

Sheep and goat property to property transfers

Julia Sarandopoulos, Senior Officer Sheep and Goat Traceability Compliance

Effective traceability is essential in an emergency animal disease, emergency response or food safety incident. It underpins confidence in our livestock products and access to local and international markets.

When sheep or goats are moved between properties with different Property Identification Codes (PICs), it's a requirement to complete a National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) database transfer between the two PICs. This transfer is referred to as a property-to-property transfer.

A property-to-property transfer shows that the livestock have moved on a specific date from one PIC to another and indicates where the livestock currently reside, ensuring lifetime traceability is maintained for that animal.

A property-to-property transfer is required for:

- private sales of animals
- animals being agisted or lent
- animals traded through online selling platforms such as AuctionsPlus, Gumtree and Facebook

The person receiving the livestock is legally responsible for ensuring that a transfer on the NLIS database occurs.

The NLIS database movement record must be completed:

- within two days of the livestock arriving at the new property, or
- before the animals leave the property if within two days, whichever is sooner.

You may engage a third party to complete the movement information on the NLIS database on your behalf (e.g. an agent), however it is still your responsibility to ensure this occurs.



When livestock are bought, sold or moved through a saleyard, scale, public auction conducted on-farm or sold directly to an abattoir or knackery, it is the responsibility of the person operating that business to notify the database.

Accurate and up to date information about where your livestock are kept is essential to protect our industry.

How to complete a property-to-property transfer on the NLIS database

1. You must have access to an NLIS database account to record livestock movements on the NLIS database. Create a new account online at nlis.com.au or by calling 1800 654 743. There is no charge to create an account.
2. Log in to the NLIS database by entering your user ID and password.
3. Select the livestock species relevant to the movement record.
4. Select 'Notify the database of — Livestock moved onto my property'
5. Enter the details directly or upload a file that contains the details.

You'll need the following details:

- NLIS tag numbers (RFIDs or NLISIDs)
- date the livestock arrived on the property
- PIC of the property of dispatch
- PIC of the property of receipt
- National Vendor Declaration serial number
- number of head of sheep or goats in the consignment.

Tagging requirements from 1 January 2022

From 1 January 2022 all sheep and non-exempt goats will be required to be identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep or Goat) tag before being moved off a Victoria property.

Livestock PICs

Another important aspect of Victorian traceability is maintaining accurate PIC details. Having the correct PIC details ensures that during a disease outbreak or natural emergency you can be contacted and supported. PIC details can be updated using online, phone or paper forms and it takes minimal time to do so. A person must report changes to their PIC within 28 days after the change.

To update your PIC go to pic.agriculture.vic.gov.au and amend existing PIC details.

For further information on livestock traceability, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au

NLIS database webinars

Do you buy or sell livestock privately, online or through saleyards? Do you know the NLIS requirements for livestock movements? Agriculture Victoria is delivering interactive online training sessions for livestock producers using the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) database on October 27 and November 24. You will learn about the Victorian traceability system, take a tour of the NLIS database features and practise how to complete a Property to Property (P2P) transfer. Book your free tickets online at: agriculturevictoriaevents.eventbrite.com then select the 'NLIS Database Webinar' event of your choice. For more info, or if you have trouble registering call 0427 681 714.

Changes to LPA (Livestock Production Assurance) site

Livestock producers can no longer log in direct to the LPA site to access eNVDs (electronic National Vendor Declarations), accreditations, order NVD books, etc. Instead, they will be redirected to the MyMLA single sign-on site and will need to set up an account before linking to their LPA account. It's a good idea to do this early before you need a new NVD.

You can use this QR code to watch a helpful YouTube video to help you with this.

Online industry services tailored to you
Meat & Livestock Australia (mla.com.au)



You will need to download a QR reader app if using an Android phone.



Digital Tip

Provided by reader, Louisa-Jane



The Do Not Disturb Function

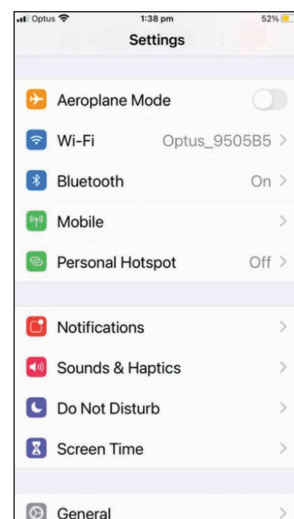
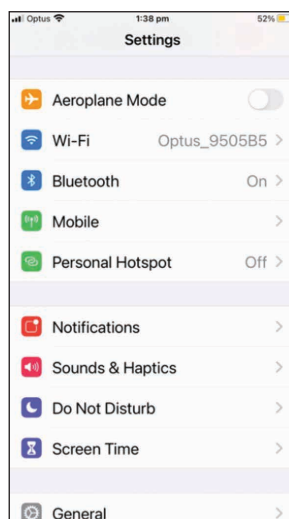
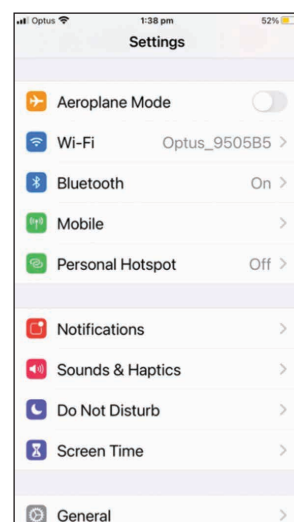
There's nothing worse than a text message or phone call disturbing you at the wrong moment. The Do Not Disturb function is a fantastic way to ensure you're not woken by an incoming message or call. You can automate this feature on your phone so it turns itself on at a specific time at night and then off again in the morning. You can also use this feature when you're driving so text messages etc don't distract you.

On your iPhone

- 1 Go to Settings, then scroll down until you get to the Do Not Disturb.
- 2 Tap Do Not Disturb and set up your settings. Swipe right next to Do Not Disturb to turn it on and then fill in your preferences.

You can use this feature at any time or preset your preferences to automatically come on when you're driving or sleeping.

Figure a. Find 'Do Not Disturb' in Settings



Figures b & c. Examples of when to use and set 'Do Not Disturb' mode.

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Agriculture Victoria prize!

Send your digital tip to:
jane.court@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Farm Business Resilience Program

Kit Duncan-Jones, Agriculture Victoria

Are you a Victorian livestock or mixed farmer? Do you want to develop or refresh your farm business plan to take your business to the next level? Are you interested in improving your skills in risk management, business and succession planning, and the management of natural resources for improved productivity?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, Agriculture Victoria's new Farm Business Resilience program may be the program for you. Agriculture Victoria Project Leader Kit Duncan-Jones said while Victorian farmers successfully manage uncertainty and complexity every day, the business of farming is becoming more challenging as farmers face significant risks, such as future droughts, natural disasters, market uncertainty and other industry challenges. "If you're a farmer who wants to put your plans on paper and commit your time to strengthen your knowledge and skills, this program will assist you to set up your farm for success now and for your family into the future," Mr Duncan-Jones said.

The program is being delivered between now and June 2022. It is delivered in five modules over the course of a few months. Farmers will have access to a Farm Business Resilience Resource Library during and after the program. The digital library contains program worksheets, presentation materials, videos, podcasts, eLearns and useful websites.

The Farm Business Resilience program is jointly funded by the Australian Government and Victorian Government through the Future Drought Fund.

For more information or to register your interest please contact Kit Duncan-Jones on 0427 749 466 or kit.duncan-jones@agriculture.vic.gov.au



Answering questions about farming – Open Gate Conversation

The Victorian Farmers Federation have initiated an online or virtual discussion to answer questions from the general public about farming. It is called Open Gate Conversations. Their challenge is "Ask a question, and a Victorian farmer will provide the answer. We are ready to discuss the issues that matter to all Victorians; climate change, sustainability, use of chemicals and other technology, animal welfare and managing landscapes. We want to talk about the value our farmers bring as stewards of the Victorian countryside and providers of fresh, nutritious food."

The Open Gate Conversation website hosts many questions and answers around a wide range of issues and food and fibre products covering food health; environmental and animal welfare issues as well as just general questions such as "what got you interested in farming..." Other examples include:

- "What do you think is one of the biggest misconceptions on organic farming?"
- "Please advise why grass-fed animals are marketed as better"
- "How much profit do dairy farmers make from milk we purchase at supermarkets? Is



there a better option for us to be able to support these dairy farmers better?"

- "Why are ewes and wethers shorn in winter?"

Any Victorian farmer can register their interest to answer questions. Register your interest on the VFF webpage opengateconversations.org.au/farmer-registration/.

Open Gate Conversations is managed by the Victorian Farmers Federation and supported by the Victorian State Government.

An important conversation: How to be safe on farms

Rachel Jacobsen, Agriculture Victoria

Farmers are great at looking after their livestock or produce, land, and machinery, but often put their own health and safety at risk. People working in agriculture make up about 14 per cent of workplace fatalities, despite the industry only employing about two per cent of Victoria's workforce. Farms are homes where we live but they are also workplaces; so now is the time to prioritise safety for yourself, your family and employees and visitors to your farm.

Starting a safety conversation means having honest conversations about safety and recognising that putting safety first is good for business. Farm safety is more than making sure the gate is shut, or putting on a seatbelt, it's about building trust and developing a culture where everyone on the farm, including employees and family, feel confident to ask questions and raise concerns. A good place to start is with a farm safety plan that can focus on topics like a safety induction, farm rules, safety policies and safe work

procedures. Developing a plan will reduce risk and help secure the future of your farm business.

There is support available to help you build a plan and consider what you and your farm business need. The Victorian Farmers Federation's Making Our Farms Safer advisors can provide free occupational health and safety advice including developing a safety plan for your farm. The farm safety advisors have a broad range of experience and provide free and confidential advice to Victorian farmers to improve safety in the most practical way. Advisors can help create a safety plan and provide resources and safety policies that are suited to the needs of your business.

For more information visit the Victorian Farmers Federation website: [Making our Farms Safer](https://www.vff.org.au/making-our-farms-safer) or contact an advisor directly – John Darcy 0432 156 223 or Richard Versteegen 0499 772 472. Making our Farms Safer is also on Facebook ([facebook.com/VFFMakingOurFarmsSafer](https://www.facebook.com/VFFMakingOurFarmsSafer)) and Twitter (twitter.com/VFFMOFS)



The Making our Farms Safer project for all Victorian farmers is being delivered by the Victorian Farmers Federation. The project is funded through Smarter, Safer Farms, a \$20 million Victorian Government commitment to improve safety and skills outcomes for Victorian farmers.

Occasional Paper – “A landholder’s guide to participate in soil carbon farming in Australia”

Farmers or managers interested in entering the soil carbon market should consider reading a recently published paper “A landholder’s guide to participate in soil carbon farming in Australia”. This paper is written by experts from Melbourne University Robert E White, Brian Davidson and Richard Eckard. Some of you may have heard Robert White present at the recent online conference held by the Grassland Society of Southern Australia?

The paper outlines the options for contracting soil carbon credits such as to the Australian Government or in the more flexible voluntary market. It warns that while foreign companies are also in this market, they may use ‘non-conforming or untested methodologies’ so cannot be counted as offsets and when sold to an overseas investor cannot be counted to offset emissions in Australia. It provides a guide as to what is possible for a sustained increase in soil carbon in different environments and an estimate of the costs and benefits from making changes.

The range in scientific literature and recorded increases in soil carbon reported in this paper vary from 0.26

to 1 tonne carbon/ha/year. The highest increases are associated with high rainfall (potential to grow more grass and hence organic matter) and a low starting soil carbon level. Soil type, pasture/crop establishment, nutrient inputs and grazing management also influence the variation in potential results. Soil carbon varies considerably across paddocks and so robust sampling and measurement are required to pick up ‘real’ changes in soil carbon over time. Therefore, careful consideration of feasible and sustainable increases in soil carbon need to be considered, given the range and claims for far higher increases are being made.

The paper goes through some of the key questions landholders need to consider regarding changes they are prepared to make to increase and sustain soil carbon for at least 25 years. The costs to participate (such as testing, record keeping, consultants, etc.) are also outlined and potential benefits discussed.

The paper can be found at the Australian Farm Institute website [farminstitute.org.au](https://www.farminstitute.org.au)

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Further Reading

Another good reference on the Young Farmers Network page is "Selling soil carbon – an easy win?" extensionaus.com.au/youngfarmersnetwork/selling-soil-carbon-an-easy-win/

Other References on the Agriculture climate and weather webpage:

- *Making sense of C booklet* agriculture.vic.gov.au/climate-and-weather/understanding-carbon-and-emissions/making-cents-of-carbon-and-emissions-on-farm

- *Selling carbon from trees and soils:* This article provides some of the questions that should be addressed before landowners consider selling carbon from farm trees or soils. agriculture.vic.gov.au/climate-and-weather/understanding-carbon-and-emissions/selling-carbon-from-trees-and-soils

Haemonchosis ("Barber's Pole Worm") – is it changing?

Dr Jeff Cave, District Veterinary Officer, Wodonga

Several years ago, on a cold winter's day, I conducted a post-mortem of a sheep on a well-managed property in the Upper Murray and found the contents of its abomasum (fourth stomach) swimming with Barber's Pole Worm. Since then, I have heard of similar scenarios from throughout Victoria. Which leads to the questions – isn't Barber's Pole Worm supposed to be a summer parasite? Is something in its biology changing?

Barber's Pole Worm (*Haemonchus contortus*) is a blood sucking roundworm of sheep and goats, with minor cross over into cattle. It has a typical roundworm life cycle in that its eggs are passed in a sheep's faeces, hatch and molt three times in the environment to an L3 form which is infectious and eaten by a sheep. It then develops to an L4 and adult worm in the abomasum.

Clinical disease is primarily seen in weaners and lambing ewes and is more pronounced with poor nutrition. Each L4 and adult worm may remove 30 μ L of blood from a sheep per day, which quickly adds up if there is a significant worm burden, rapidly causing anaemia and possibly death when more than 500 worms are present. Clinical signs of Haemonchosis include anaemia due to blood loss with associated lethargy. Affected individuals may flop down when mustered briskly and have extremely pale inner eyelids and gums. All condition types can be affected including big, fat ewes. In more chronic cases you may see "bottle-jaw" due to loss of blood protein. Diarrhoea is not a feature of the disease unless burdens of other worms are present.

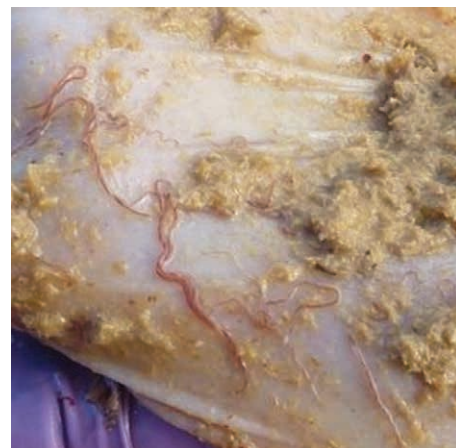
Barber's Pole worm gets its name from the "Barber-pole" colouration of the female worm as its intestine and uterus intertwine. These two to three cm long adult female worms can be readily seen on a fresh post-mortem in the abomasal contents of an affected sheep. A sheep with Haemonchosis will have worm egg counts in the thousands as opposed to a sheep affected by the scour worms in which a worm egg count in the low hundreds is deemed significant.

As for other roundworms, to manage Haemonchosis treat with an effective drench, move onto a low risk paddock, and monitor worm egg counts. All broad-

spectrum drenches as well as closantel may be effective although anthelmintic resistance does occur.

Typically, Barber's pole worm's environmental survival is favoured by warm, humid conditions. Compared with other roundworms, Barber's Pole worms have a high fecundity, as evidenced by their high egg counts, and a short life cycle, meaning that worm burdens can build up

relatively quickly. The high fecundity, short life cycle and high degree of genetic variation of Barber's Pole worm means that it can make rapid adaptive changes and potentially rapidly develop resistance to drenches. This may help explain why we have seen changes in the biology of Barber's Pole Worm over the past few decades. Originally, Barbers Pole Worm survived our cold Victorian winters by arresting its development inside the sheep until environmental conditions were conducive for its larval survival. Modern drenches, which killed the inhibited worms, removed this survival advantage of remaining inhibited over winter. Consequently, selection pressure was applied for the adult Barbers Pole Worm to complete its development through winter, for its eggs to hatch at a lower temperature, and for it to have a shorter life cycle in the environment. This helps explain why Barber's Pole Worm has apparently become a winter parasite in Victoria.



Haemonchus contortus (Barber's Pole worm) in the abomasum

Reference

Emery DL, Hunt PW and Le Jambre LF (2016) *Haemonchus contortus*: the then and now, and where to from here? *Int J Parasitol* 46, 755–769

AgTech Bytes

Chris Blore, Agriculture Victoria

Technology for agriculture is a rapidly expanding sector, but there are still many issues with connectivity and requirements to ensure the technology is the right one and works for you. AgTech Bytes are a series of short tech notes that provide simple and practical information about AgTech solutions. They have been created for producers and service providers to help in the understanding of:

- the basic jargon and components used to describe AgTech solutions
- how AgTech operates in farming enterprises
- how AgTech solutions can be incorporated into management decision making processes.

The AgTech Bytes library includes

- **AgTech, what you need to know** this short article provides information on the steps to take when purchasing an AgTech product.
- **LoRaWAN (Long Range Wide Area Network)** is a network that allows battery-operated devices to wirelessly connect and send data over the internet. The devices connect via a gateway and provide near real-time data to assist with on farm decision making. LoRaWAN networks are becoming more prevalent in regional Victoria.
- **A Dashboard** is a website or application (app.) that is used to view and interpret real-time data from devices. It can be viewed on a computer, smartphone or tablet. A dashboard allows you to view data that is being collected by devices remotely. While it may be possible to access the raw data from a device without a dashboard, the dashboard offers the benefit of visualising data and displays it simply, using easy to understand icons, graphs and/or tables.

- **Mobile networks**, also known as cellular networks, are made up of a series of base stations or mobile phone towers. These base stations relay wireless signals that allow devices to connect, transmit and receive data. Mobile networks include Cat M1- an example of LongTerm Evolution (LTE), third generation (3G) and fourth generation (4G). This tech byte explains how mobile networks can offer real time decision making on farm.
- **Electric fence monitor** is a device that remotely monitors and reports the voltage of your electric fence. This small portable system clips on to your electric fence to provide alerts when there is a fault that needs fixing. It connects via a network such as LoRaWAN and sends voltage readings to a dashboard. This tech byte provides information on technology requirements, things to consider before purchasing and how farmers are using it.
- **Labour Saving** case study of how one family invested in several AgTech devices to see how they could better manage risks on their farm. Devices installed included electric fence, trough, gate and tank depth sensors. The tech byte covers what they used to address connectivity and device management (e.g. dashboard and software) as well as costs and how well they worked.

Scan or click the QR code to automatically receive a copy of the AgTech Bytes and case studies to your email. Alternatively contact Chris Blore, christopher.blore@agriculture.vic.gov.au

You will need to download a QR reader app if using an Android phone.





Did you know?

Under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations introduced in December 2019, Regulation 6(4) stipulates that when the temperature is 28 degrees or above that an area of insulating material be placed on the metal tray of a motor vehicle or trailer to protect the dog from the metal surface..

For further information:
<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/pocta-act-1986/about-the-prevention-of-cruelty-to-animals-legislation>

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

To feed or not to feed – that is the question

Nick Linden and Jane Court, Agriculture Victoria

With high stock prices and a favourable grain harvest looking likely is a temptation to run a percentage of lambs through on grain for earlier turnoff or for sale at heavier weights. Before a single kilogram of grain is fed out to the weaners, it is well worth running through some costings and budgets and thinking about what management can be done now to set up for future success. An estimated budget is essential – in many cases selling as store lambs may be the more profitable option. The budget will include the ration cost and buy/sell price of lambs and especially the estimated growth rates that lambs are likely to achieve, as well as other running costs such as shearing/crutching, animal health costs and losses as shy feeders/low growth rates, etc. Feeding lambs where you are 100 per cent responsible for daily needs is labour intensive so you would want to ensure a good return before jumping in.

In this article we will run through a useful feedlot calculator and look at some of the factors that will help ensure that the lambs perform to their potential.

When targeting feedlot performance people will often focus on having lambs enter with as much weight as possible. The reality is that in many cases heavier isn't always better, and often there is no real relationship between starting weight and overall feedlot performance.

To a certain extent, the poor performance of heavy lambs (e.g., 45 kg and heavier) when they get into the feedlot can be explained by the maturity pattern. These heavy lambs have already 'run their race' they have laid down their bone, muscle and have probably started to lay down fat. The impacts are twofold to the feedlotter: 1) growth will have started to flatten out (think of a standard growth curve, it has to plateau somewhere – and in this case we are nearing or past the plateau) and 2) if the lambs have already started to lay down fat,

this comes at a high energy cost. Therefore, highly muscled lean lambs are more efficient than low muscled fatter lambs. In the high feed cost environment of a feedlot, depositing excess fat is expensive. So, the implications of feeding heavier lambs are twofold – growth rates are already slowing, and the cost to deposit every extra kilogram of liveweight – which is made up of an increasing proportion of fat – has increased.

However, even at the lighter weights (such as 35 kg, often considered an 'ideal' weight for feeding lambs) there will be a large variation in feedlot performance. Some will have excellent growth rates, while others will be a certainty to underperform and lose money. While genetics obviously plays a part, there are other causes of variation. For example, a 35 kg lamb at feedlot entry that was born in the first week of lambing as a single, is vastly different from a 35 kg lamb that was born on the last day of lambing and raised as a twin. One has plenty of growth potential and is gaining weight at an impressive rate, while the other has been very pedestrian in comparison. So, two similar liveweight lambs can have quite different growth potential. Not to mention other factors that impact on growth rates, such as diseases and feed issues.

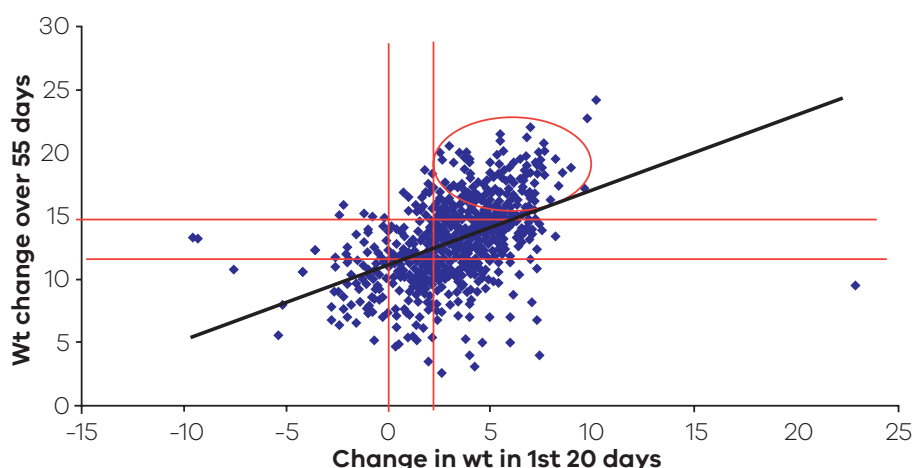
The challenge to the feedlotter is to identify which lambs, irrespective

of starting weight, are going to be the ones that will perform well in the feedlot.

Figure 4 shows results from a group of commercially finished lambs and presents the relationship between weight gain over the finishing period and how the lambs performed in the first two weeks. Of the lambs that gained 15 kg plus while on feed – all of those lambs put on a minimum of 2.5 kg in the first two weeks of feedlot life (circled in red). This observation is supported by the overall trend whereby lambs that do well in the first two weeks in the feedlot are the ones that do the best over the duration of finishing. From the same dataset – it can be seen that lambs than have zero weight gain in the first two weeks are unlikely to have a change of fortune and yield a favourable result by the end of the time on feed.

The messages from this are clear. It is imperative that when a lamb enters the feedlot, they need to hit the ground running. All management before and around feedlot induction needs to be centred around getting lambs up to the troughs and eating. Lambs need to have been exposed to the principal ingredients in the ration before entering the feedlot – if they are being finished on barley and lupins, then they need to be 'imprinted' to these ingredients well before they enter the feedlot. Furthermore, shy feeders that aren't adapting to the feedlot environment

Figure 4 Weight change of lambs in a feedlot trial as change in weight in the first 20 days versus weight change over 55 days.



are best treated differently, such as a good pasture or a separate pen with greater access to the feed.

To help in the calculations of whether finishing lambs within a feedlot operation is worthwhile (and selecting lambs that perform the best as above), the NSW Department of Primary Industries has a good excel based feedlot calculator. This is accessible on the Feeding Livestock website in the Sheep Tools section and can be downloaded onto your computer. Here, we walk through the basic calculator and some of the issues that are considered. There is an Advanced version which gives more options for developing rations and feedlot notes that can also be downloaded.

SHEEP/LAMB		
INPUTS		
TYPE OF SHEEP (LAMB/ADULT)		LAMB
Av Starting Liveweight	(kg)	35
Purchase Price or Value on farm	(\$/hd)	180.00
Av Target Sale Liveweight	(kg lwt)	50
Carcase Dressing %	(%)	47
Carcase Sale Price	(\$/kg HSCW)	8.00
Skin Sale Price	(\$/skin)	0.00
OR Sale Price/head	(\$/hd)	245.00
Target Daily Growth Rate	(g/h/d)	250
OR Days on feed	(days)	
Daily intake (DM basis)	(% of lwt)	3.5
Wool value (shearing and/or crutchings)	\$/kg	5.00
Wool cut (shearing and/or crutchings)	kg/hd	1.50
Deaths	(%)	2
Draft 1 lambs	(%)	90
Shy Feeders	(%)	5
Draft 2 lambs	(%)	3
Draft 2 Selling Price	(\$/hd)	150.00
Interest Cost on Purchased Lambs	(%)	10

Figure 5 Inputs for lambs

Figure 5 shows all the variables that need to be entered such as an estimate of the buy and sell price of the lambs, the wool value (if shorn and not included in the buy in value) and critically the growth rate you think is realistic (based on how much ration they consume and the feed conversion ratio). Many of these entry boxes provide a drop-down guide, when you click on the cell, as to how to make an estimate, however it is still important that you 'test' the provided estimates against what you lambs may have done in the past. For example, carcass dressing percentage will vary depending on fat score, breed, season etc and some adjustments for these are provided if you don't know how your stock will perform. Similarly, guides are provided for daily intake (as a

percentage of live weight). You can use either carcass sale price (as dollars per kilogram of hot standard carcass weight plus wool value) or you can just use a price per head.

In this example we are feeding lambs with a starting rate of 35 kg live weight and valued them at \$180 per head. We are aiming for a sale weight of 50 kg live weight and estimated dressing percentage of 47 per cent. We have estimated a growth rate of 250 g/head/day and this would be equivalent to a feed conversion ratio of six (kg of feed eaten as dry matter per kg of liveweight), which is a realistic figure to use (see Figure 8). Figure 6 shows all the running costs of the feedlot such as animal health; crutching/shearing; transport; killing costs etc. The ration cost is estimated when you enter the components of the ration and the cost per tonne and dry matter percentage (Figure 7). In this example, the ration is a basis of wheat and lupins with hay for roughage, bentonite as a buffer and lime and salt for calcium and sodium. The total ration cost (here it is \$295/tonne as fed) is therefore estimated based on the dry matter and the proportion of each in the feed.

Running Costs		
Shearing	\$/hd	5.00
Crutching	\$/hd	
Drench	\$/hd	0.25
Fly and/or Lice Control	\$/hd	0.25
Other	\$/hd	
Vaccine (Vitamin A, D, E or B12)	\$/hd	0.25
Vaccine (5 or 6 in 1)	\$/hd	0.30
Transport – In	\$/hd	
Transport – Out	\$/hd	2.00
Wool packs/Supplies and Transport	\$/bale	15.00
Killing Costs	\$/hd	
Slaughter Levy	\$/hd	1.50
Commission – Buy	%	
Fixed Costs/lamb	\$/hd	0.50
Selling Commission (lamb)	%	5.0
Selling Commission (wool)	%	5.0
Feeding Costs		
Labour Costs	c/l/d	5
Ration Cost (as fed)	\$/tonne	295
Ration Storage/Feedlot Losses (as fed)	%	5
Feedout Costs (as fed)	\$/tonne	10
Ration DM	% DM	89

Fig 6 Running costs inputs

Ration Costing (if required) AS FED			
Ingredient	\$/tonne (as fed)	% fed	DM%
Wheat	300	60	90
Lupins	400	10	90
Bentonite	260	1	100
Lime	165	1	100
Salt	300	1	100
Hay	250	27	84
Ration Average	295	100.0	89

Figure 7 Ration costs

The output table (Figure 8) shows the total estimated costs and income per lamb. You can see that whilst the ration cost is significant (at \$32.20 per lamb) running, fixed and selling costs all add to the overall costs and, in this scenario, the profit when ALL costs are taken into account is only \$2.87 per lamb. So, the true cost will be even higher if the lambs aren't growing as well as you have estimated (due to causes such as poor induction to the ration before finishing or poor genetics).

OUTPUTS		
Production		
Daily intake	kg/h/day DM	1.49
Feed Conversion	kg DMfeed/kgLWT	6.0
Liveweight Change	kg	15.0
Growth Rate	g/h/day	250
Days on feed	days	60
Daily feed (as fed)	kg/day/lamb	1.76
Total feed (as fed)	kg/lamb	106
Average HCWT (All)	HCWT (kg)	23.1
Income/lamb (\$/lamb)		
Draft 1	(\$/hd)	245.00
Draft 2	(\$/hd)	150.00
Shy feeders	(\$/hd)	216.00
Wool	(\$/hd)	7.50
AVERAGE PRICE		243.30
Coast/lamb (\$lamb)		
Purchase	(\$/hd)	180.00
Running costs	(\$/hd)	6.18
Selling costs	(\$/hd)	18.55
Labour cost	(\$/hd)	3.00
Ration Cost	(\$/hd)	32.20
Fixed Costs	(\$/hd)	0.50
TOTAL COSTS		240.43
PROFIT (\$/lamb)		2.87
Value Added Ration %		9

Figure 8 Outputs screen showing the performance of lambs

All that aside, the calculator is a great tool to use to assess the profitability of finishing under different conditions – in the above scenario the finishing was marginal at best, but if store lamb prices had been \$145, then the outcome would have been very different. Similarly, you can use the calculator to assess what growth rates versus ration cost are needed to be profitable, for example the required growth rate to be profitable when feeding a \$300 home grown ration versus feeding a \$400 commercial pellet will be very different (but make sure you account for extra time). The feedlot calculator provides a great opportunity to cost different inputs as well as giving you some valuable guides and resources to help you on the way.

Agriculture Victoria animal health and sheep industry contacts

Although our offices are currently closed, the office numbers provided below are diverted to staff who can assist you. Alternatively, you can contact Agriculture Victoria on 136 186.

Location	Office Contact	Meat and Wool Services		Animal health
		Livestock Industry Development Officers	Land Management Officers*	
South-West region				
Ararat	136 186	✓	✓	
Ballarat	5336 6856	✓	✓	✓
Colac	5233 5504			✓
Geelong	5226 4878		✓	✓
Hamilton	5573 0900	✓		✓
Horsham	0343 443 111			✓
Queenscliff	5258 0229	✓		
Warrnambool	5561 9946	✓		✓
South-East region				
Attwood	9217 4200	✓		✓
Bairnsdale	136186	✓	✓	✓
Cranbourne	136 186		✓	✓
Ellinbank	5624 2222	✓	✓	✓
Leongatha	5662 9900	✓	✓	✓
Maffra	5147 0800	✓		✓
Swifts Creek	5159 5134	✓	✓	
Northern region				
Alexandra	5772 0200		✓	
Benalla	5761 1611	✓	✓	✓
Bendigo	5430 4444	✓	✓	✓
Echuca	5482 1922			✓
Rutherglen	02 6030 4500	✓	✓	
Seymour	5735 4300			✓
Swan Hill	5036 4800	✓	✓	✓
Tatura	5833 5222		✓	✓
Wangaratta	5723 8600			✓
Wodonga	02 6043 7900	✓	✓	✓

*Farm planning, soil health advice, soil conservation advice, dryland farm water planning

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