

AN INITIATIVE OF

Making More From Sheep



High Performing Pastures

Hamish Dickson



EVENT SUPPORTERS:

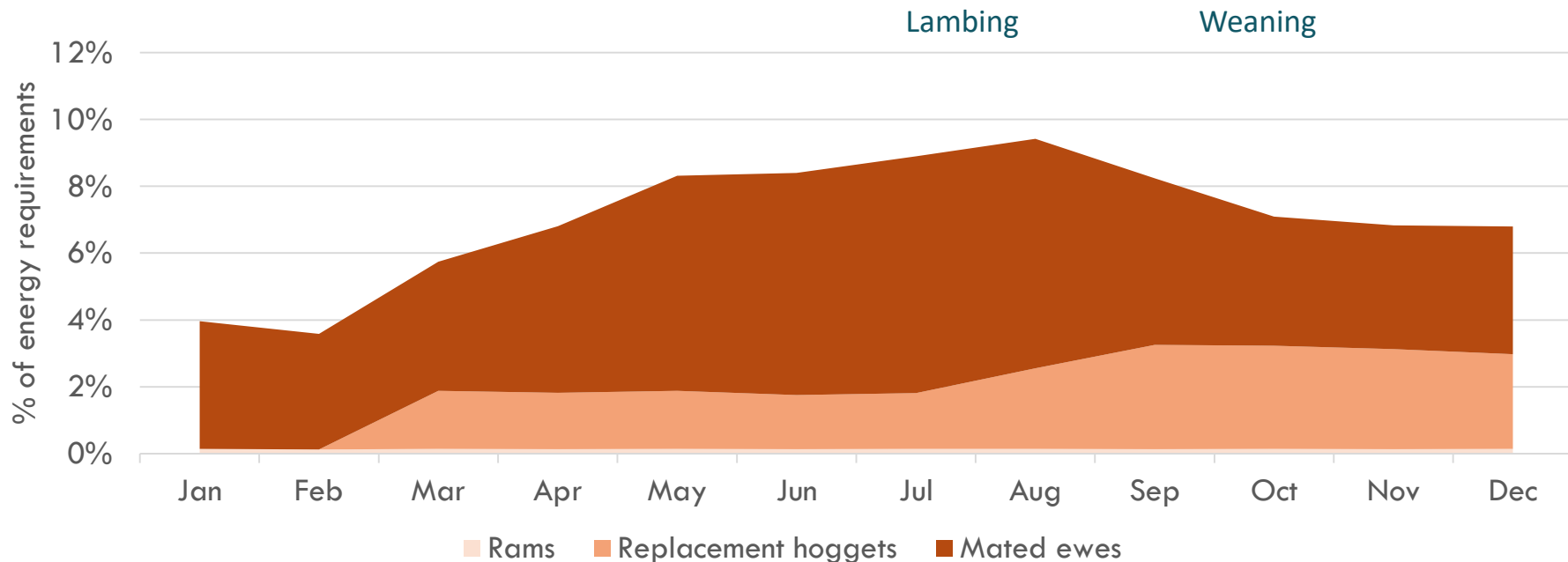


Introduction

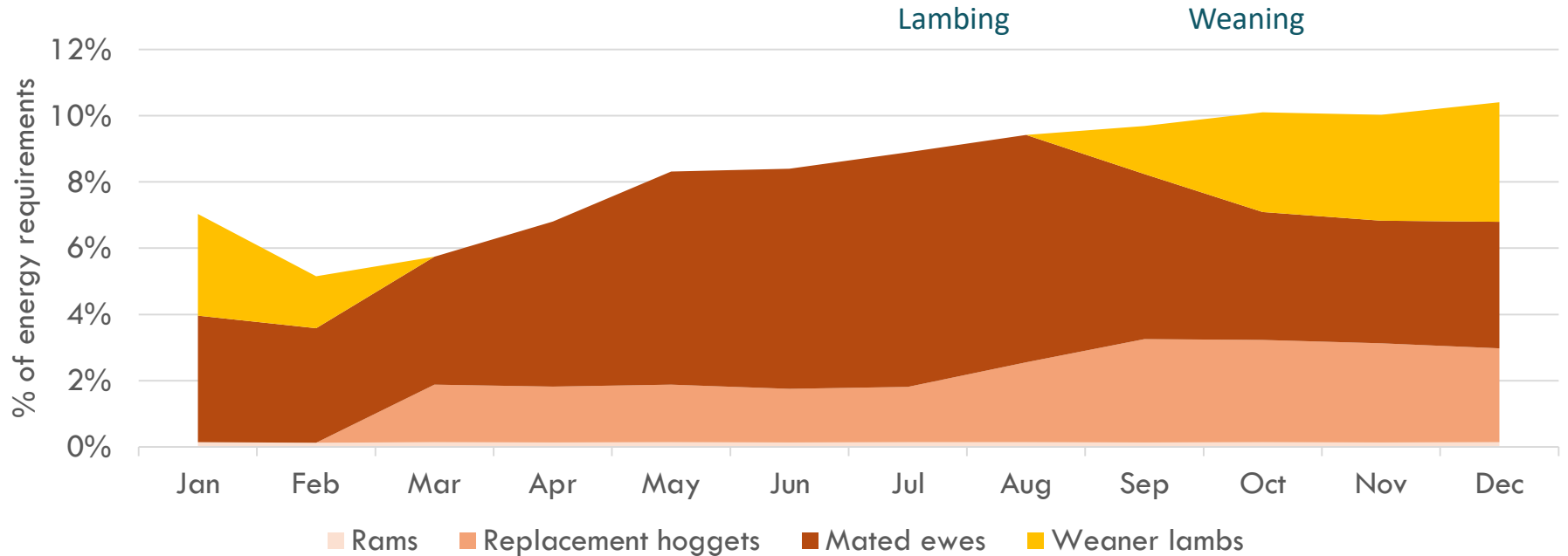
- Understanding your enterprise demands
- Identifying and comparing pasture options
- Production vs utilisation



Demands of your livestock enterprise

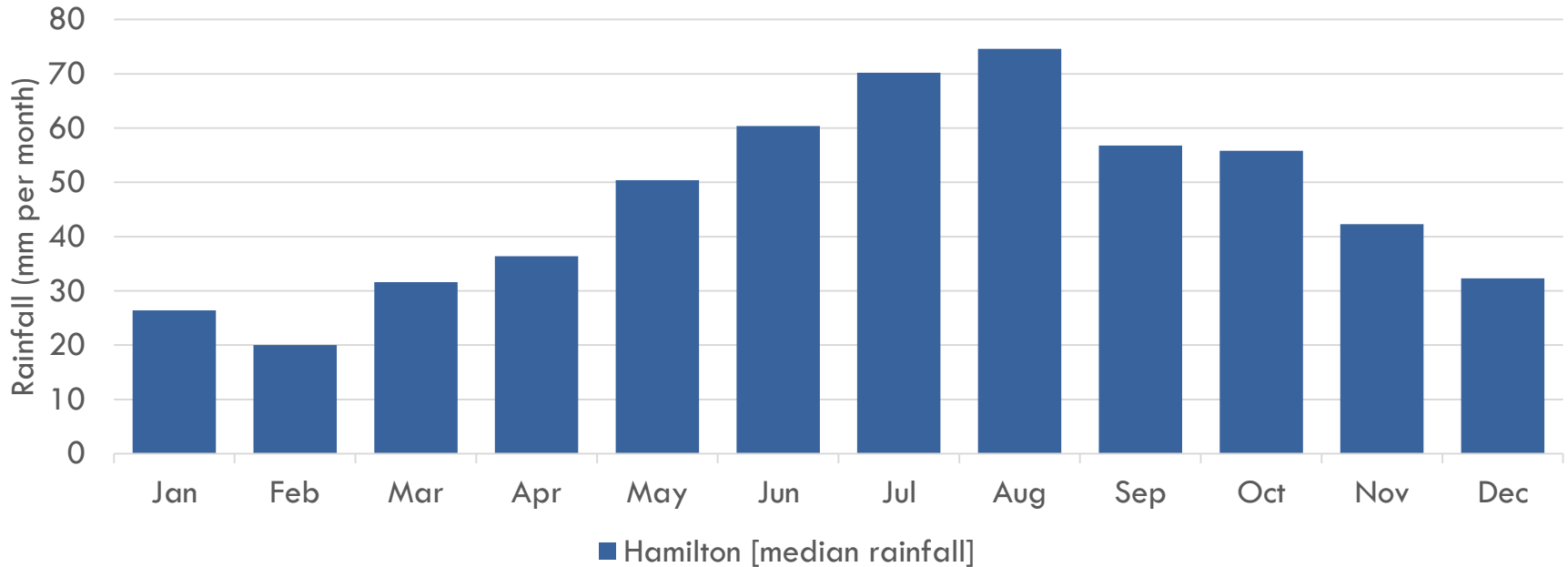


Demands of your livestock enterprise



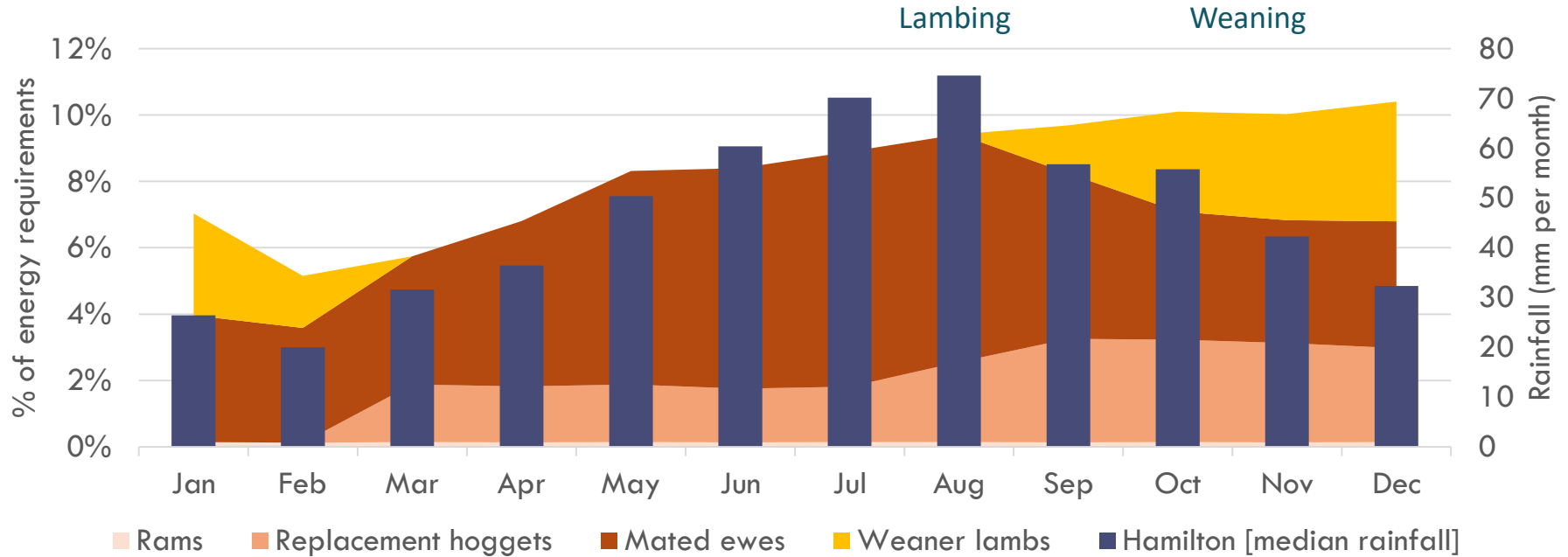
Driver of production

What drives feed production?



Driver of production

Bringing it together



Comparing feed options

Quantity – kg DM/ha

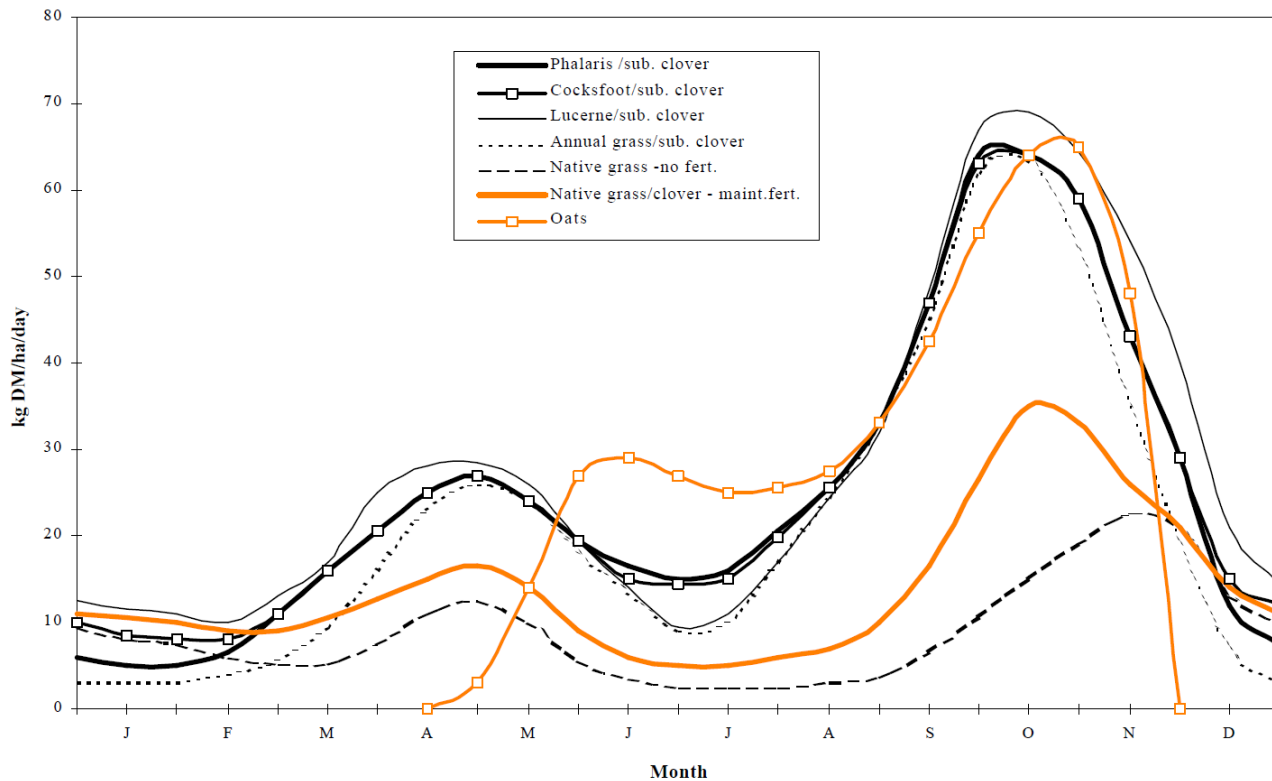
Quality – Energy, Protein, Fibre, Moisture [Feed tests]

Cost - \$/t DM

Per hectare productivity most important!



Comparing feed options



Source: Matching pasture production to livestock enterprises. Agnote DPI 213

Comparing feed options

Pasture	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Native summer grasses												
Microlaena/danthonia/sub clover	■	■	■						■	■	■	■
Summer grass/sub clover										■	■	■
Cocksfoot//sub clover	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Phalaris/sub clover				■	■	■	■	■	■			■
Lucerne	■	■	■	■	■				■	■		
Annual grass/sub clover						■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Lucerne/sub clover	■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■
Forage crops												
Japanese/shirohie millet	■	■	■									■
Oats				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Brassicas (mid September sown)	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■
Short term ryegrass (autumn sown)						■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Short term ryegrass (spring sown)	■	■	■	■	■							■

Source: Matching pasture production to livestock enterprises. Agnote DPI 213

Feed budgeting

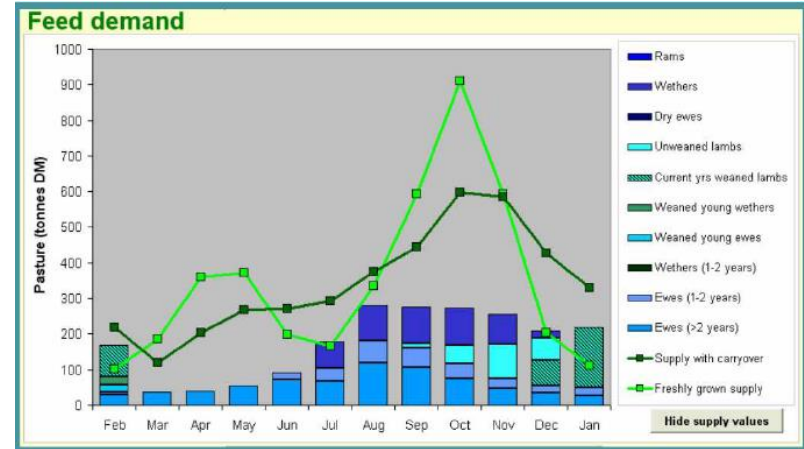
- What is feed budgeting

- Why

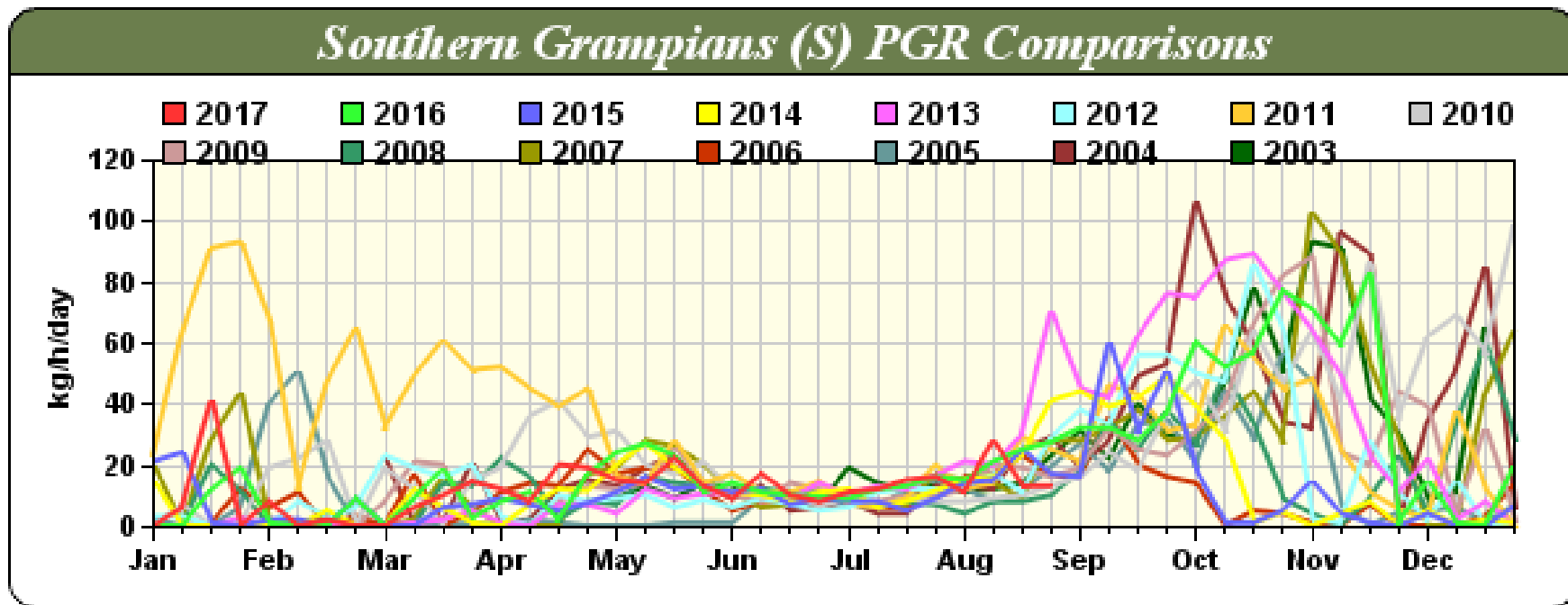
Proactive management
Minimise supplementary feeding
Maximise pasture productivity and maintain ground cover
Good business! Stocking rate is the highest profit driver

- How

1. SUPPLY = PGR (+ FOO)
2. DEMAND = DSE's of all classes on farm
3. BALANCE
4. QUALITY



Feed budgeting



Comparing feed options

Quantity – kg DM/ha

Quality – Energy, Protein, Fibre, Moisture [Feed tests]

Cost - \$/t DM

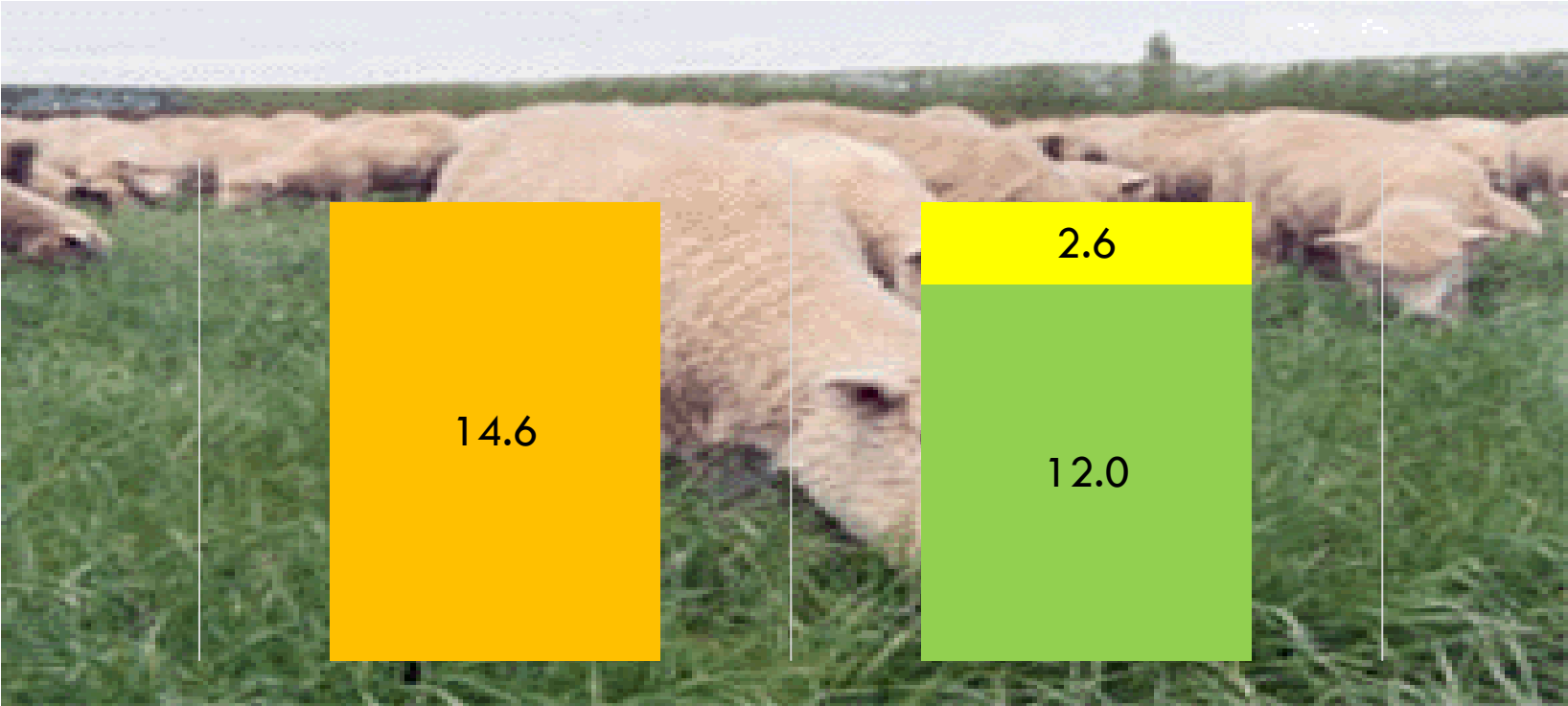
Per hectare productivity most important!



Achieving genetic potential

Year	Lamb Growth Rate (g/hd/d)
1971	301
1974	409
1976	243
2000	359
2001	350
Now?	

Complementing pasture



Comparing feed options



Production vs utilisation

Increasing utilisation

1. Driving intake
 1. Quality
 2. Quantity
2. Utilisation
 1. Grazing management
 2. Productive sheep



Key messages

1. Compare pastures based on their productivity, quality and water use efficiency
2. Use feed budgeting and rotational grazing to increase fodder utilisation and productivity
3. Use sown feed options to boost feed production and carryover feed
4. Think per hectare
5. Consider use of containment areas when paddock feed is limited

Available Resources

- Making More from Sheep Manual
- MLA; Feed Demand Calculator
- Evergraze; Stocking Rate Calculator

Groups – Lifetime Ewe Management

Advisors

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Questions...

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Feed deficit

Option to either feed, sell or agist

If feeding, use of containment can be profitable and productive



What, Where, Why, How?