

meatup FORUM

For the latest in red meat R&D

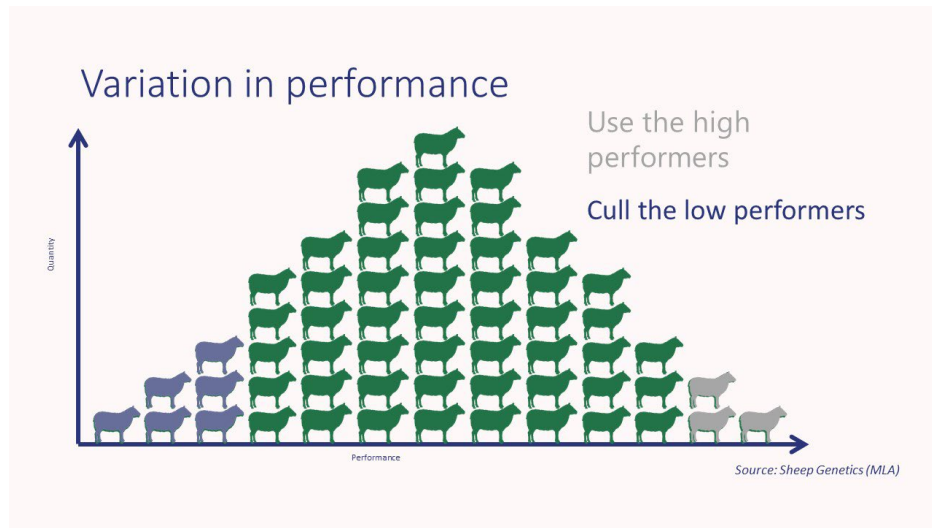
Optimising eID in commercial sheep enterprises

Sally Martin

SheepMetriX, Young NSW

What are the benefits of having individual data?

- We can find the charities
- Capitalise on opportunities
- Measure – not guessing
- Breeding & management options
 - Growth rates - predict turn off
 - Allocating higher ranking ewes to better rams
 - Track performance over time



Get the foundations right first

- **Why?**
 - Breeding and/or production objective(s)
- **What?**
 - The info that will drive your breeding objective or production obje in the right direction
- **When?**
 - When do you need to info by? When do you do things now?
- **How?**
 - Are you going to collect the data or someone else?
- **With any data collected – do it right or is it not worth collecting!**

Tags



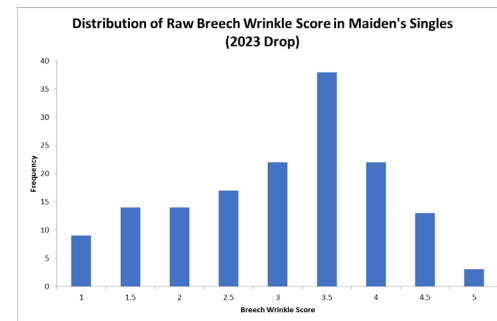
Colour	Red	Blue	Black	White	Orange	Green	Purple	Yellow
Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029

The shiny toys



Examples of data you can capture

- Pregnancy scanning – 0, 1, 2 + EML
- Breech scoring
- **Weaning** – weight of lambs; lambled and lost; CS of ewes
- Growth rates – two weights minimum recorded
- Fleece traits – greasy fleece weight (GFW), staple length (SL) and Micron
- Condition score - reproduction
- Animal health – e.g. fly strike
- Abattoir feedback – intramuscular fat (IMF); carcase weight (Cwt); girth rib (GR) fat



Basic Model vs Deluxe Model

- **Basic System**

- eID Tag
- Reader (Stick)
- Know how to use Excel or find a friend!

- **Deluxe System**

- Basic System +++++
- Stick/Panel Reader
- Weigh scales (lots of options)
- Auto Drafter / handler
- Software package
- Multiple traits
- \$/use – how often do you use it?



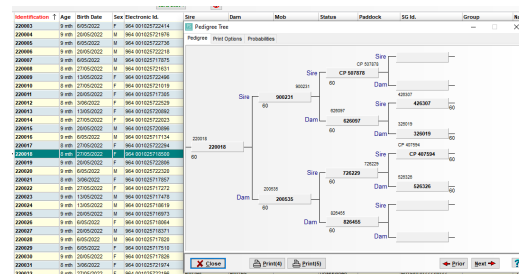
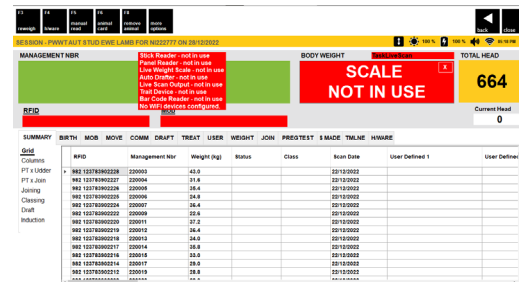
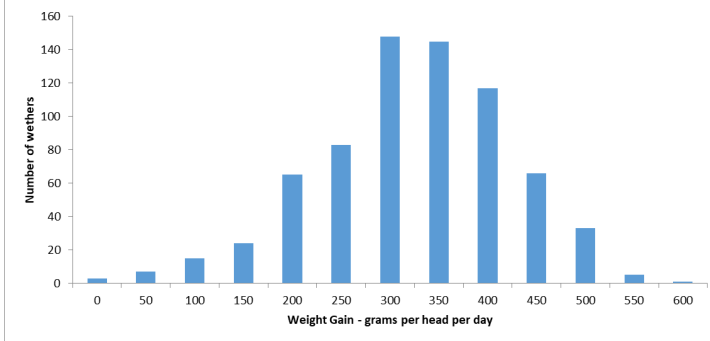
Data management

- Bucket files
- CSV excel formats
- eID numbers
- VID numbers
- NLIS numbers
- Apps
- Software
- ?????????



- 2016 Drop
- 2017 Drop
- 2018 Drop
- 2019 Drop
- 2020 Drop
- 2022 Drop
- Bucket files

Weight Gain Distribution - Merino Wethers - 2022 drop



What can you do with a stick & bucket?

- **Bucket file** – paired EID and VID – capturing data without scanning a tag
 - Record Birth Type
 - Record Dam Age
 - Record Birth Paddock
- **Stick Reader**
 - Upload data – birth type, keep/cull
 - Pregnancy Status – 0, 1, multiples
 - Preg Stage – early, mid or late
- **Multiple options**
 - Recall data, upload (keep/cull)



Official Visual	Rfid Tag Number	PIC	Year	VID	Official Number	Printing 1	Colour
NA633272XST00400	982 123785878512	NA633272	T	220400	400 V		RED
NA633272XST00399	982 123785878513	NA633272	T	220399	399 V		RED
NA633272XST00398	982 123785878514	NA633272	T	220398	398 V		RED
NA633272XST00397	982 123785878515	NA633272	T	220397	397 V		RED
NA633272XST00396	982 123785878516	NA633272	T	220396	396 V		RED



How to get your ROI on farm?

- Cost of the tag – how to get your ROI
- What are you already doing that you can add value to?
- Example – Pregnancy Scanning
 - Knowing year on year performance on individuals

2018 compared to 2017				
2017				
2018	Dry	Single	Twin	Totals
Dry		25	35	60
Single	7	322	238	567
Twin	7	185	391	583
Totals	14	532	664	1210

2019 compared to 2018				
2018				
2019	Dry	Single	Twin	Totals
Dry	1	39	26	66
Single		405	199	604
Twin	7	324	423	754
Totals	8	768	648	1424

EID	2015	2017	2018	2019
951 000001908657	1	1	1	1
951 000002032590	1	1	2	1
951 000002282177	1	2	2	2
951 000002338673	1	2	2	2
951 000002388627	1	2	2	2
951 000002416654	1	1	1	1
951 000002443998	1	2	2	2
951 000002555876	1	2	1	2
951 000003379775	1	2	1	2

Can you use the data multiple times?

- Using data initially to make decisions
- Option to use in later years - within mob; may need re-calibration

EID ▼	YOB ▼	Bwt ▼	GFW ▼	Micro ▼	RP MP Index ▼	RP MP Rank ▼	Quartile ▼
982 123725730376	2017	61.0	5.8	17.3	113.6	1	Top 25
982 123739962017	2018	55.0	7.0	16.9	118.3	1	Top 25
982 123739962341	2019	57.5	9.6	19.3	124.2	1	Top 25
982 123758454612	2020	52.5	5.9	16.4	120.9	1	Top 25
982 123725730447	2017	49.5	4.8	17.6	99.7	370	Middle 50
982 123739961355	2018	40.8	5.2	17.3	101.0	370	Middle 50
982 123739962441	2019	45.2	7.5	18.8	102.3	370	Middle 50
982 123758455654	2020	46.5	4.5	16.8	102.5	370	Middle 50
982 123758454800	2020	47.5	4.4	17.4	96.5	805	Middle 50
982 123739961343	2018	48.0	5.0	18.4	92.7	805	Bottom 25
982 123758454189	2020	42.5	3.9	16.9	88.9	1054	Bottom 25

Client case study – Michael Payten

- 1,200 ha mixed farm
- 3,530 first cross ewes
- 600, 9 month first cross – purchased - eID tag
- Ewes joined to Poll Dorset rams (RTM)
- Joining 4 times per year – eID to keep track
- Keep it simple – draft on weights, CS, Preg Scan & Wet/Dry (LL)

“We now run a tighter operation and when the poor seasons return, we will be using the eID to identify the ewes which don’t meet our target joining weight.”



Take home messages

- The eID tag is just the enabler.
- Have a plan and a staged approach – build your confidence.
- Be clear why you want the data and when you need it.
- The data capture and processing system is the change agent – how can you convert data to using it to make decisions?

Tools and resources

- Ramselect – www.ramselect.com.au
- Sheep Genetics – ASBVs – www.search.sheepgenetics.org.au/
- SheepMetriX – eID Implementation on Farm Workshop – www.sheepmetrix.com.au/eid-courses