

It's ewe time! **mia**
MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA



Meating the Challenge

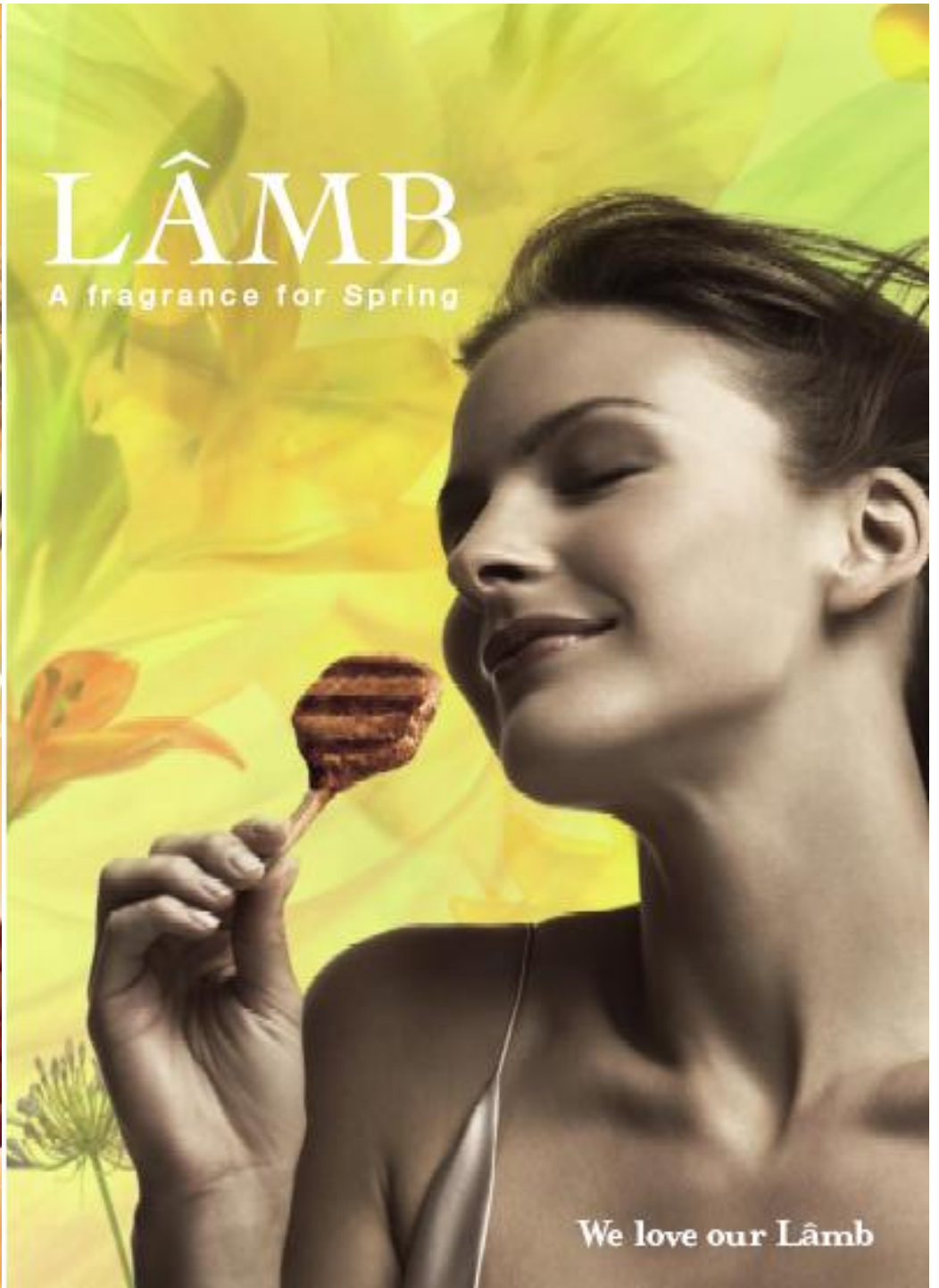
Dr Alex Ball



I
A

LÂMB
A fragrance for

We love our



LÂMB
A fragrance for Spring

We love our Lâmb

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Lamb - Australia's national dish

Spring
(September)

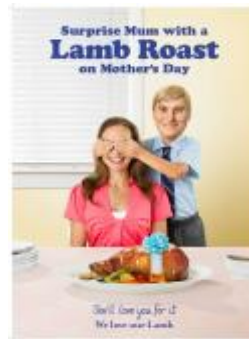


'We love our lamb' year round

Australia Day
(January)



Mother's Day
(May)



Australian consumer expenditure on lamb has doubled over the last 10 years, reaching a record \$2.3 billion in 2009.

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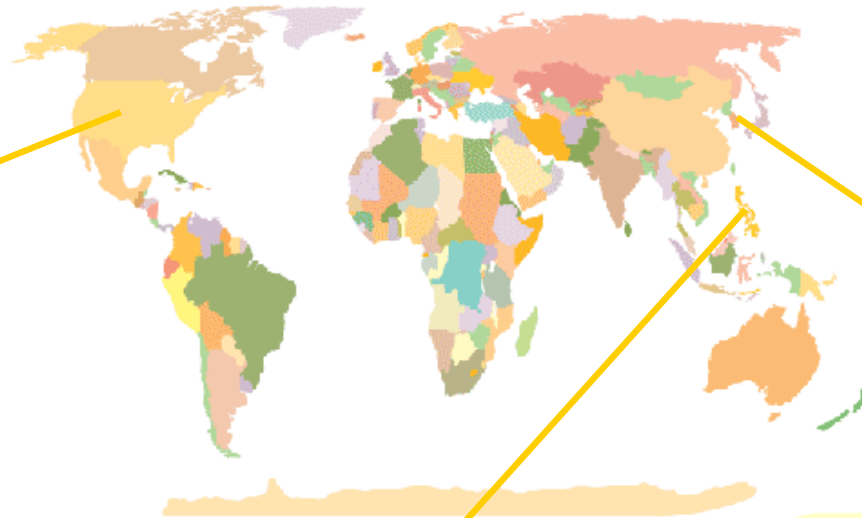


Keeping the lamb feast in the Middle East, the 'rack' in Barack...

US - chefs battle to be burger king and bring lamb to the masses



Korea – Culinary Challenge – getting Aussie product onto restaurant menus



The Philippines – lamb for special occasions at retail



Australian lamb exports have quadrupled over the last 10 years to reach nearly 200,000t valued at \$996m in 2009.

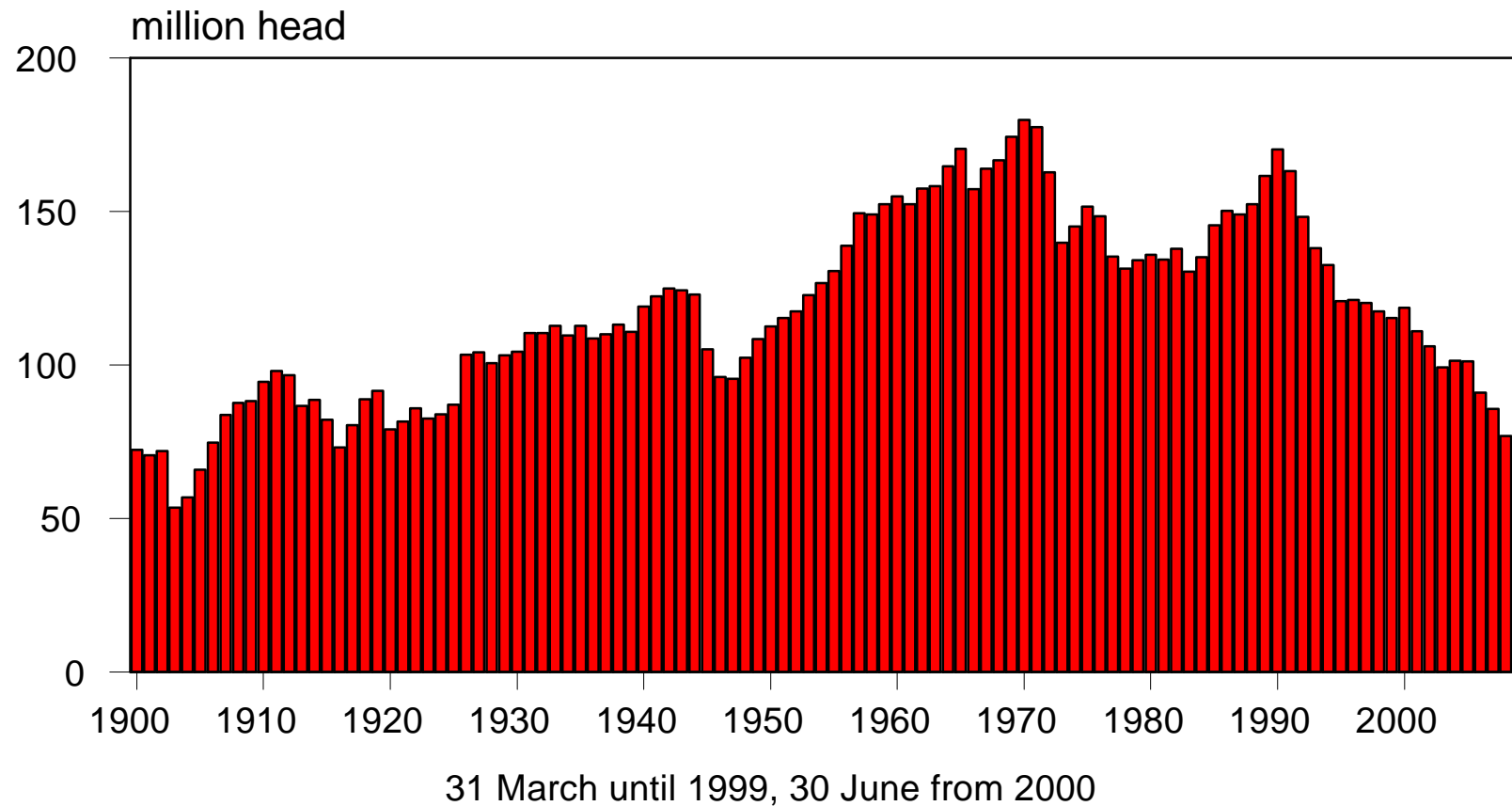
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Sheep Situation for 2010/11

- The flock is the lowest since the 1900's
- The gross value of Australian sheep, lamb and live sheep production is around \$2.6 billion
- Australia produces 8% of the world's lamb and mutton supply
- Australians ate 10.8kg of lamb and 2kg of mutton per person in 2009

The Australian sheep flock has contracted to 72.7 million head - now at its lowest level since 1905



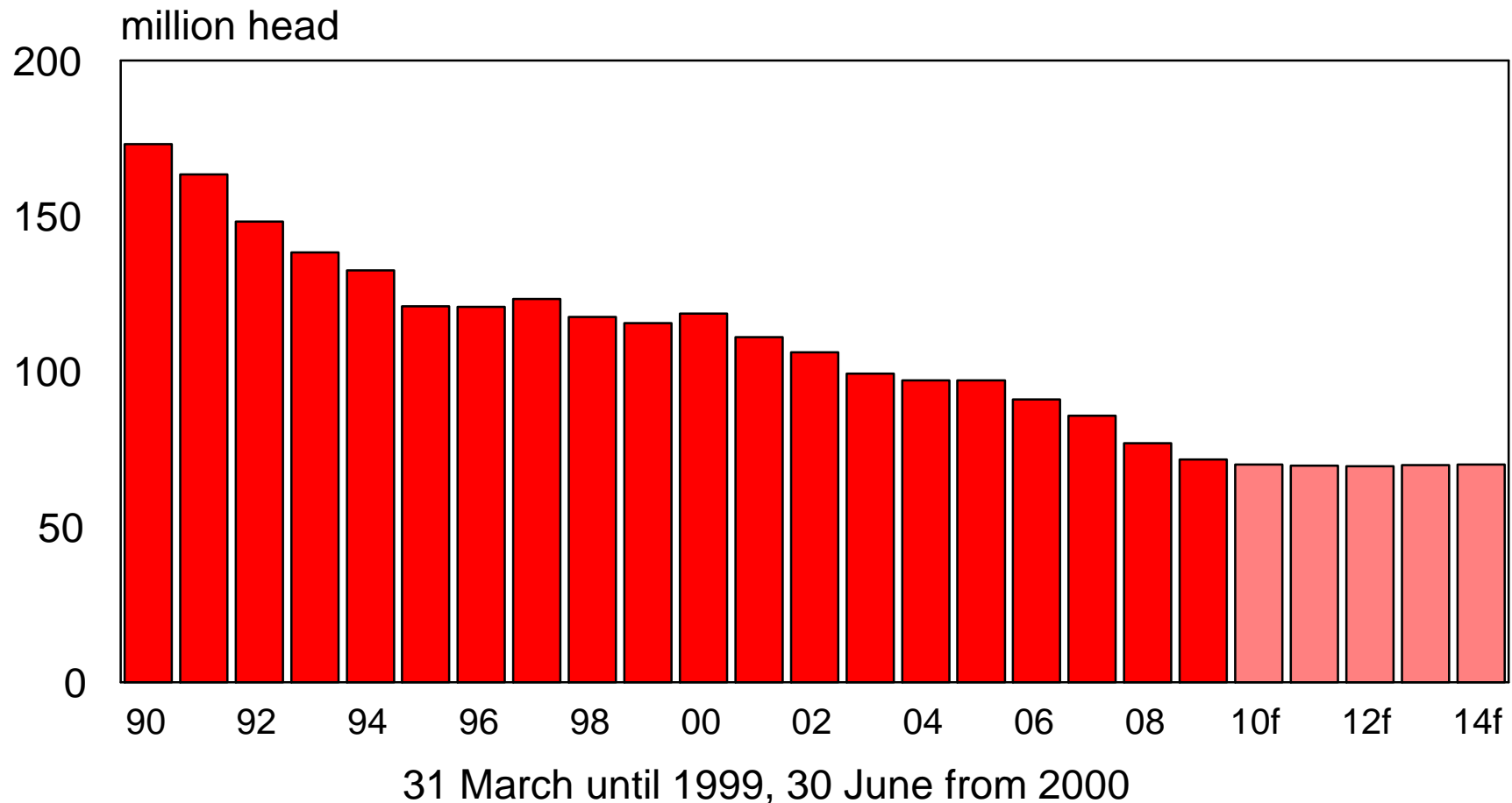
Source: ABS

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Slower rate of flock decline expected in 2010

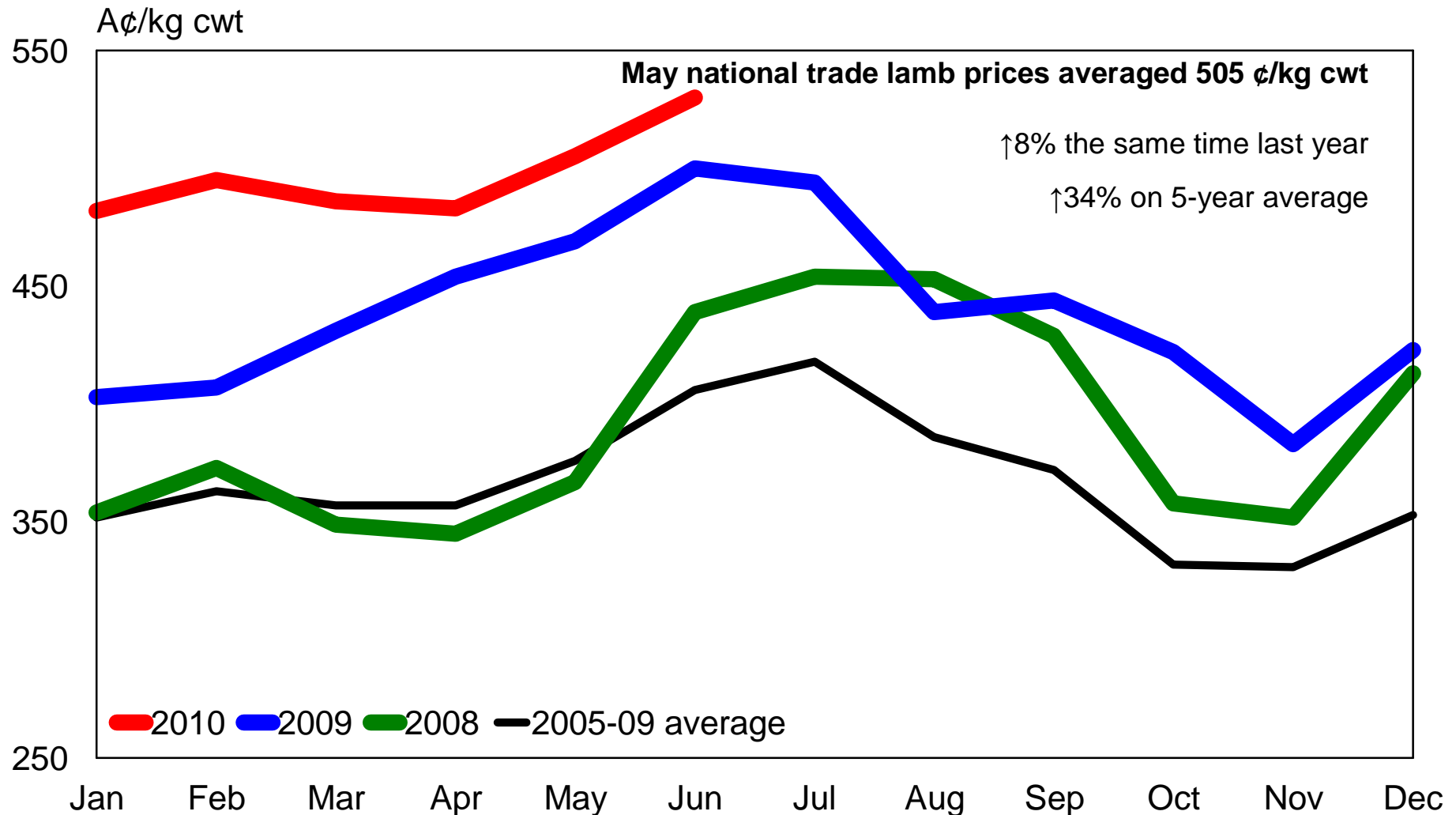
- flock to fall 2% to 69.9 million head



Source: ABS, MLA forecasts

f = forecast

Saleyard trade lamb prices

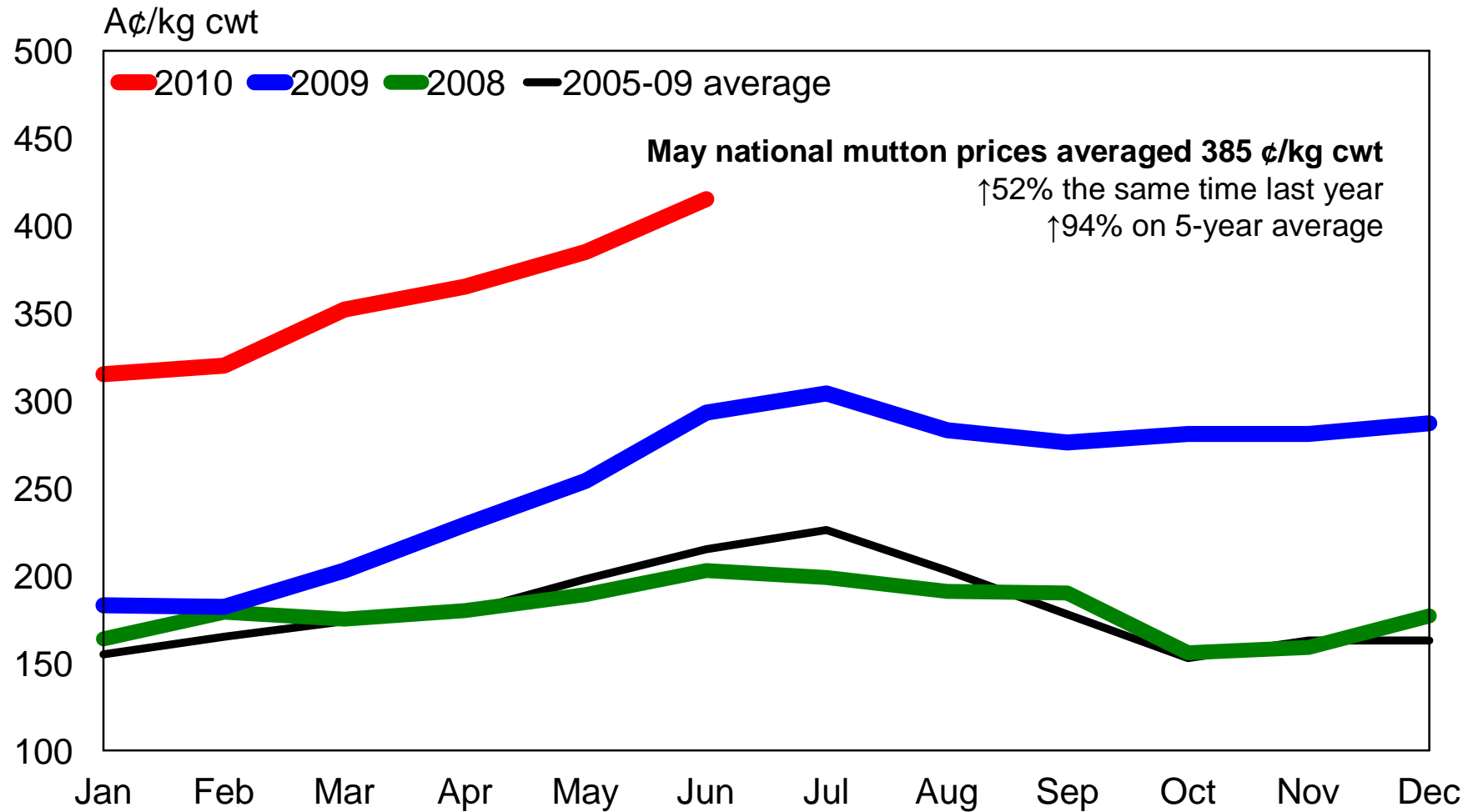


Source: NLRS

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National average sheep saleyard prices

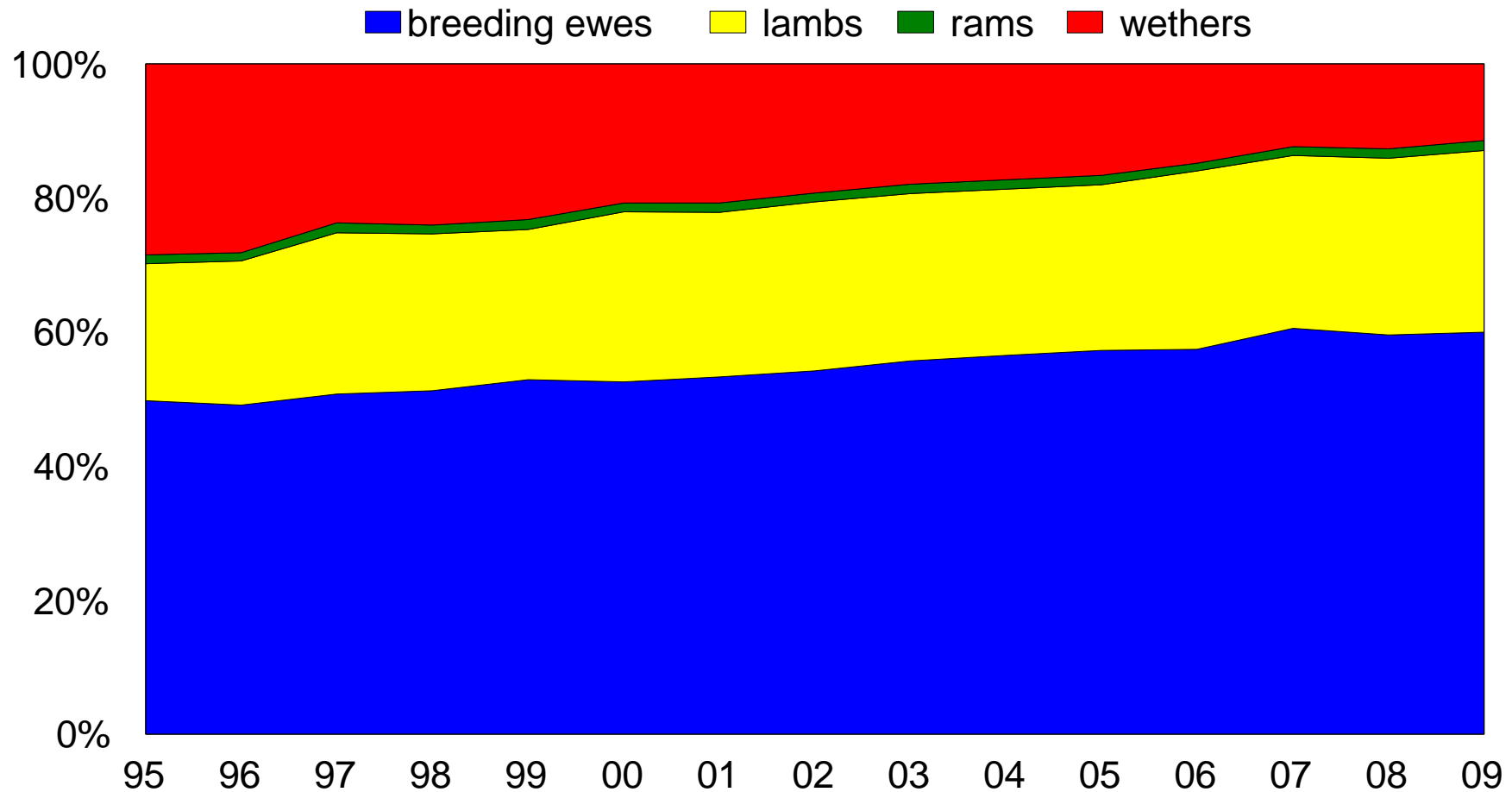


Source: MLA's NLRS

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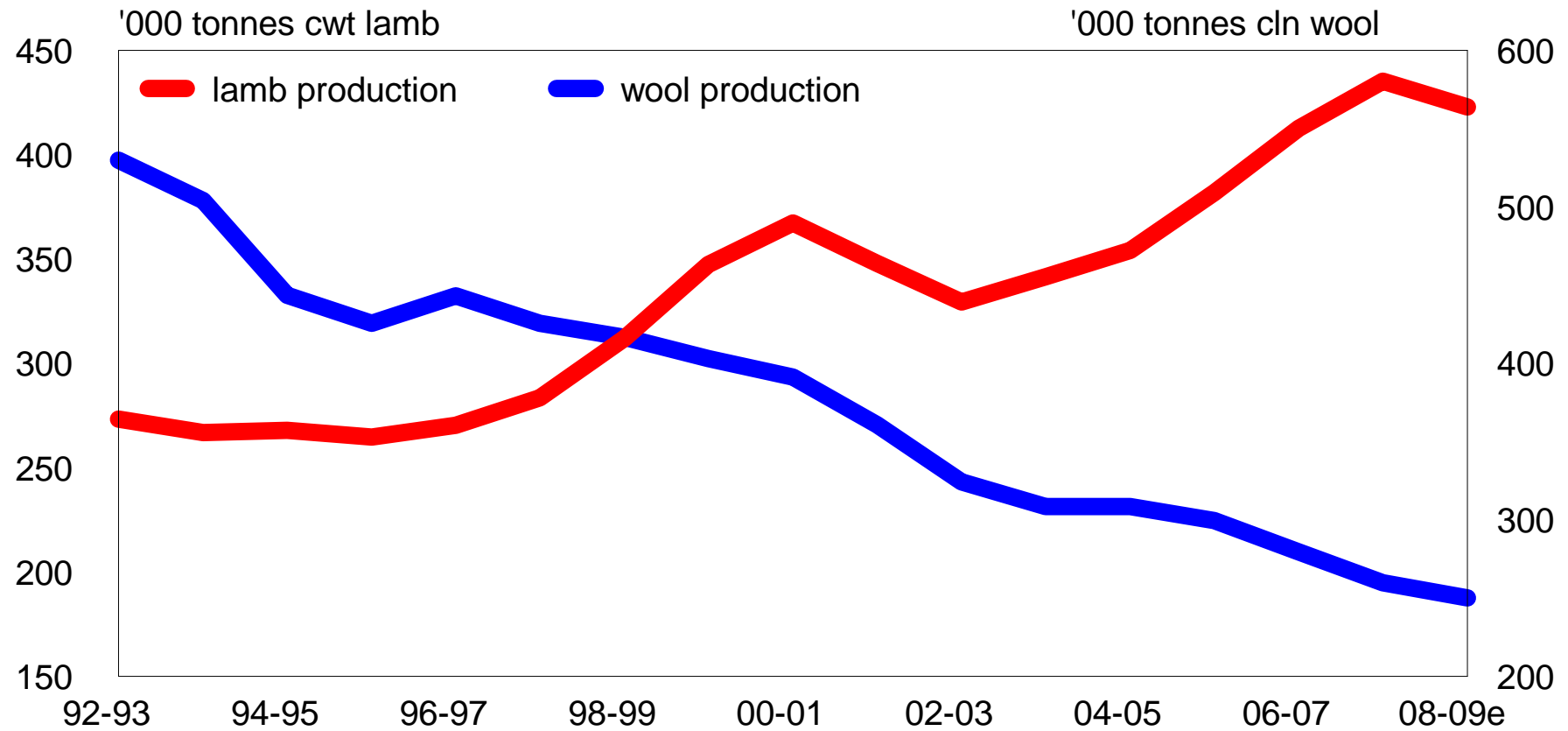


Ewe & lamb proportion of the flock to continue rising



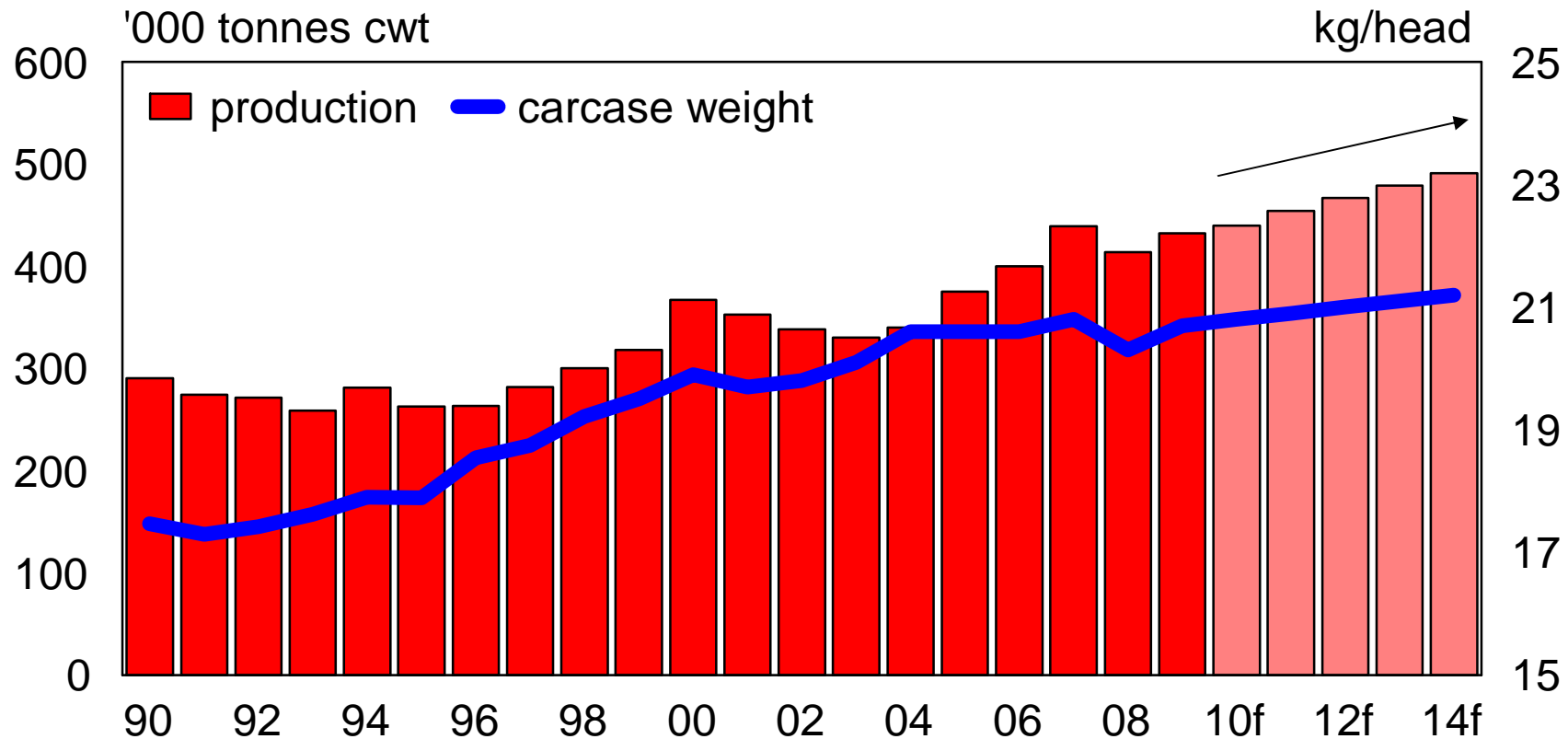
Source: ABARE, ABS, MLA

Shift from wool to lamb production



Source: ABS, AWEX

Lamb production forecast to rise 2% in 2010 up 13% in next 5 years

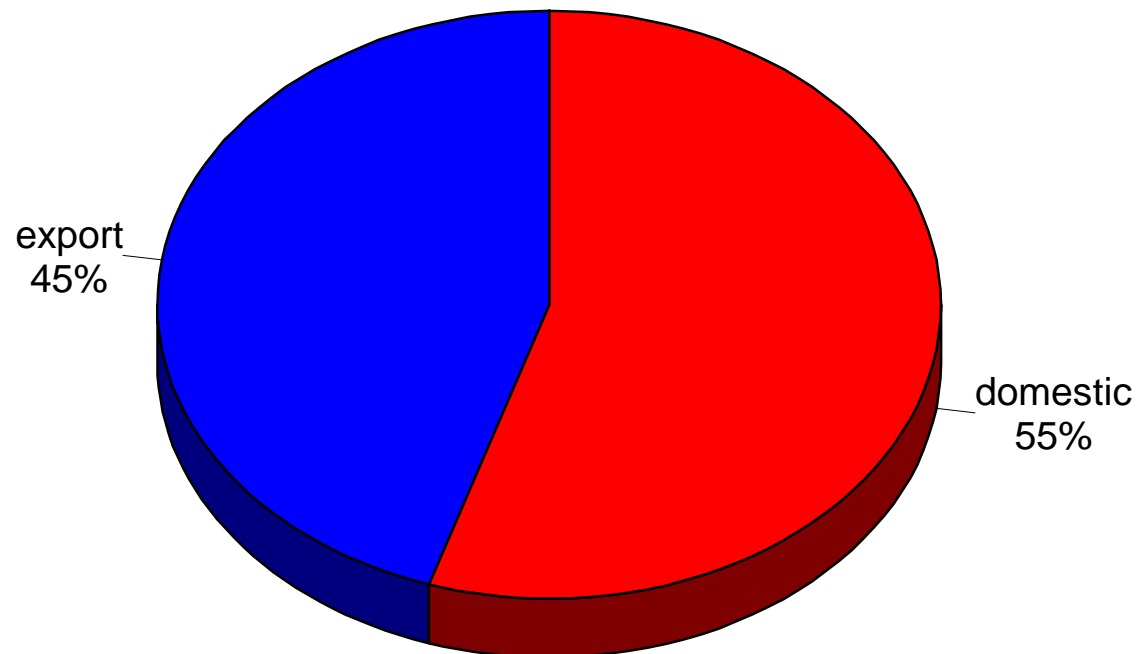


Source: ABS, MLA forecasts

f = forecast

The strong domestic market has been supporting prices

2009 lamb production = 431,566 tonnes cwt

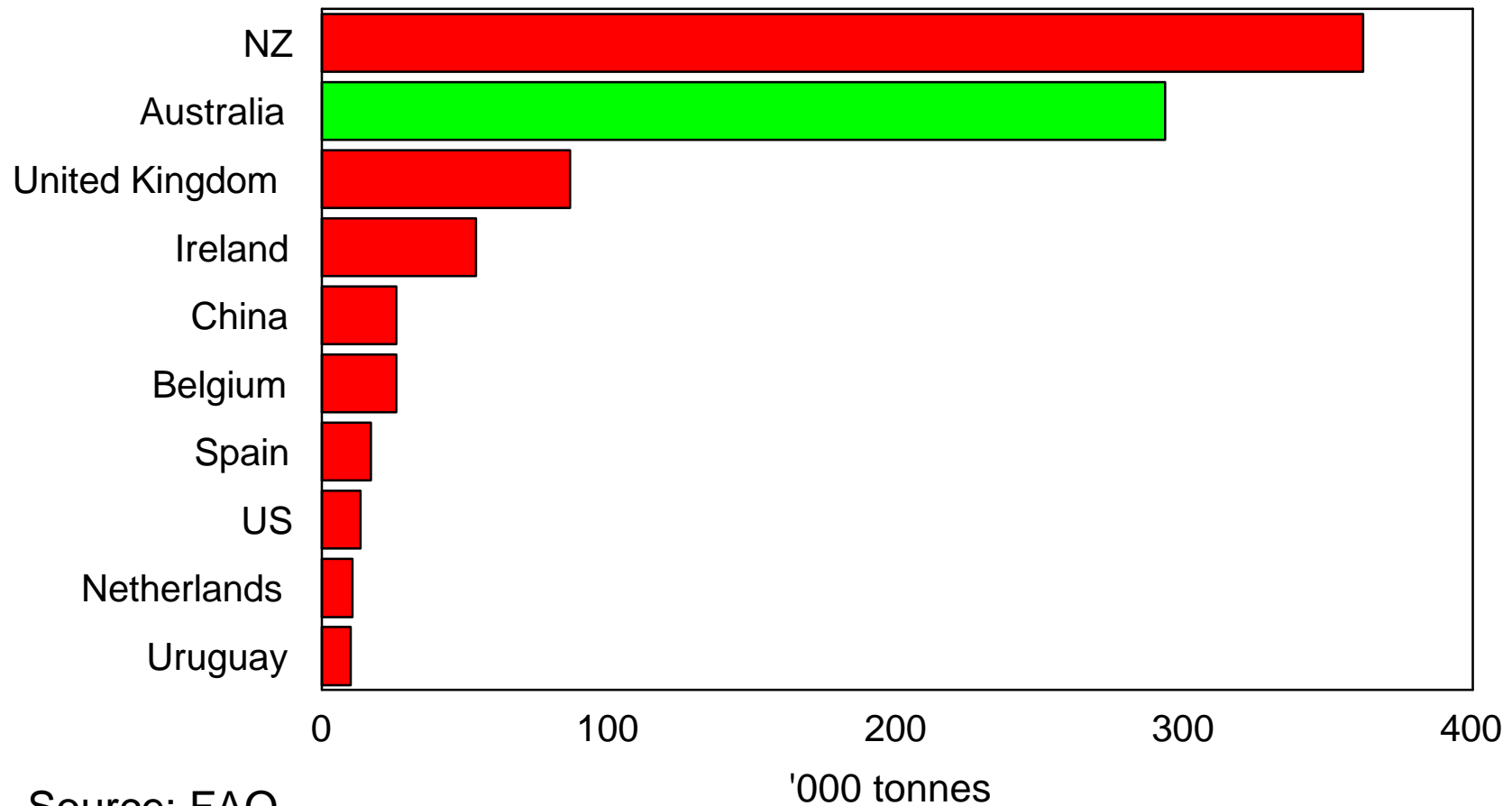


Source: DAFF, ABS, MLA

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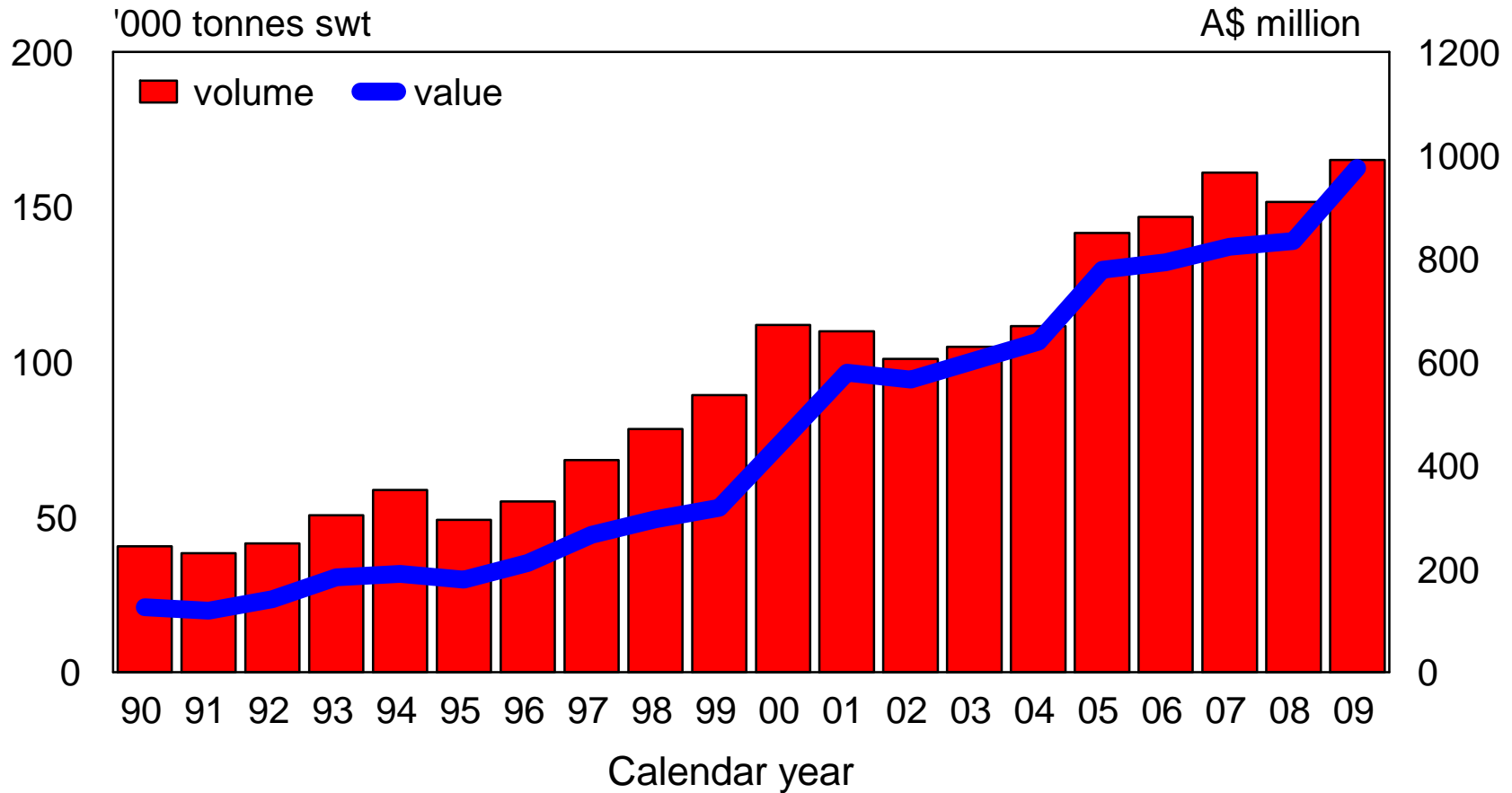


Australian & NZ the main mutton and lamb exporters



Source: FAO

Australian lamb exports



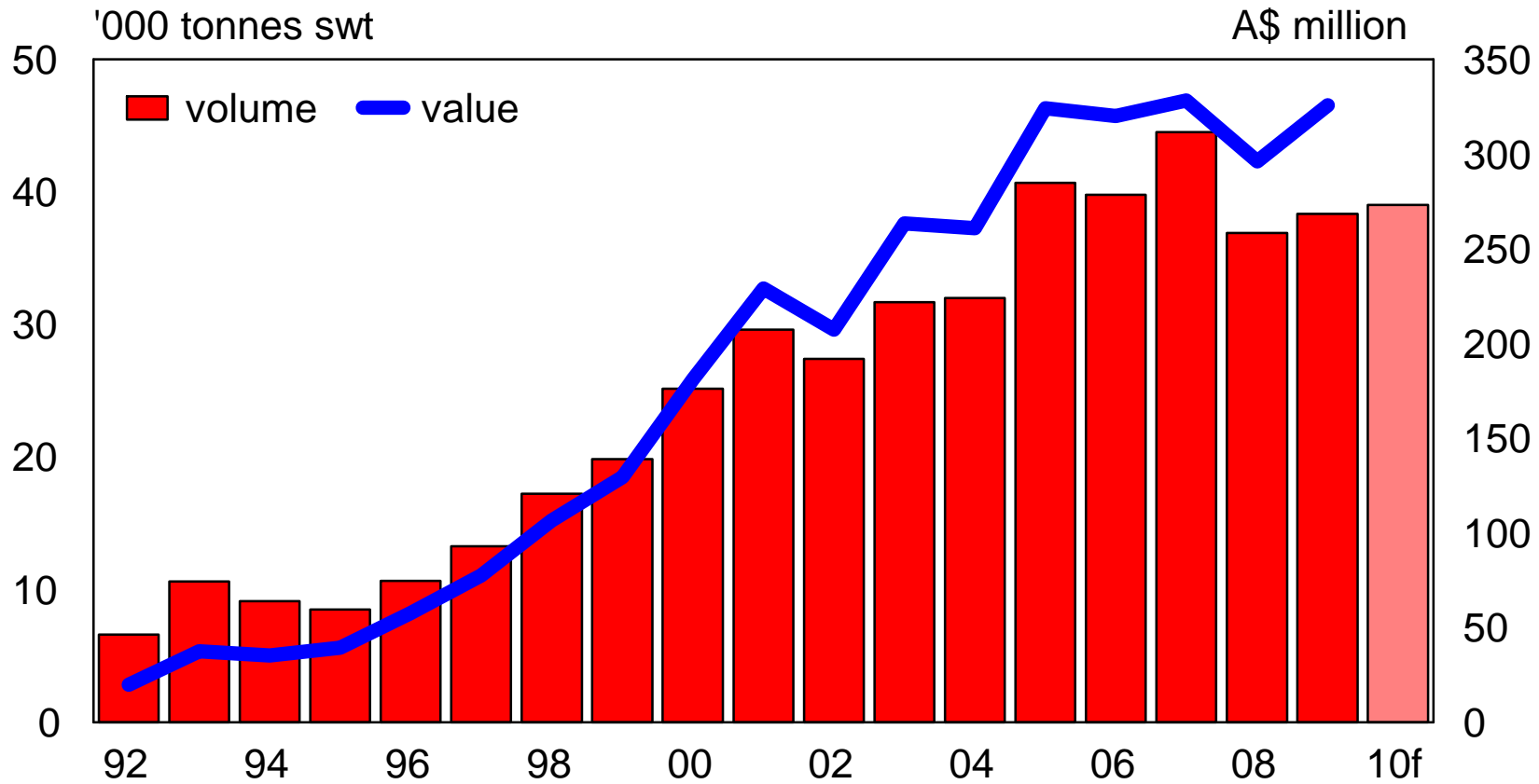
Source: DAFF, ABS

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Australian lamb exports to the US

- up 2%, to 39,000 tonnes swt



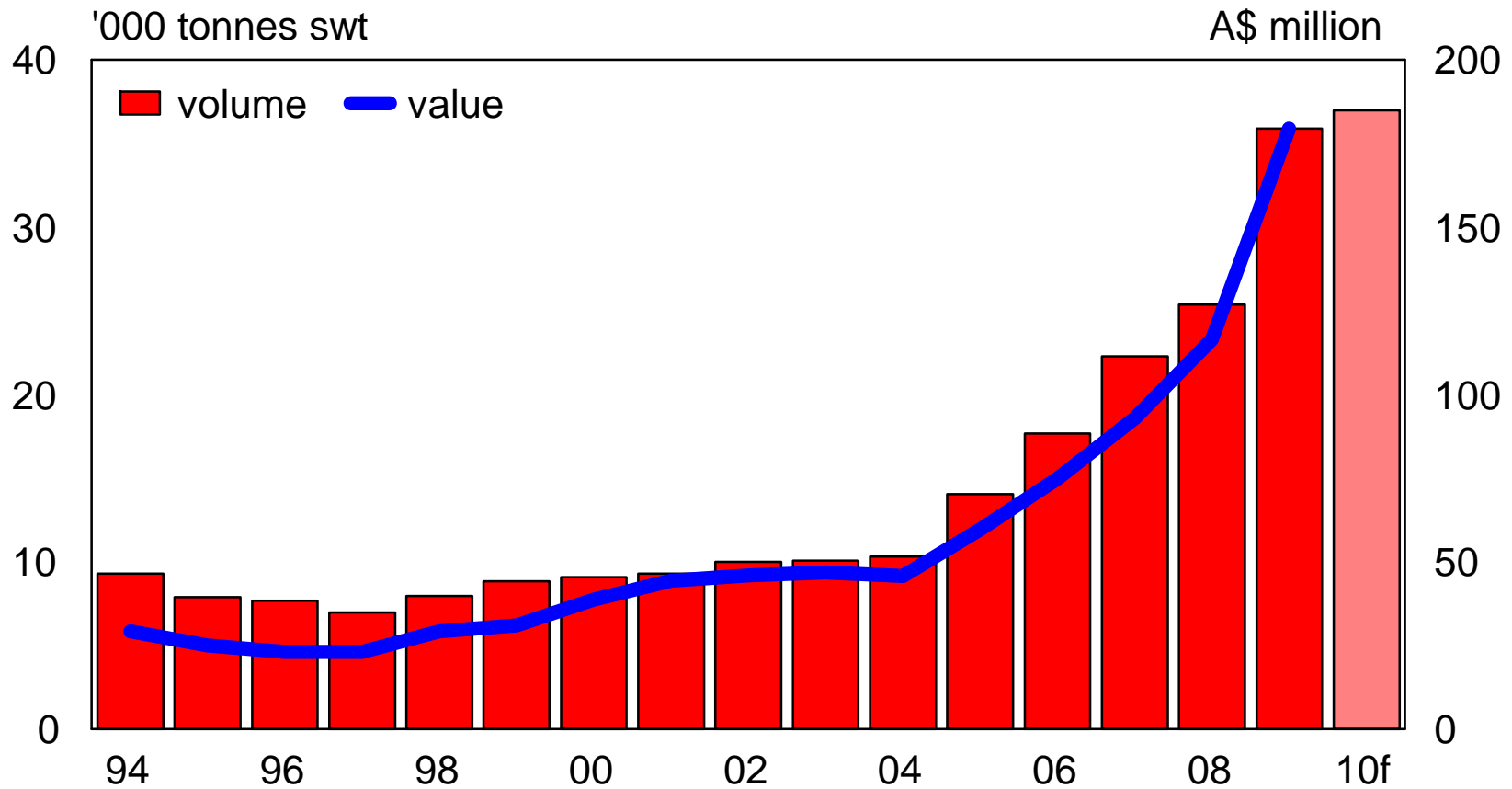
Source: DAFF volumes, ABS values, MLA forecasts

f = forecast

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Australia lamb exports to the Middle East - up 8%, to 38,900 tonnes swt



Source: DAFF volumes, ABS values, MLA forecasts

f = forecast

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What's needed in 2010-11?

- Delivering what the customer wants – compliance to specs
- Marketing focus on leanness and health aspects
- Genetic improvement – increased growth rate, optimum fat , improving muscling, better marking %
- Production systems – especially feeding systems

What are going to be the key issues for 2010-11 for producers

- There simply will be more demand and competition for ewes and lamb
- Producers will be rewarded for more kg of lamb per ha
- Focus on the management of ewes
- Focus on the management of lambs

What's EWETIME

Weaning %
NLW, LE,
BWT



Growth Rate
WWT, PWT

Carcase \$\$
PFAT, PEMD
LMY

Wool \$\$
GFW, FD,
SS, SL

**Mature Ewe
Size**
AWT

**Worm
Resistance**
WEC

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Things you can't see are often the most important in maternal traits!

- **Reproductive rates**
- **Maternal performance**
- **Internal parasite resistance (Worms)**



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What can we do about the ewe in 2010-11

- Short term

- We can join ewe lambs
- Every ewe needs to lamb
- Every ewe need to rear that lamb
- We need to match feed supply and demand

45 x 7 - Joining ewe lambs for more profit

Decided ewe lambs are successfully joined at 7-8 months of age if they achieve a minimum live weight of 45kg. This can significantly reduce the cost of growing and replacement ewes.

Ewe genetics, nutrition and management are essential factors to focus on if you wish to maximise breeding success with the 45 x 7 approach.

Benefits from the Maternal Control Property Test

The impact of paternal sire breed and individual ewe at the age of each recorded ewe lamb, allowing such progeny data to be included as part of the Maternal Control Property Test (MCPPT). Heavy ewe sires have tended to Mince or Cobble sires at these sires's stock also over these years to produce our 6000 first-cross progeny. These ewe represented 21 different breeds and four hybrids.

Both the breed of maternal sire and individual ewe genetics within breeds are found to influence the lambing percentage of their ewe lambs offspring, in general.

Key benefits

- Select ewe as maternal sire into a different sire (AMSPURY Acceptor Sheep Breeding Index (ASBI))
- Increase the probability and profitability of your ewe lambs by joining recorded ewe lambs at 7-8 months of age
- Optimise ewe lamb joining success through good nutritional management and animal husbandry

Goal Eweas, Yearlings, Stocked Leicester and Border Leicester and recorded ewe lambs: the highest lambing and lambing percentage rates gained at seven months, while Corriedale and Corriedale had the lowest percentage (see Table 6). Some individual ewe had a much higher performance than others within the same breed. This emphasises the importance of ASBI/ASBI ASBI's for producers who wish to successfully join ewe lambs.

Table 1: Indicator lambing percentages from different areas in the MCPPT

Ewe lamb breed or sire (number of ewe lambs)	Ewe lambing (%)	Leicester lambing (%)	Leicester crossbred ewe lambs (%)
East Friesian (20)	11	129	61
Fleischschaff (12)	64	143	62
Border Leicester (28)	62	125	60
Clunpointe (6)	80	127	61
White Suffolk (1)	88	113	21
Corriedale (5)	59	109	19

Lifetime Ewe Management
A program for sheep producers

It's ewe time!



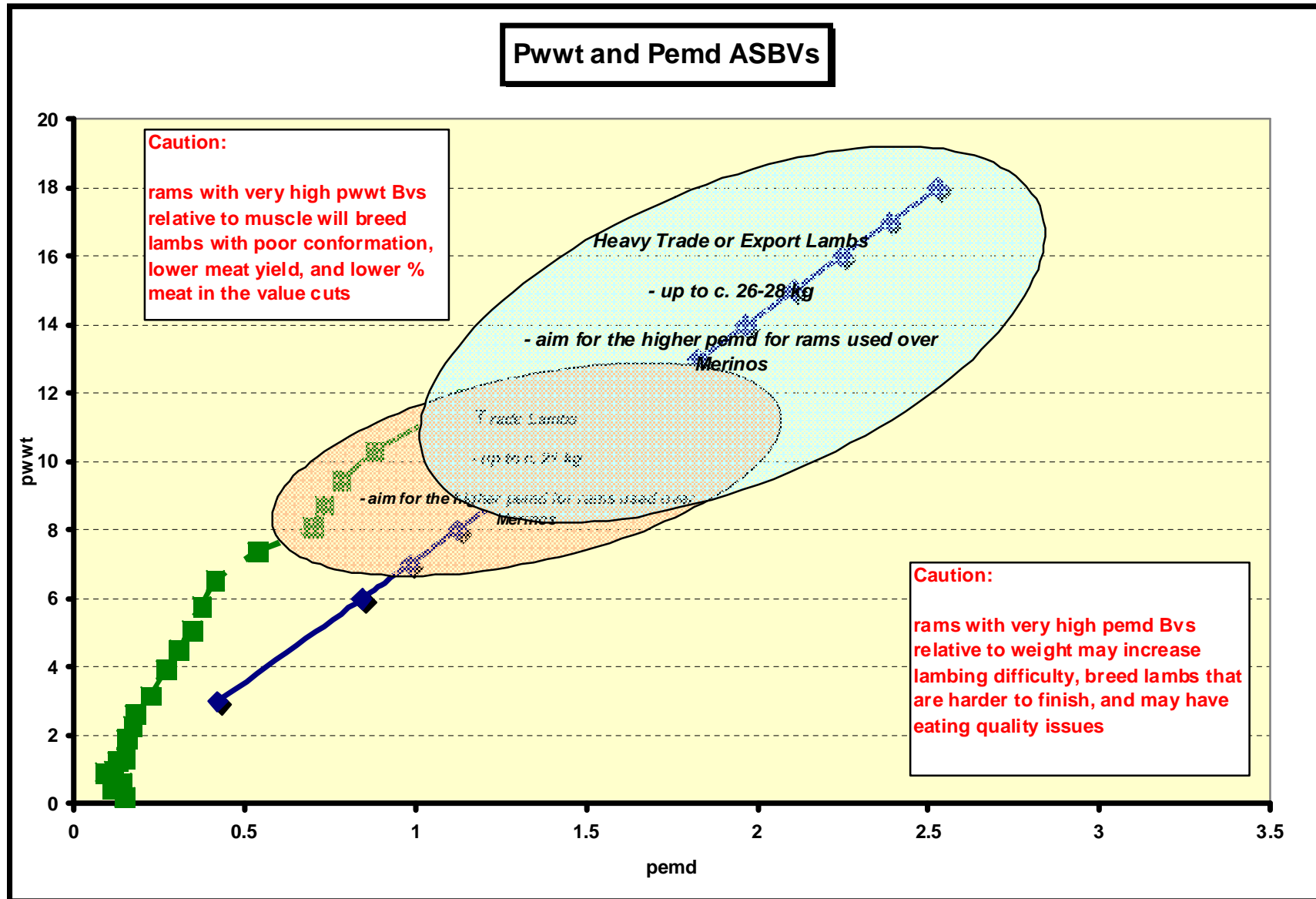
The sleeping cost (Ewe depreciation)

	Merino	Mer x Term	1st Cross	Ewe lamb	Extreme	Extreme + Fert
Buy In Price	\$90	\$100	\$145	\$125	\$200	\$200
CFA price	\$65	\$70	\$80	\$80	\$100	\$100
Depreciation cost per year	\$6.25	\$7.50	\$16.25	\$9.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Number of lambs weaned Lifetime	3.4	3.8	5.2	5.9	5.2	7.6
Cost per lamb	\$7.35	\$7.89	\$12.50	\$7.63	\$19.23	\$13.16
Cost per kg carcass weight	\$0.37	\$0.36	\$0.57	\$0.35	\$0.87	\$0.60

What can we do long term

- Concentrate on genetics
- Concentrate on management
- Concentrate on flock structure
 - Breeding replacements
 - Optimising flock structure

Rams must perform *It's ewe time!*



How can this be achieved?
Where to put the effort in the breeding ewe?

System	Marking %	Carcase Wt (kg)	Kg CWt / ewe
Current	85%	20.5	17.4
↑ Fertility	90%	20.5	18.5 (6%↑)
↑ Growth	85%	21.5	18.3 (5%↑)
↑ Fertility & Growth	90%	21.5	19.4 (11%↑)

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Making every lamb count

- Just two simple principles
- You breed them and then you feed them.....
- Breeding is the 1st fundamental

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Must make every lamb count

- Getting compliance to specification is key
- Manage nutrition
- Manage compliance and Yield
- Manage Cost of production (know what drives profit)

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Take Home Messages

- Look after the ewe
- Make every lamb count
- Calculate cost of production
- Seek market information (support the lamb forecast surveys)