

AN INITIATIVE OF

*Making More From Sheep*



# Getting a Jump with Genetics

Daniel Brown (Luke Stephen)

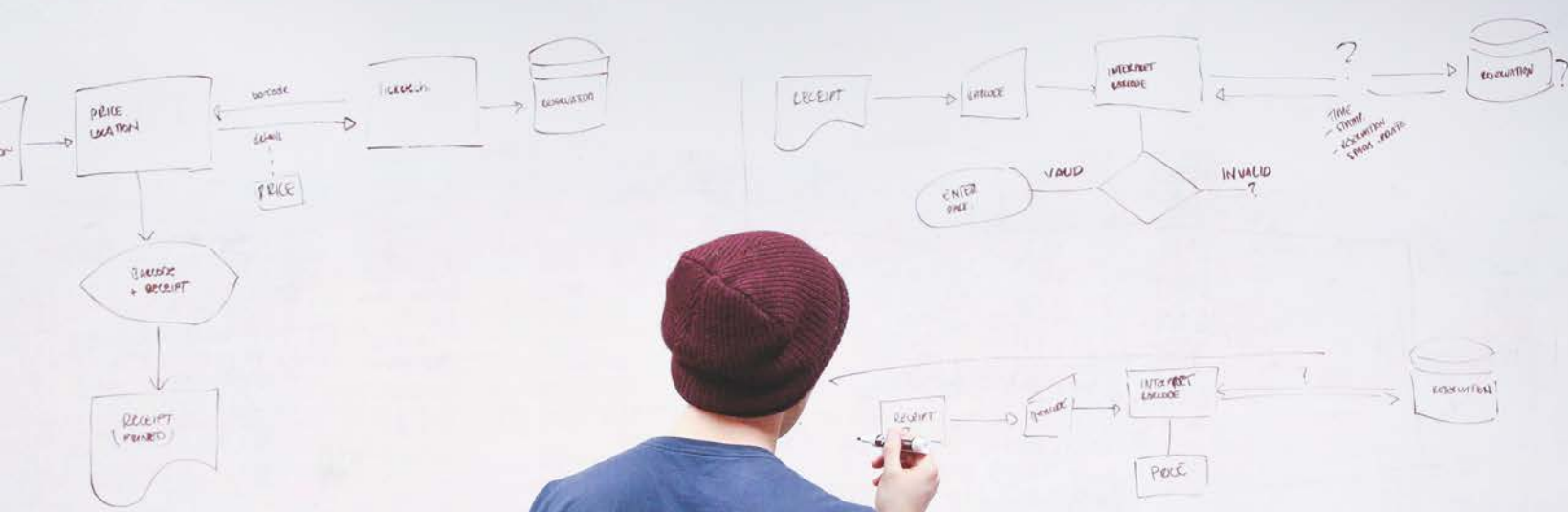


EVENT SUPPORTERS:



# 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. 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



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

# 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

# Bringing you plan together

Identify the most suitable index

Merino

Maternal

Terminal

FP+

BLX

*Lamb Prod*

*+EQ*

MP+

MCP

Carcase Plus ~ LE

DP+

MCP+

Lamb 2020 ~ LEQ





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 ASBVs

Taken as given

Proven technology in all domesticated species

They work!

Sensible balance required





**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

# 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



**SHEEP**CRC



**RamSelect**<sup>Plus</sup>

# Using your plan

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

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**RamSelect** <sup>Plus</sup>



# Workshops to attend

- Bred Well Fed Well
- Ramselect
- Sheep classing workshops

# 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

- 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