



AN INITIATIVE OF

*Making More From Sheep*



# Making your ewes work for you

Helen McGregor

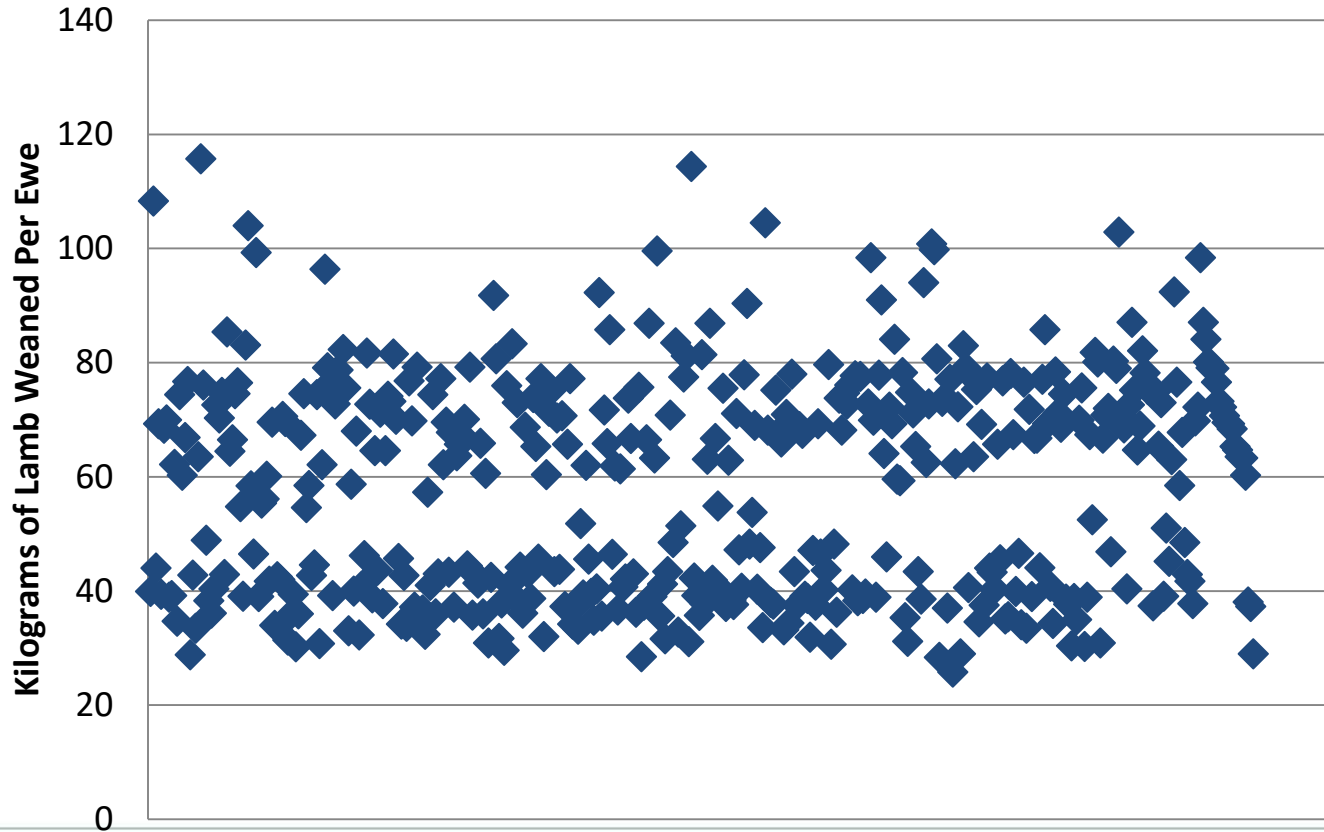


EVENT SUPPORTERS:

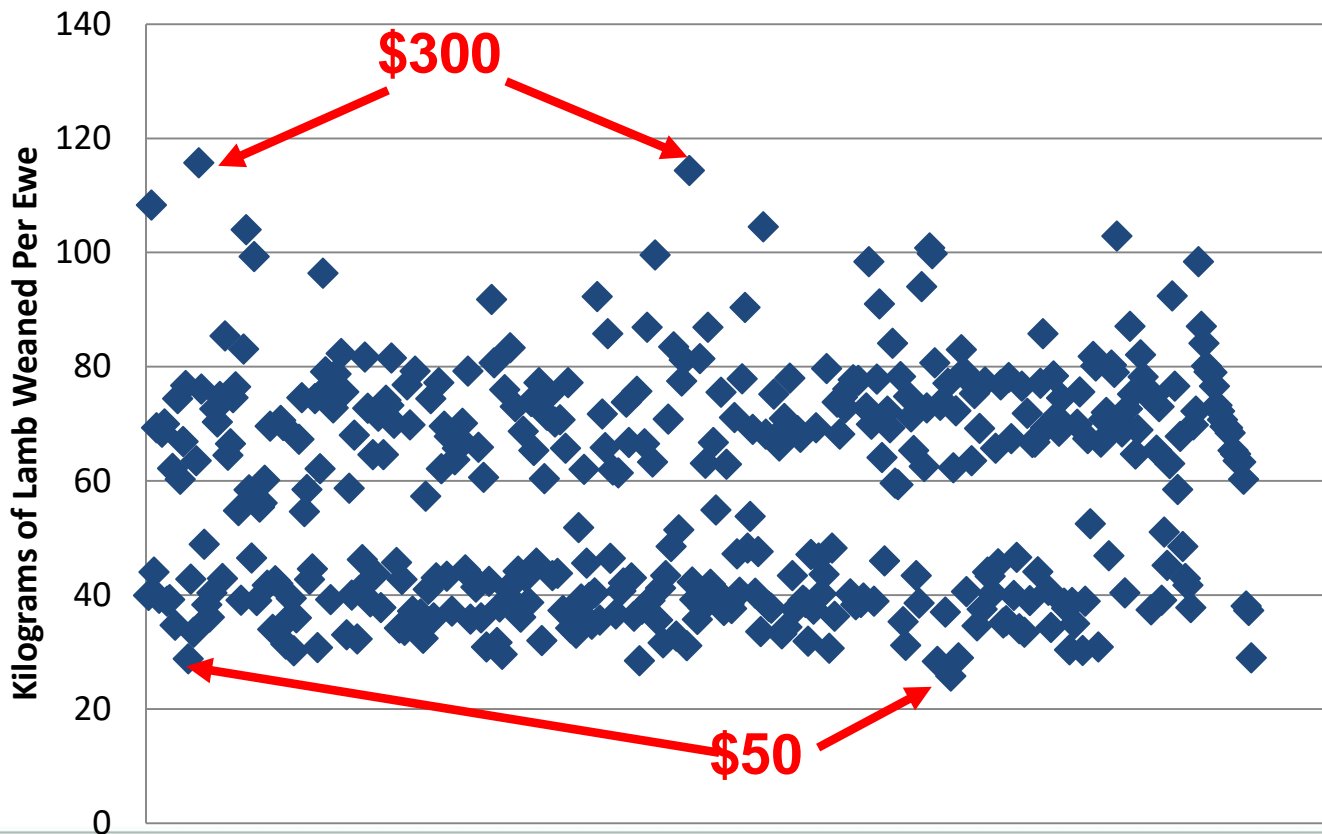




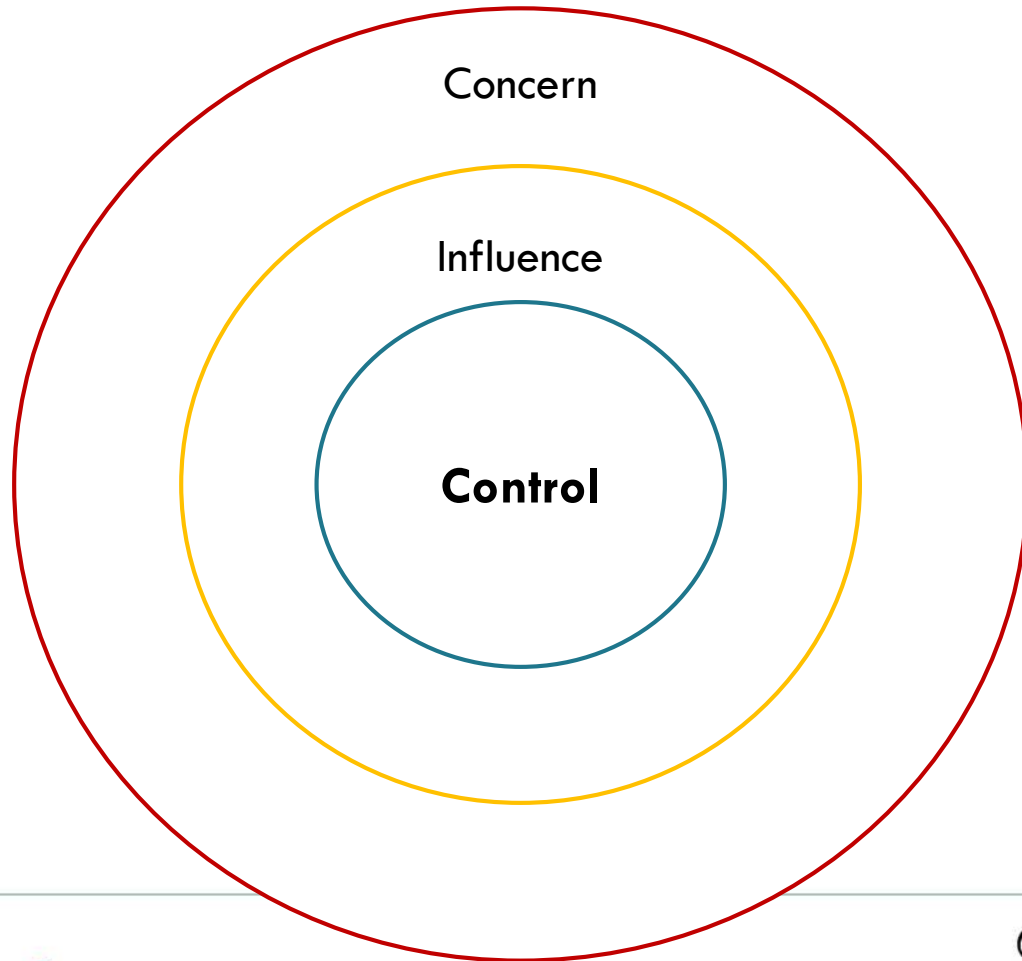
# Kilograms of Lamb Weaned Per Ewe



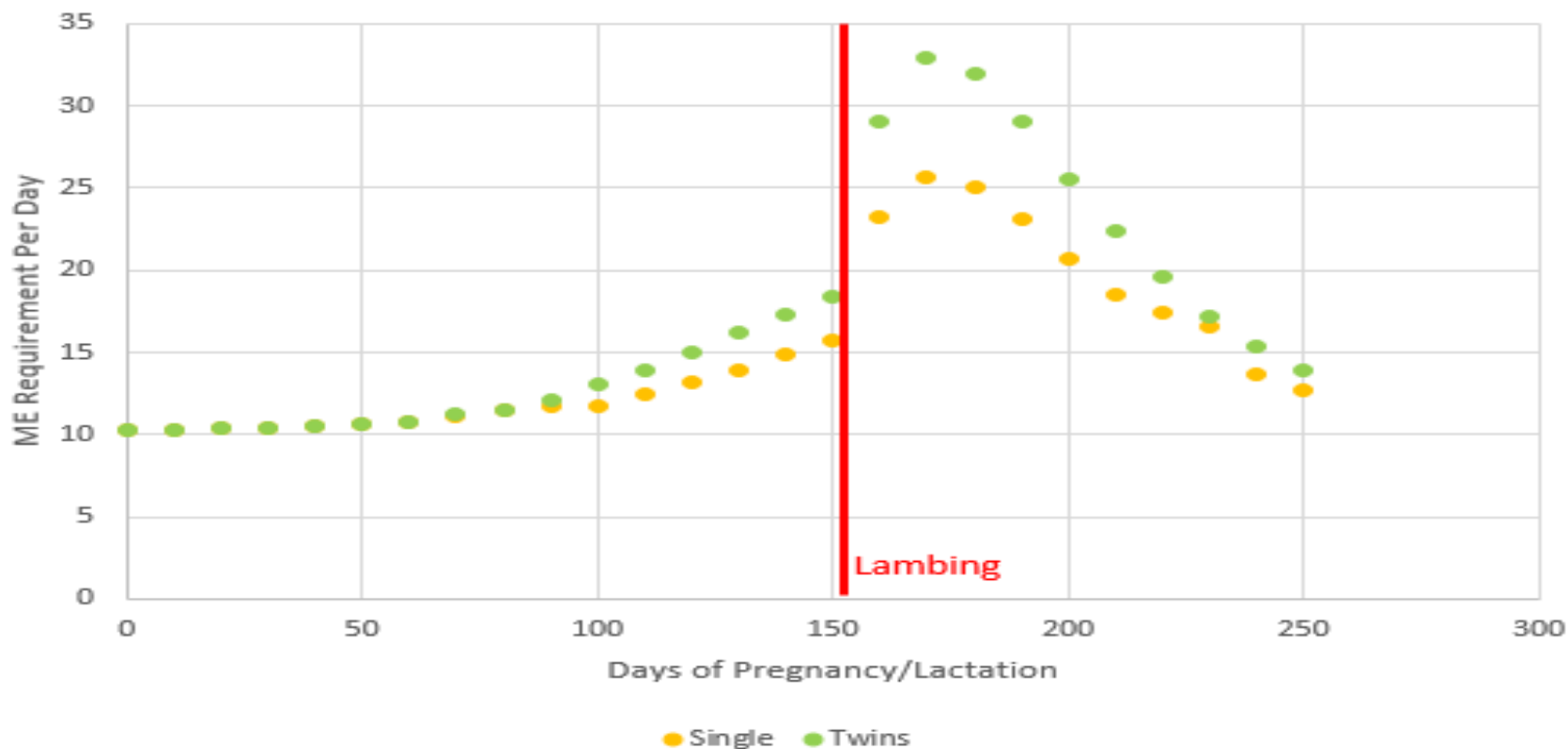
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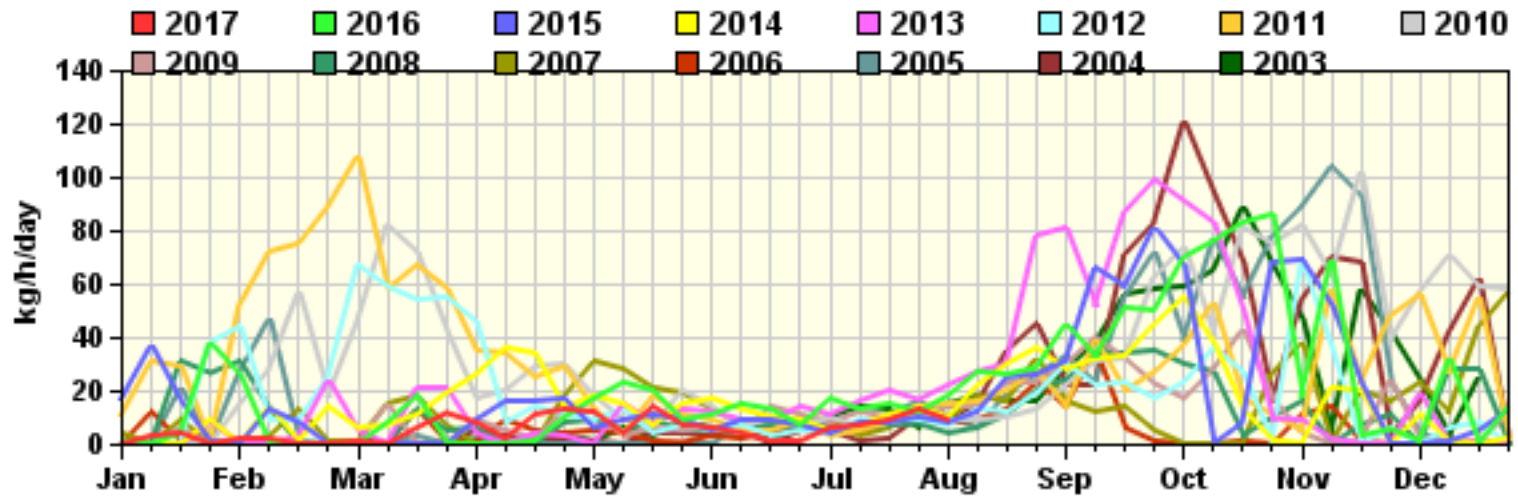




## Ewe ME Requirements

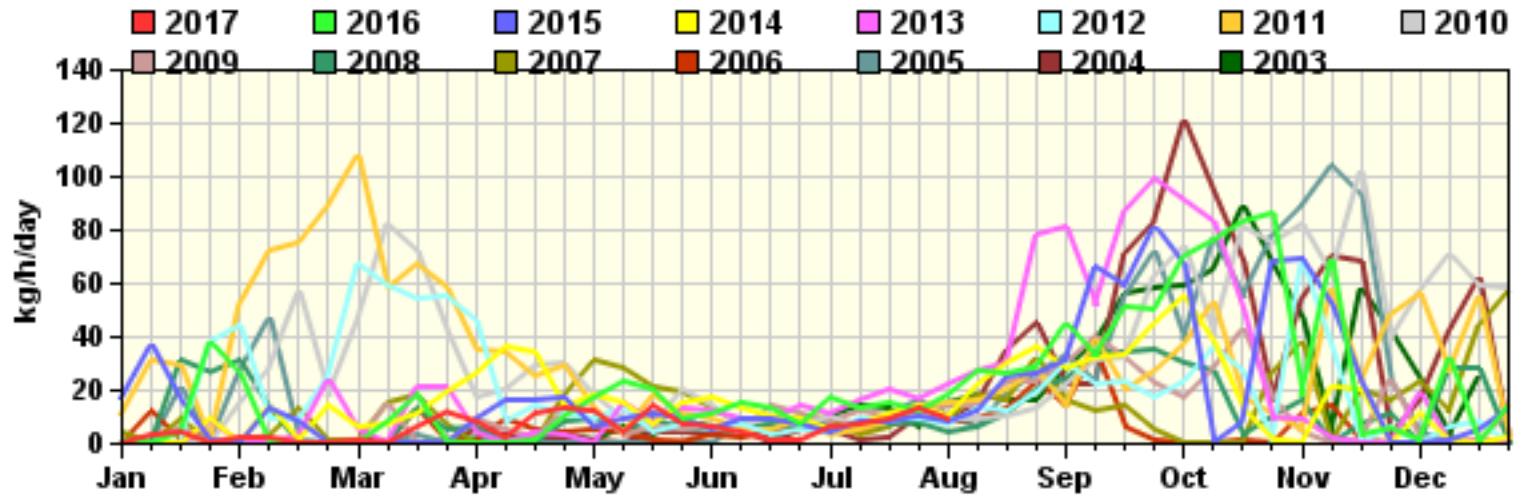


## Wagga Wagga (C) PGR Comparisons





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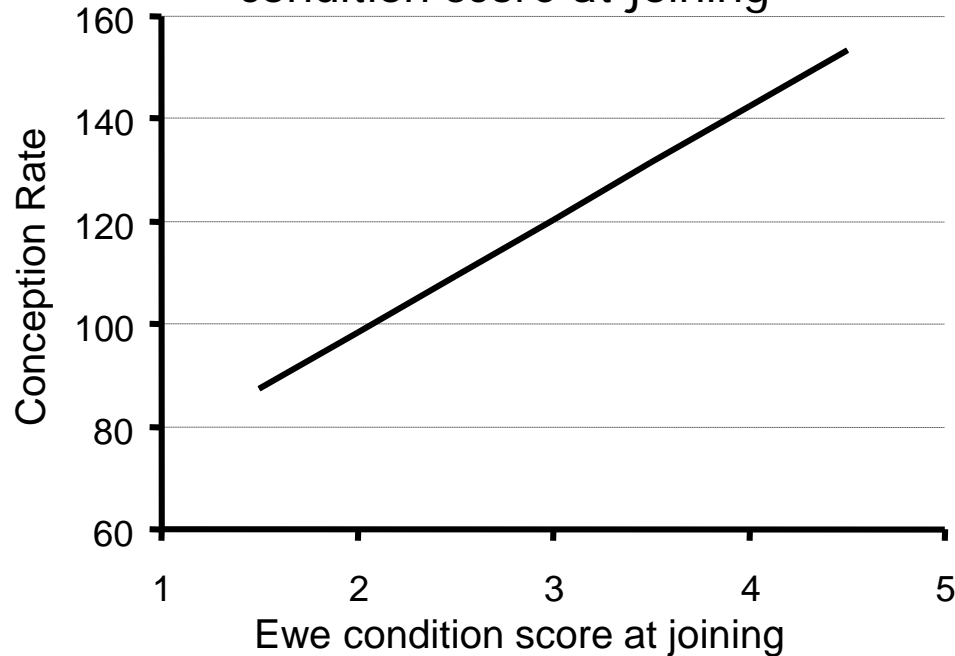




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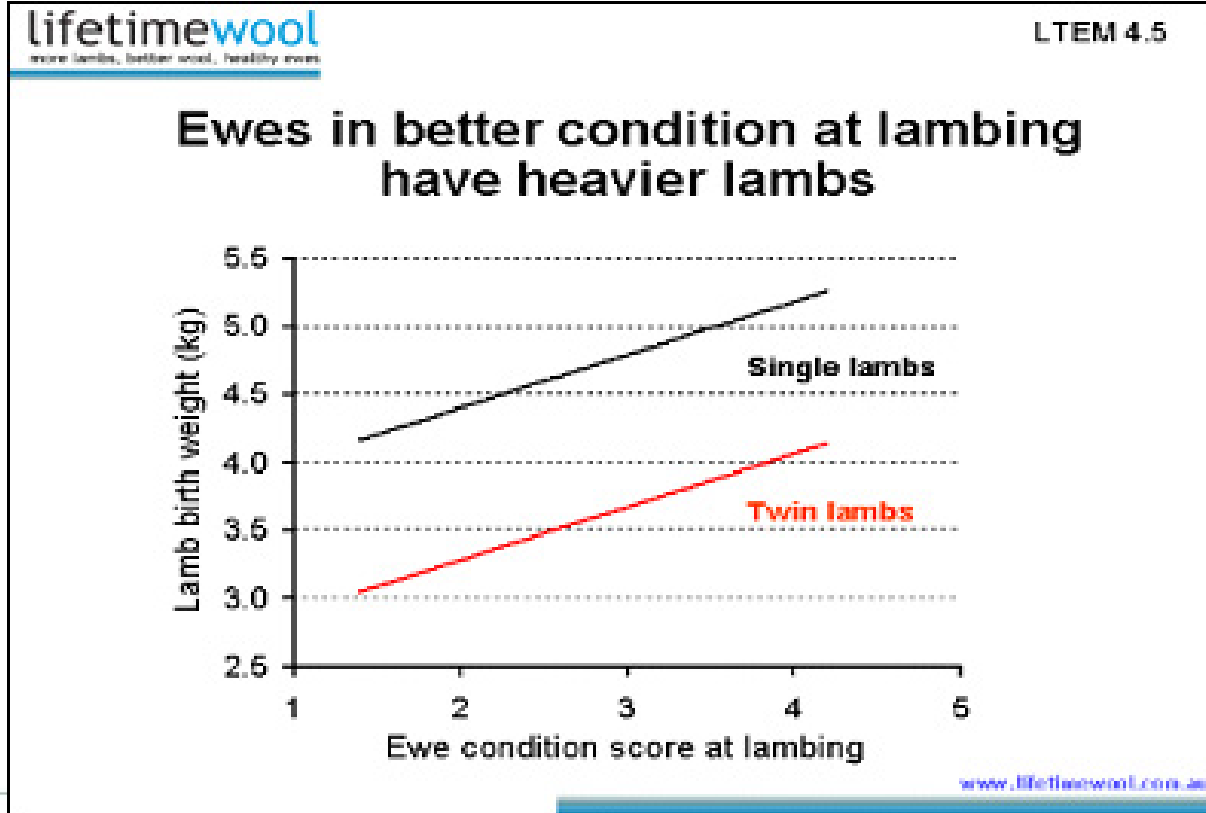
# Ewe conception rates

Number of lambs conceived is determined by ewe condition score at joining

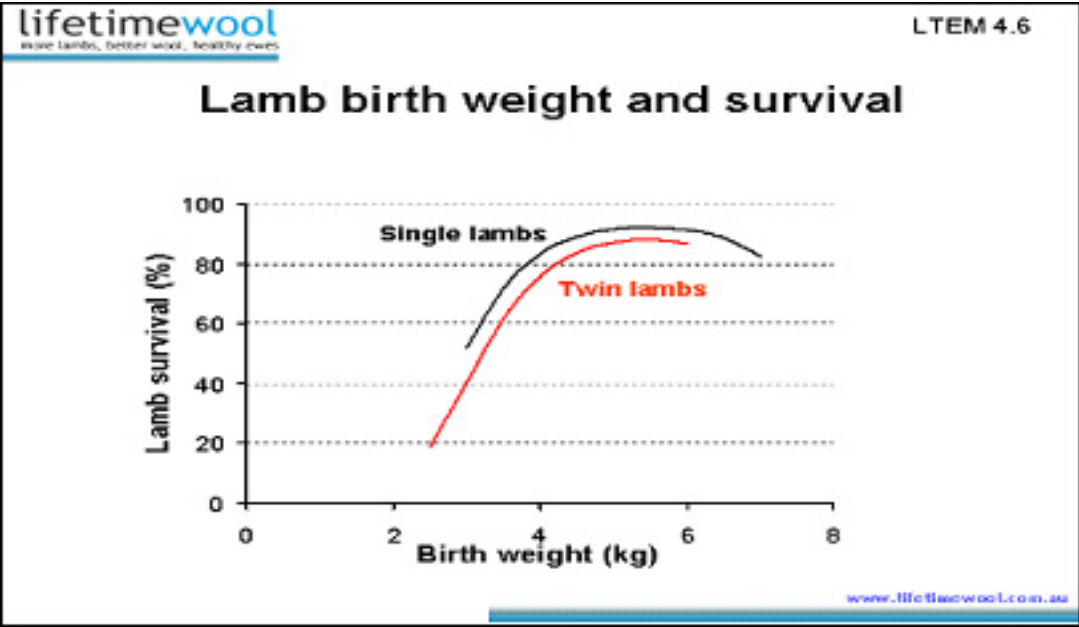


**lifetimewool**  
more lambs, better wool, healthy ewes

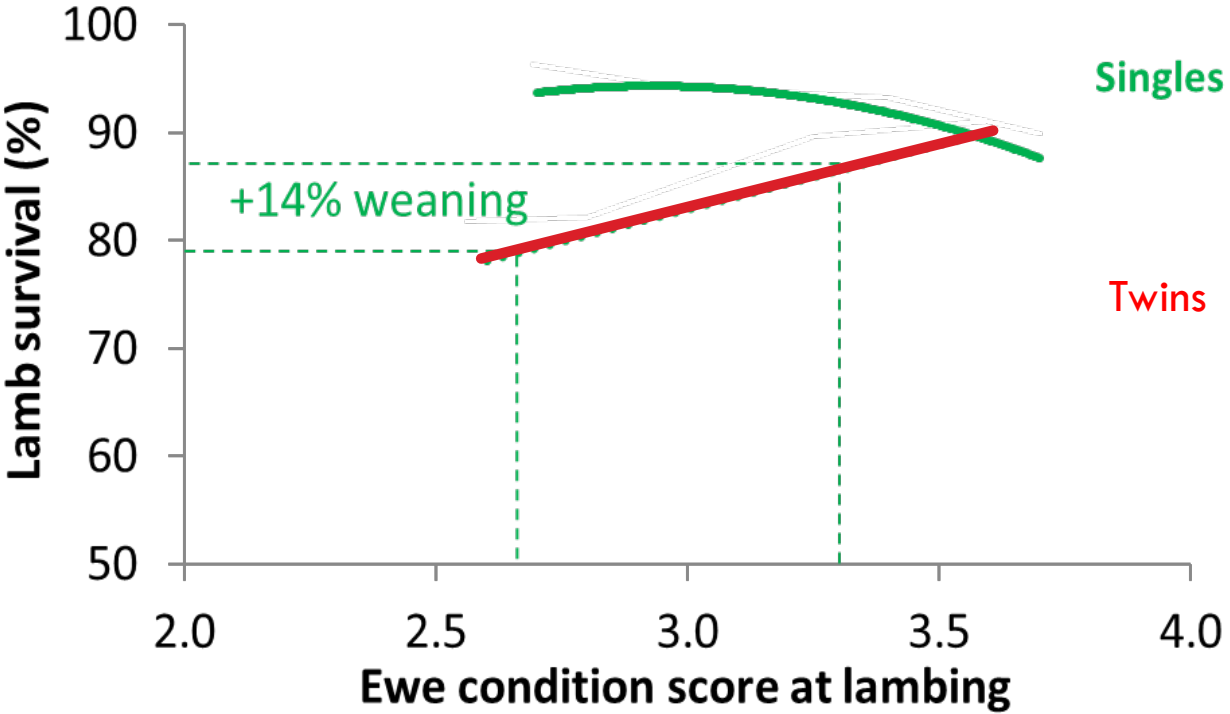
# Lamb birthweight



# Lamb survival



# Lamb survival







# Lamb Survival

# Average Flock

1500 ewes

Marking 130% (1950 lambs)

Great Result?

Scanning at 185%

2775 foetuses

825 lambs lost @ \$80

= \$66,000



High Performing Flock

1500 ewes  
marking (30% (950 (amb)))  
Great Result?

# 30% Loss

Scanning at 185%

2775 foetuses  
25 to 100 lbs @ \$8  
= \$66,000

# \$44/ewe

# What can we do about it?

- Scanning
- Ewe condition & nutrition
- Feed on offer at lambing
- Paddock Selection/Size
- Lambing mob size
  
- Disturbance
- Predator Control
- Sire Selection – Birth weight

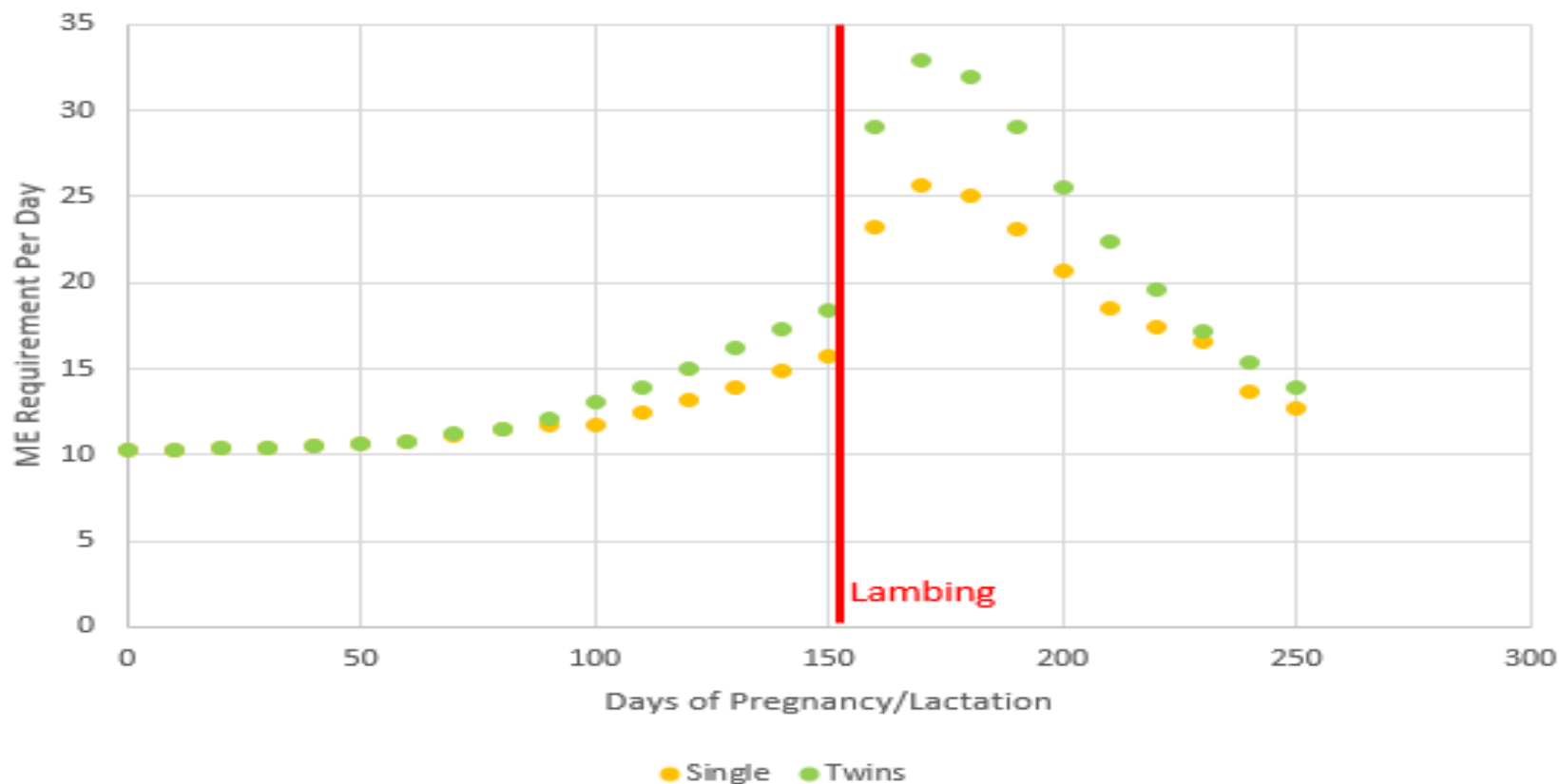


# Scanning and Ewe Management



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## Ewe ME Requirements



# Feed on offer

- Feed budget
- Measure and monitor
- Predict pasture growth rates
- Pasture quality not just quantity





# Feed on offer

- Time at birth site
- Ewe condition and milk production
- Shelter
  - Single Ewes – 1 000kg+
  - Twin Ewes – 1 600kg+

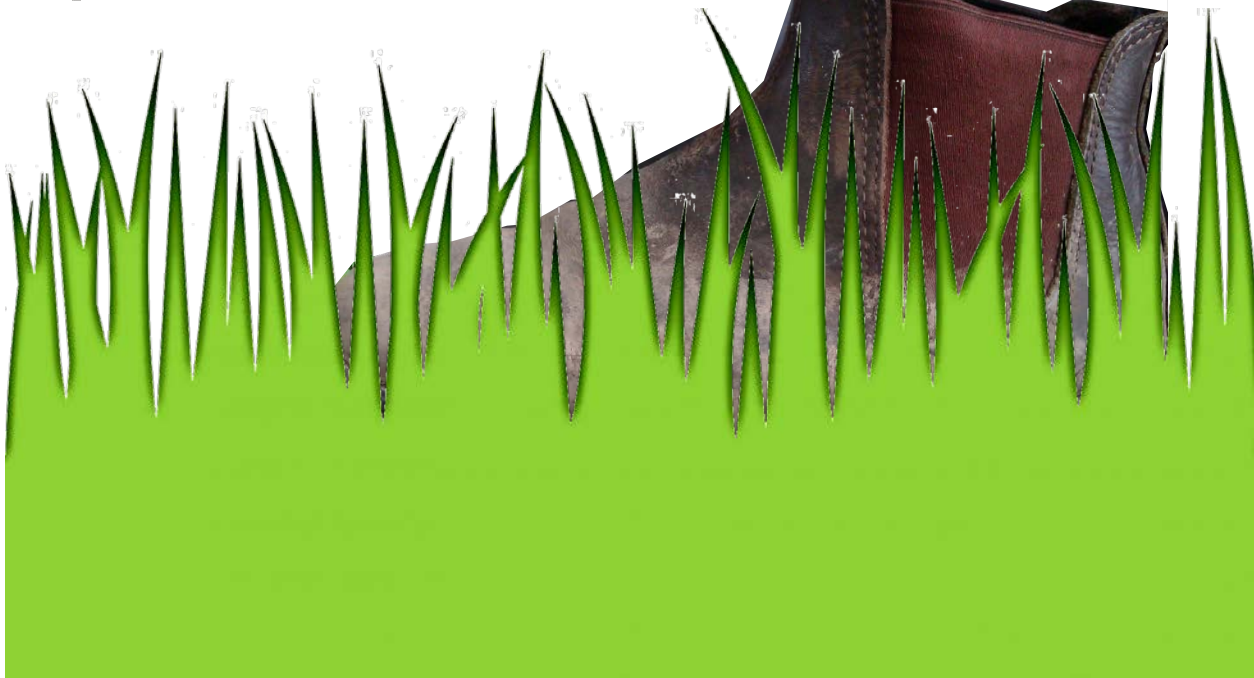




Top of elastic = 3000kg

Half way up elastic = 2000kg

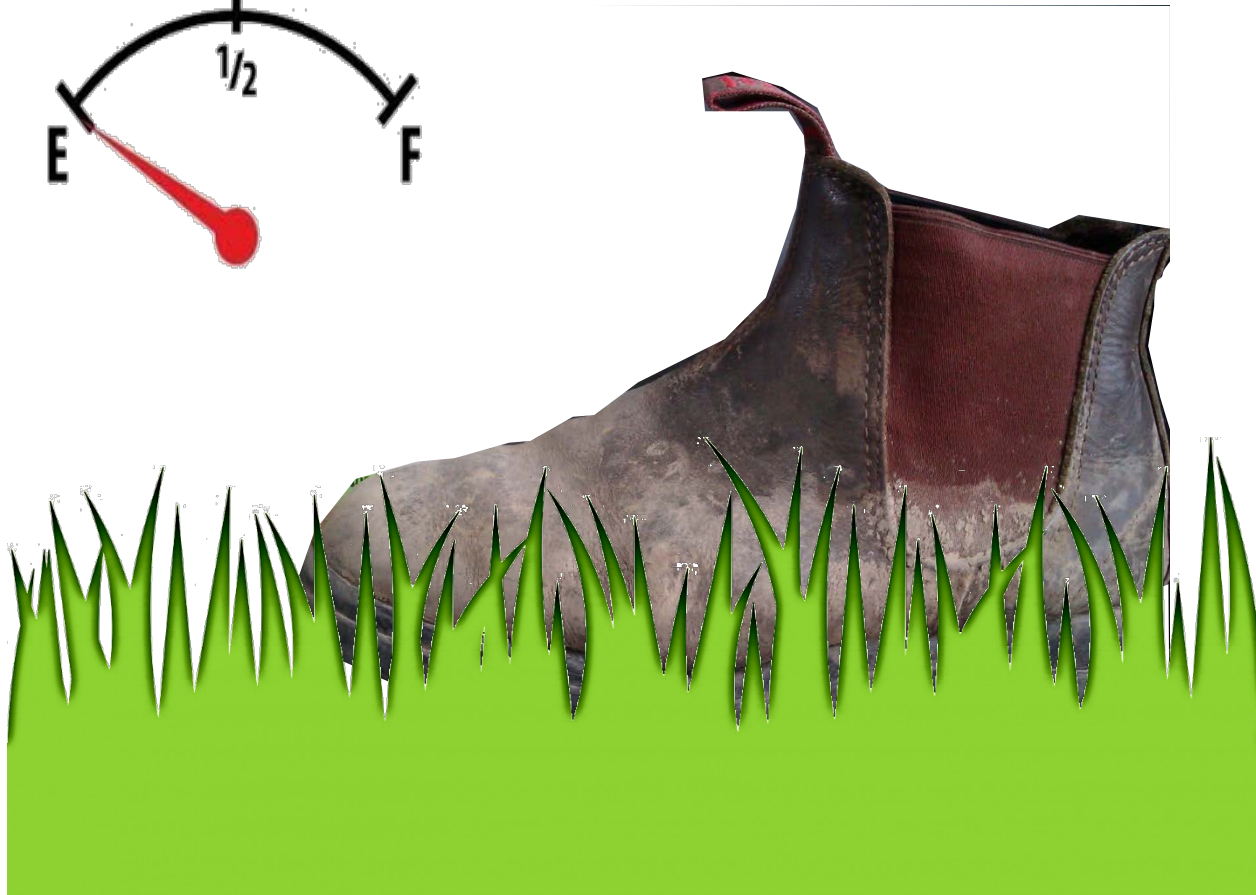
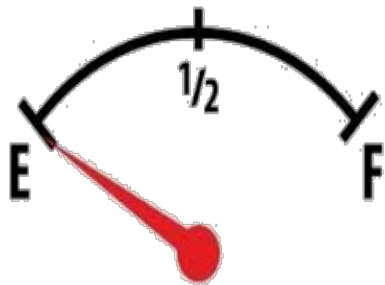
Top of toe = 1500kg



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# Prioritize Paddocks

Twin lambing low  
condition score

Twin lambing high  
condition score

Single lambing low  
condition score

Single lambing high  
condition score

Best Pasture/Best Shelter



Least Pasture/Worst Shelter

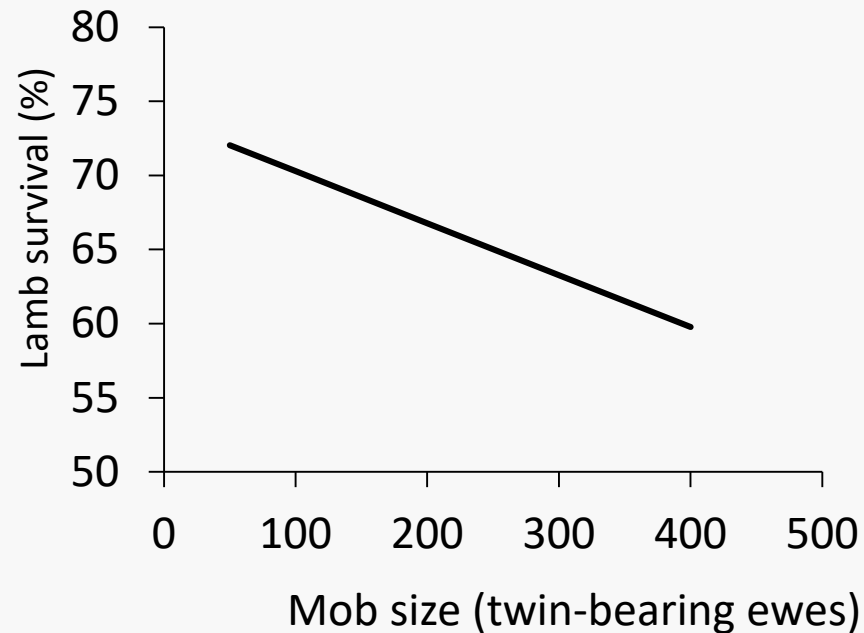


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# Mob Size

- The most underestimated factor
- Physical number of lambs born on a given day
- Feed budget for pasture growth vs intake



# Ewes lambing/Mob/Day

	Lambs/day (range)	Born	Survival	Survival %
Singles	low 0-16	219	217	99.1
	med 17-32	262	247	94.3
	high 33-48	323	309	95.7
Twinners	low 0-16	37	31	83.3
	med 17-32	40	32	80.0
	high 33-48	20	13	65.0

ALS Doug Fowler 2006

# Current work

- 70 sites on commercial farms (on going)

Survival of twin-born lambs			
Mob size (number of ewes)		High (231)	Low (92)
Stocking rate (ewes/ha)	High (7.8)	<b>71.5</b>	74.5
	Low (5.4)	73.4	<b>76.2</b>

# Mob Size Recommendations

## Twins

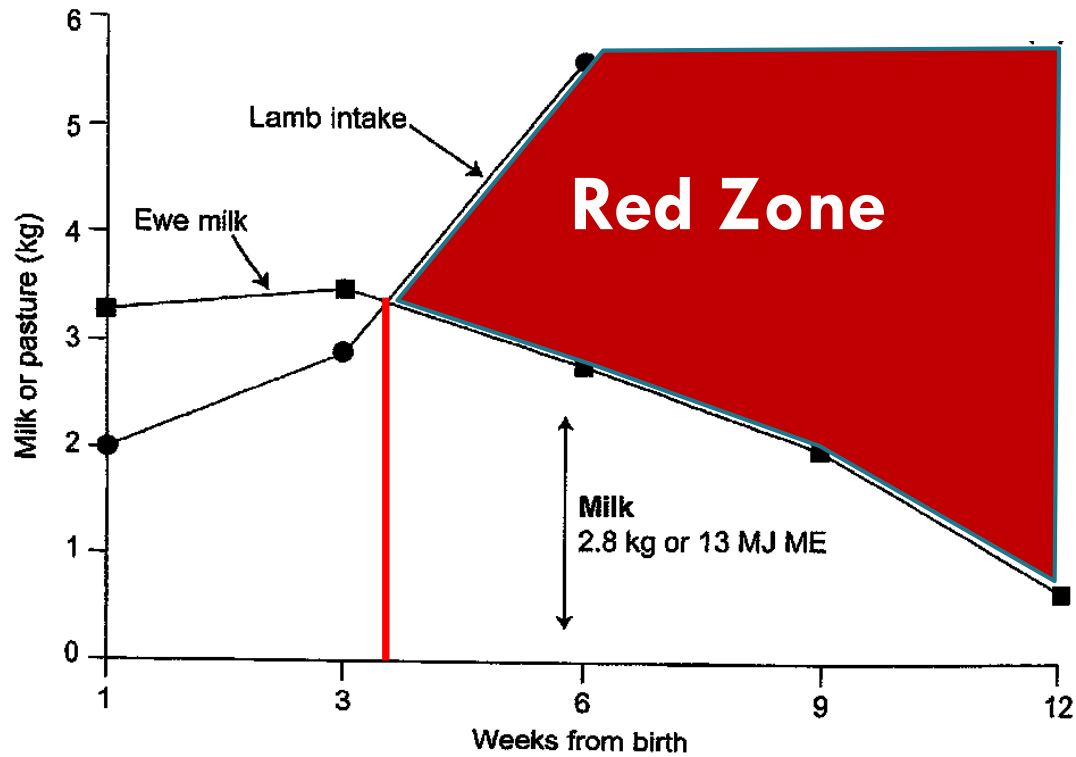
- ✓ Merino - <100 ewes
- ✓ X-bred - <150 ewes

## Singles

- ✓ Merino - <250 ewes
- ✓ X-bred - <300 ewes



# Lamb growth to weaning





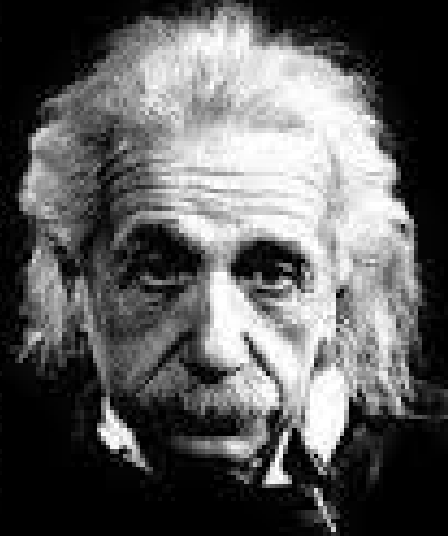
# To do list.....

- Condition score ewes – joining, lambing, weaning, joining.....
- Feed budget and feed to requirements....FTFT
- Scan for multiples
- Manage multiples preferentially
- Wean early – 13 weeks

# Workshops and learning programs

- Bred Well Fed Well
- Lifetime Ewe Management
- Realising Performance Potential
- Profitable Grazing Systems

"WE CANNOT  
SOLVE OUR  
PROBLEMS  
WITH THE SAME  
THINKING WE  
USED WHEN WE  
CREATED THEM"





*Start where you are  
Use what you have  
Do what you can*

# Predator Control

Foxes, Eagles, Crows, Dogs







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