter
- Staple Strength
- Staple Length

Money Breakers

Maternal efficiency
- Adult size

Market Specifications

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

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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

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Bringing you plan together

Identify your breeding objective (SMART)

> **S**pecific
>
> **M**easurable
>
> **A**ttainable
>
> **R**elevant
>
> **T**ime Framed

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

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Bringing you plan together

Identify the most suitable index

Merino	Maternal	Terminal	
		Lamb Prod	***+EQ***
FP+	BLX	Carcase Plus ~	LE
MP+	MCP	Lamb 2020 ~	LEQ
DP+	MCP+		

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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

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Using ASBVs

Taken as given

Proven technology in all domesticated species

They work!

Sensible balance required

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WHY IDENTIFY SUPERIOR GENES?

What progress are the sellers making?

	Top 20%	Bottom 20%
Merinos	$2.50	-$0.35
Maternals	$2.34	-$0.29
Terminals	$0.89	-$0.06

Using your plan

Which Gate / Sales

Which Pens

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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

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What you can choose realistically?

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

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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

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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

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WHERE DO I GET HELP?

Having a plan

- Flock Profiling-Sheep CRC

- Rams Used

- Merino Bloodline Performance

- Merino Lifetime Performance project/AMSEA sites

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Using your plan

- RamSelect

- Sheep Genetics

- Private service providers

- Stud breeders

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Workshops to attend

- Bred Well Fed Well

- Ramselect

- Sheep classing workshops

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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

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Key Messages

- Understand profit and cost drivers ➡ Breeding Objective

- Identify ASBVs and index

- Utilise variation between and within sales

- Ensure the ASBVs are better each year

- Balance visual and objective selection

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