

South Street, Murdoch
Western Australia 6150
Phone: (618) 9360 6000

Cricos Provider Code: 00125J
A.B.N. 61 616 369 313

Dear producer

The purpose of this study is to benchmark the current sheep reproductive rates across Australia. The study forms part of a larger project that is looking at improving the reproductive performance of ewes joined as lambs and hoggets. The project is funded by Meat and Livestock Australia. The key benefits for farm businesses from this study will be benchmarks to compare the reproductive performance of your sheep against regional and national targets, and better understanding of the opportunities available to improve reproductive performance of young sheep across a range of different farming systems.

Participants will be asked to provide some information about characteristics of sheep flocks and scanning rates after scanning, as well as data on number of lambs present at marking. Some of these questions may be seen as personal and private. You can choose not to answer any of the questions on topics sensitive to you.

The questionnaire will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. This can be completed electronically or with a printed copy that we can supply and submitted online, by e-mail or post.

Completed surveys can be returned via the following contact details:

Post - Elise Bowen
55 Hardy Ave
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Email - elisejbowen@gmail.com

You do not need to answer all questions in the survey, and can decide at any time to withdraw your consent to participate in this research. If you decide to withdraw, any material you have given us will be destroyed.

The final report and publications from this project will not identify any individuals or businesses participating in the study. Any records that identify your business or contact details will be stored securely and will not be shared without your consent.

The study will be running from 2018-2020. If you wish to receive follow-up information, the findings for the project will be shared with participants at the end of the project. If you do not wish to be contacted with the results, findings will be included in The Ovine Observer newsletter (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development) and Meat and Livestock Australia Friday Feedback magazine.



Participation in this survey is completely voluntary. If you choose not to participate in this survey, this will not impact any opportunity for you to participate in other research projects.

This study has been approved by the Murdoch University Human Research Ethics Committee (Approval 2018/056). If you have any reservation or complaint about the ethical conduct of this research, and wish to talk with an independent person, you may contact Murdoch University's Research Ethics Office (Tel. 08 9360 6677 or e-mail ethics@murdoch.edu.au). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

For further information on this project relating to embryo/lamb survival in maiden ewes, call Caroline Jacobson (0418 953 173) or Serina Hancock (0403 570 823).

Thank-you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Elise Bowen

PhD Candidate, Murdoch University
Phone: 0428 420 981

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Maiden ewe reproduction performance industry benchmarking study

Producer name:
Phone:
Email:
Preferred contact method for follow-up:

Farm name:
Location:
Farm size:
Total Merino ewes on farm:
Total non-Merino ewes on farm:
Pregnancy scanner name:

I agree that the information provided in this survey may be used by Murdoch University to carry out the project. I understand that data provided will be anonymised and aggregated and then published or provided to the supporters of this project (including Meat and Livestock Australia, and Australian Wool Innovation). This consent is irrevocable, perpetual and royalty-free. Any personal information I provide will be held in accordance with Murdoch University's privacy policy who may, in the course of the project, provide this information to the above named supporters of this project.

I understand that all information provided by me is treated as confidential and will not be released by the researcher to a third party unless required to do so by law.

| Name | Signature | Date |
|------|-----------|------|
|------|-----------|------|

Do you wish to be contacted in the future:

(a) with results of the project? Yes / No

(b) with updates on future opportunities to participate in sheep production research? Yes / No



Part one: Scanning outcomes – MAIDEN EWES ONLY

Please note that *maiden ewes* are those that are being joined for the first time (youngest age group). This may refer to ewe lambs (7-9 months at joining) or hoggets (18-20 months at joining), depending on the property.

* Denotes critical data

| | Mob 1 | Mob 2 | Mob 3 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Information for sheep at joining | | | |
| *Number of ewes in mob | | | |
| *Average ewe age | | | |
| *Ewe Breed | | | |
| *Ram Breed | | | |
| *Month of joining | | | |
| Joining length (days) | | | |
| Ave ewe condition score (1-5) | | | |
| Predominant pasture type | | | |
| Information for sheep during joining and early pregnancy (day 0-50 pregnancy) | | | |
| Supplementary feeding (yes/no) | | | |
| Trail feeding or self feeders | | | |
| Grain type | | | |
| Information for sheep during mid pregnancy (day 50-100 pregnancy) | | | |
| Supplementary feeding (yes/no) | | | |
| Trail feeding or self feeders | | | |
| Grain type | | | |
| Scanning data | | | |
| *Number of ewes scanned | | | |
| *Scanned for multiples Y/N | | | |
| *Dries % | | | |
| *Overall scanning % inc. Dries | | | |

Part two: Lambing outcomes – MAIDEN EWES ONLY

Please note that *maiden ewes* are those that are being joined for the first time (youngest age group). This may refer to ewe lambs (7-9 months at joining) or hoggets (18-20 months at joining), depending on the property.

* Denotes critical data

If you have more than three maiden lambing mobs, please email to request an Excel version with additional columns.

| | Paddock 1 | Paddock 2 | Paddock 3 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Information for sheep at lambing | | | |
| Paddock name | | | |
| *Number of ewes in mob | | | |
| *Preg status (single, twin or mixed) | | | |
| *Ewe Breed | | | |
| *Ram Breed | | | |
| *Month of lambing | | | |
| Ave ewe condition score (1-5) | | | |
| Average FOO (kg DM/ha) | | | |
| Predominant pasture type | | | |
| Nutrition information for sheep during late pregnancy (day 100-150 pregnancy) | | | |
| Supplementary feeding (yes/no) | | | |
| Trail feeding or self feeders | | | |
| Grain/feed type | | | |
| Nutrition information for sheep during lambing - marking | | | |
| Supplementary feeding (yes/no) | | | |
| Trail feeding or self feeders | | | |
| Grain type | | | |
| Marking information | | | |
| *Number of lambs marked | | | |
| *Number of ewe deaths | | | |

Part three: comparative mature flock performance – ADULT EWES ONLY

Please provide a summary of your adult ewe repro data. Different mobs/paddocks at marking time can be combined.

You need only provide separate groupings if you have different flocks i.e. Merino to Merino, Merino to non-Merino.

** Denotes critical data*

| | Flock 1 | Flock 2 | Flock 3 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Information for sheep at joining | | | |
| *Number of ewes in flock | | | |
| *Ewe Breed | | | |
| *Ram Breed | | | |
| Scanning data | | | |
| *Number of ewes scanned | | | |
| *Dries % | | | |
| *Overall scanning % inc. dries | | | |
| Marking information | | | |
| *Total number of lambs marked | | | |
| *Total number of ewe deaths | | | |

| | |
|---|--|
| Have you attended training in condition scoring and/or assessing FOO? | |
| Is condition score estimated or actual (i.e. measured)? | |
| Is FOO estimated or actual (i.e. measured)? | |