MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

National Livestock Reporting Service

SHEEP ASSESSMENT MANUAL

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SECTION 1

ASSESSMENT LANGUAGE

Sheep and lambs are sold in drafted consignments or pen lots. When assessing lambs MLA considers several factors including age, breed, sex, carcase weight, fat score and finally overall quality and condition.

1.1 Stock Categories

Table 1 depicts the factors used to determine age and sex of sheep and lambs, known as stock categories. More information can be found in Appendix 1.

Table 1: MLA stock classifications

Stock category	Description
Young lamb	Young female or castrate male ovine that has zero (0) permanent incisor teeth and no eruption of permanent upper molar teeth. Generally unshorn and normally up to 5 months of age. (Milk Fed Lamb – lamb that has not been weaned, younger than 8 weeks).
Lamb	Male and female ovine with no secondary sexual characteristics. Generally weaned, shorn with no permanent incisor teeth in wear. Normally older than 5 months and under 12 months.
Hogget	Female or castrated male sheep with no secondary sexual characteristics that have one (1) but no more than two (2) permanent incisor teeth in wear.
Ewe	Female that has at least one (1) permanent incisor tooth in wear .
Wether	Castrate male sheep with no secondary sexual characteristics and has at least one permanent incisor tooth in wear.
Ram	Entire male with at least one (1) permanent incisor tooth in wear or shows evidence of secondary sexual characteristics, or a castrated male that shows signs of secondary sexual characteristics.
Ram Lambs	Uncastrated male lamb or entire male lamb.

Source: AUSmeat

Table 2: Stock categories applicable to MLA sheep store market reports

Stock category	Description
Crossbred lambs	Male and female lambs with no 'ram like' characteristics. Generally weaned, shorn with no permanent teeth and normally older than 5 months. No Merino characteristics.
Crossbred ewes	Female with at least one (1) permanent incisor tooth in wear. No Merino characteristics.
Crossbred ewes and lambs	Female with more than two permanent teeth with a lamb at foot. No Merino characteristics.
Crossbred wethers	Castrate male sheep with no secondary sexual characteristics and has at least one (1) permanent incisor tooth in wear.
Merino ewes	Merino ewes, female, with at least one (1) permanent incisor tooth in wear.
Merino lambs	Merino lambs, male or female, with no secondary sexual characteristics. Generally weaned, shorn with no permanent incisor teeth in wear and normally older than 5 months.
Merino ewes and lambs	Merino ewe/female, with at least one (1) permanent incisor tooth in wear with a lamb at foot.
Merino wethers	Merino male sheep with no 'ram like' characteristics and with more than two permanent teeth.
Merino mixed sex – sheep or lambs	Merino ewes or lambs.
Rams (Meat)	Meat breed rams and castrated male sheep displaying secondary sexual characteristics.
Rams (Merino)	Merino rams and castrated male sheep displaying secondary sexual characteristics.

Source: AUSmeat

1.2 Carcase weight and live weight

In saleyards, Livestock Market Officers (LMOs) assess sheep and lambs based on their approximate carcase weight. This conversion can be made by looking at their overall live weight of the stock in the saleyards and apply a dressing percentage to them to help convert them into carcase weight, see Appendix 1, Dressing Percentage Matrix. Carcase weight can be estimated by using the following formula:

Estimated carcase weight = liveweight x dressing percentage

When calculating carcase weight it is important to understand the factors affecting dressing percentage, such as:

- Fatness
- Time off feed
- Skin weight
- Sex
- Breed
- Weaned/unweaned
- Carcase trim
- Seasonal and feed conditions.

Sheep are sold in dollars per head while those sold direct are usually sold on a carcase weight price per kilogram basis. The formula for converting stock into price per kilogram carcase weight is below (¢/kg cwt):

Carcase price (¢/kg cwt = $/head value – skin value) / carcase weight

1.3 Fat Score

Fat score is the fat measurement on the carcase, based on the actual soft tissue depth at the Girth Rib (GR) site. The GR site is 110mm from the midline over the 12th rib as shown in figure 2. Fat scores range from 1 (lean) to 5 (fattest) outlined in Appendix 1, Figure 6. Each fat score represents a 5mm band width. As a general rule, at the same weight, ewe lambs will be fatter than wether lambs which will in turn be fatter than ram lambs. The fat scores are shown in table 3.

Table 3: Fat score table

Score	GR tissue depth	Assessment over the long ribs
1	Up to 5mm	Individual ribs are easily felt. Cannot feel any tissue over the ribs.
2	Over 5mm up to 10mm	Individual ribs are easily felt, however some tissue is present.
3	Over 10mm up to 15mm	Individual ribs can still be felt. Can feel more tissue over the ribs.
4	Over 15mm up to 20mm	Can only just feel ribs. There is fluid movement of tissue.
5	Over 20mm+	Ribs cannot be felt. Tissue movement is very fluid.

Source: AUSmeat

Figure 1: Reference point used for assessing fat cover on sheep and lambs

ASSESS HERE ON LONG RIBS
(12th RIB, GR SITE)
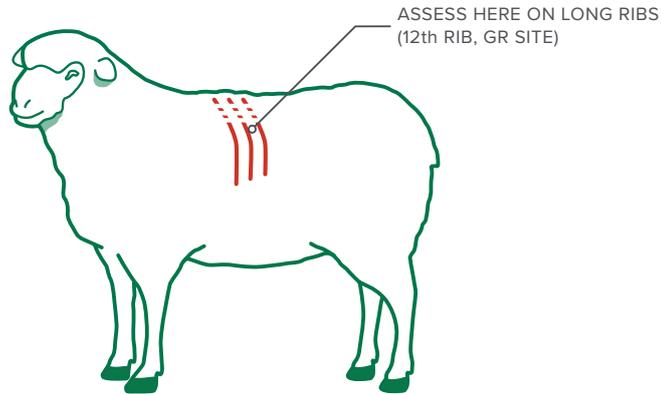
Figure 2: Location of the GR site

There are two GR sites one on either side of the carcase. Either may be used. Each is located 110mm from the mid-line of the carcase along the lateral surface of the 12th rib.

MID-LINE

FAT

MUSCLE

110mm

GR SITE

12th RIB

12th RIB
GR SITE
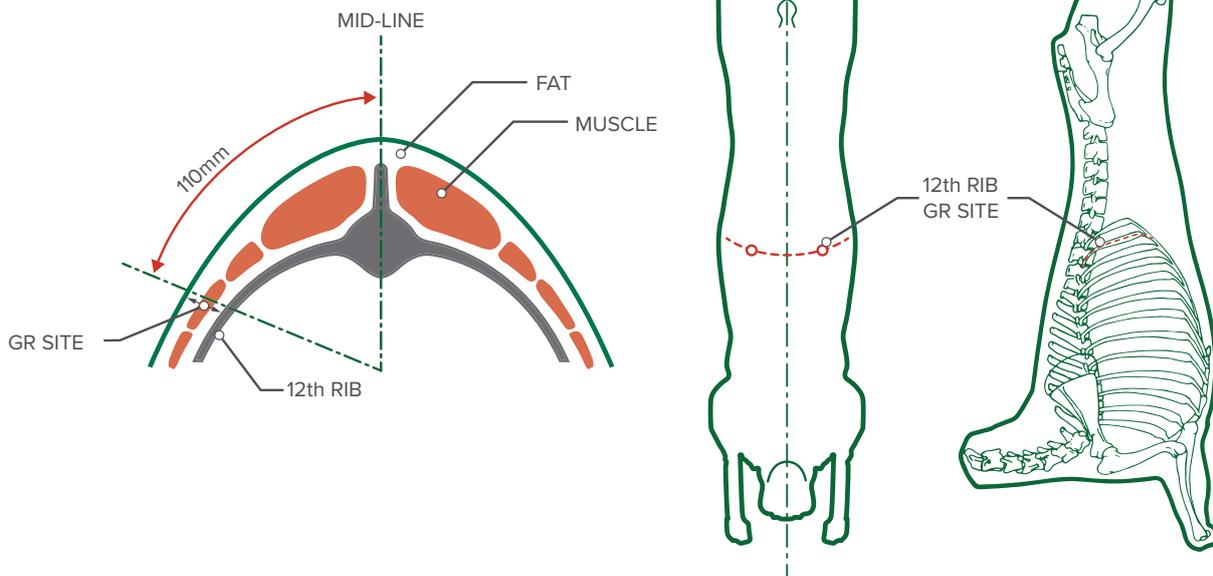
Figure 3: The five fat scores

1	2	3	4	5
No fat and very little muscle on the backbone and ribs. Seriously low body condition.	A small amount of muscle along the backbone but no fat.	Good level of fat and muscle with rounded ends of ribs and top of backbone.	Over-round across backbone — lots of muscle and fat. Tending towards over-fat.	Can't feel the backbone or ribs. Definitely over-fat.
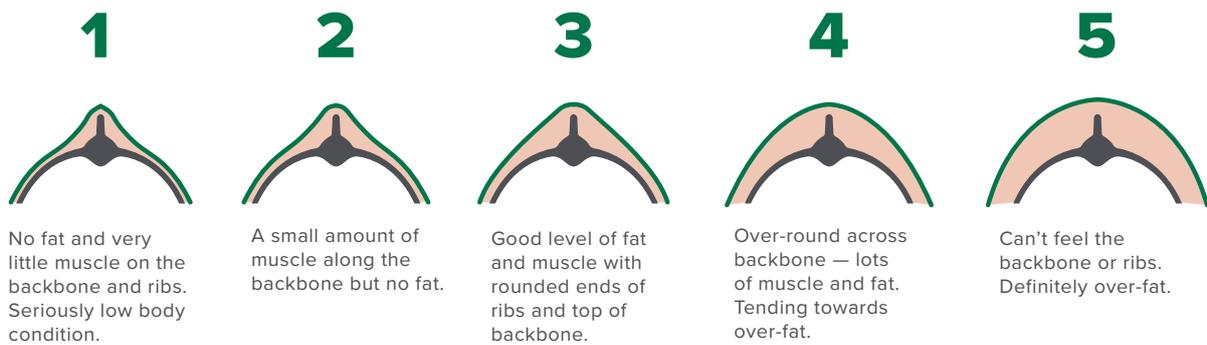
Source: Department of Agriculture

1.4 Skin value

Estimation of the skin value is an important factor when assessing sheep and lambs. Skins can vary greatly in value depending on supply and quality, consequently impacting on the carcase weight price. Heavy seed and burr content and indiscriminate crutching can lead to discounts of up to 50% on skin value.

The value of the skin on the live animal is assessed against current market values issued via a monthly report prepared by MLA's Market Information, based on what skin traders are trading for the month. You are required to subscribe to this report and discuss skin values with buyers at the saleyards on what values are to gain full comprehension of how skin values are fluctuating.

An example of the monthly skin report is provided below. It is a national report collected from different skin processing facilities. The price in the report is the price the skin processing facility pays the abattoir for raw skins. Raw skins being, straight off the lamb/sheep backs without any further processing. These prices are categorised into lamb, Merino sheep and crossbred sheep, then split by skin length. The weight of the animal the skin has come off also comes into play, as does the level of vegetable matter, or VM.

Wool length and quality, when assessing for skin value, are generally measured/assessed on the mid back.

For example; a new season lamb (weighing 22-24kg) skin, free of VM, ranges in price from 100¢ to 400¢/skin ($1 to $4/skin). See figure 4.

Figure 4: MLA's Market Information monthly skin report

Skin report - sheep and lamb
Market information is provided by MLA's National Livestock Reporting Service

National   report date   01 Feb 2021

| | | 16.1 - 20kg | | | | 20.1 - 24kg | | | | 24.1kg + | | | |
| | | Free of VM | | Heavy VM | | Free of VM | | Heavy VM | | Free of VM | | Heavy VM | |
	Type	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
Lamb	3" & Over	150	150	100	100	300	400	200	200	400	400	300	300
	2"-3"	150	150	100	100	300	300	200	200	300	400	300	300
	1"-2"	100	100	50	50			150	150	150	300	200	200
	0.5"-1"	50	50					50	50	150	150	50	50
	0.25"-0.5"	50	50										
	New Season					100	400	100	100	200	300	100	150
Merino Sheep	3" & Over	2200	2600	2000	2400	1400	2800	1100	2600	1600	3000	1300	2800
	2.5"-3"	2000	2300	1800	2100	1200	2500	900	2300	1400	2700	1100	2500
	2"-2.5"	1900	2100	1700	1900	1000	2300	700	2100	1200	2500	900	2300
	1.5"-2"	1200	1550	1000	1350	500	1750	200	1550	700	2050	400	1750
	1"-1.5"	1100	1450	900	1150	300	1650	1100	1450	500	1850	200	1650
	0.5"-1"	500	1250	300	1050	700	1350	500	1150	200	1450	600	1250
X Bred Sheep	3" & Over	200	200	100	100	200	250	100	100				
	2.5"-3"	150	200	100	100	200	200	100	100				
	2"-2.5"	100	200	100	100	150	200	100	100				
	1"-2"	50	50			50	100						

1.5 Sales prefixes

Breed and market destination are also used to classify sheep and lambs. The pre-cursers shown in Table 4 are used to further define the market. The bulk of the lamb market consists of prime lambs (second cross lambs). These are bred from a first cross ewe and British bred meat ram. These have no precursor on an MLA report.

Table 4: Sales prefixes

Sales Prefix abbreviation	Description
RS	Sheep or lambs purchased by restocker, either to be finished or kept for future breeding
FD	Lambs purchased by lot feeders
MR	Merino sheep or lambs
RM	Merino sheep or lambs purchased by restockers
1X	First cross sheep or lambs, the result of a Merino crossed with a meat breed
LE	Stock purchased by live exporters
DP	Dorper sheep or lambs
RL	Ram lambs
PR	Those sheep and lambs bought for processing

The table below outlines the specifications of Sheep and Lamb Saleyard indicators reported by MLA's NLRS, their source and frequency of distribution.

Table 5: Market indicator specifications

Sheep saleyard	Weighted average price for animals meeting the specification, at NLRS-reported saleyards over the past seven days			
Indicator	Units	Specification	Source	How often
Restocker / feeder lamb	¢/kg cwt	Lambs – 0 to 18kg cwt, fat score 1 to 2, bought by restockers or feeders	NLRS	ESDI or Daily
Light lamb	¢/kg cwt	Lambs – 12 to 18kg cwt, 1st and 2nd cross and merino, fat score 2 to 3	NLRS	ESDI or Daily
Trade lamb	¢/kg cwt	Lambs – 18 to 22kg cwt, 1st or 2nd cross, fat score 2 to 4	NLRS	ESDI or Daily
Heavy lamb	¢/kg cwt	Lambs – 22kg+ cwt, 1st or 2nd cross, fat score 2 to 4	NLRS	ESDI or Daily
Merino Lambs	¢/kg cwt	Lambs – 16 to 22kg cwt, Merino, fat score 2 and 3	NLRS	ESDI or Daily
Mutton	¢/kg cwt	Adult sheep – 18 to 24kg cwt, fat score 2 and 3	NLRS	ESDI or Daily

The following information applies to MLA sheep store market reporting

1.6 Age

Age of the store sheep and lambs must be imputed. They are as follows;

- Lambs
- 1 and 2 year olds
- 3 and 4 year olds
- 5, 6 and CFA – cast for age
- Mixed ages

1.7 Frame size

Frame size is used to assess stock at store markets. Instead of putting on a weight, a frame size is required. The frame is measured in terms of the height from the ground to the highest point of the withers (shoulder) in centimetres, less length of wool. MLA classifies store stock as small, medium and large. Figure 5 shows the height relative to each frame score.

- Sizes A and B are Large
- Sizes C and D are Medium
- Size E is Small.

Figure 5: Frame size
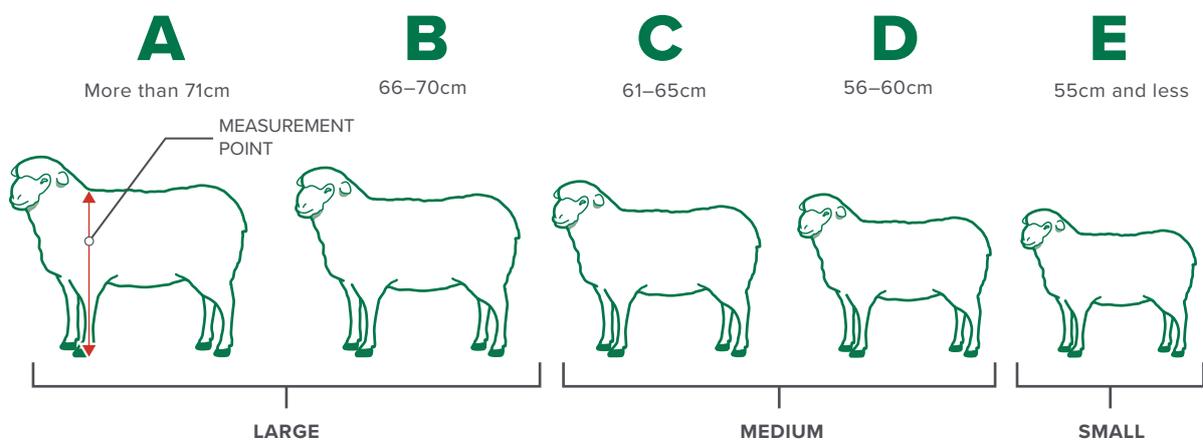
1.8   Shear season

Shear season is determined by the season of the year that the sheep and lambs were shorn. Where no information is offered a N/A is applied. They are as follows;

- Off shears
- Summer
- Autumn
- Winter
- Spring
- Full wool
- Un shorn
- N/A.

1.9 Joining

Joining is applied in a store market for the majority of ewes, and sometimes lambs. Where no information is offered a N/A is applied. They are as follows;

- NSM – Non-Station-Mated
- De-pastured (Meat)
- De-pastured (Merino)
- Scanned (Meat) – Scanned-In-Lamb
- Scanned (Merino) – Scanned-In-Lamb
- Stationed mated ewes
- N/A.

SECTION 2

ASSESSMENTS

Under the evidence guide in Appendix 3, table 13, you are required to undertake a minimum of three forms of training to demonstrate competency.

Three forms of evidence are required and this means three different kinds – not three pieces of the same kind. These include:

1. **Formal Accreditation** – Undertake nationally recognised independent, standardised units of competency for sheep assessment via a Registered Training Organisation (RTO).
2. **Annual abattoir assessment training day** – 70% of the selected stock must be accurately assessed to maintain competency. Appendix 2.
3. **Annual question and answer assessment** – A series of multiple choice and question answer and scenarios provided through MLA's 'The FEEDlot'. 100% pass mark required.

As outlined in Appendix 3, table 11, Performance Criteria, Point 3, Accuracy Standards, is a summary of the competency level expected.

Table 6: MLA competency level

Trait	Maximum Accuracy Variation	Explanation of competency
Carcase weight	Within (+/-) 1.6kg	Estimate must be within 1.6kg (+/-) of actual carcase weight. 70% of the animals assessed must be within this range.
Fat Score	Within 1 (+/-) score of fat score	Estimate must be within 1 score (+/-) of the actual fat score. 70% of the animals assessed must be within this range.

SECTION 3

MARKET REPORT COMMENTS

This guideline outlines the requirements for sheep comments for all physical market reports.

MLA is a national service, therefore the quality, content and language must be standardised without losing the independence or individualistic nature of each market.

Market reports are written and then disseminated to a variety of clients including producers, agents and corporate clients such as Rural Press. Therefore, the structure and content of the comments is important to ensure the true picture from each market is communicated. In the majority of instances MLA's reports are displayed in the commentary format only and therefore it is essential that they ensure all elements of the market are accurately described.

3.1 General commentary guidelines

Introduction

The first paragraph should be an overview of the market. The purpose of this section is to provide the reader of the report with an indication of what has actually happened at the market. The following should be included in this paragraph as a bare minimum. Remember to use a short, sharp sentence structure.

- Yarding (supply) – greater and less and why?
- What impacted on the market? (Explain its relevance and consequences to the day's market)
- Buyer competition
  - Were all the regular buyers in attendance?
  - Stronger or weaker (why?)
  - Where did the sheep go?
- Yarding break up
  - E.g. the yarding consisted of good quality lambs while mutton numbers were down
- What was quality like?
- Overall actual price movements (up/down).

NOTE: There is no need to mention the market name or the date etc in the commentary as it is available at the top of the final document that is disseminated to industry after H/O review.

Body

For sheep, segregate the body of the commentary into:

1. Light to heavy weight lambs
2. Mutton.

Using the following as a guide:

- Quote price trends as X¢ dearer or X¢ cheaper and provide a reason. Provide reason behind price movements relevant to own market.
- Express prices as a range and/or average, unless the top price is a feature of the market.
- When quoting prices and weights, use the MLA standard weight range.
- Quote the relevant indicator grades, unless it is a feature of the sale.
- There should be a correlation between the comments and data.
- Do not use subjective language when explaining a variation in price.
- The number of lambs (or new season lambs) and sheep penned should be quoted if the break-up is available if not provide an estimate as a number or percentage.
- Don't overload your commentary with price – you need to find a balanced.
- Remember to use a short, sharp sentence structure.
- Try not to repeat the same word too many times.
- Important for comments to flow from light to heavy weights.
- Separate young lambs and old lambs in separate paragraphs when necessary.

NOTE: There is NO need to quote price after price in your commentary. Prices are all available in the report for readers to find if required.

Words to avoid:

- **Fresh** – use new season lambs instead
- **Fully firm** – use firm instead
- **Wooly ewes** – use either longer wool or full wool
- **Suckers** – use either new season or young lambs, choose one and keep it consistent throughout report
- Do not use '**grain-fed**' unless prefix states they are certified – either say supplementary fed or grain assisted.

Grammar and abbreviations

Table 7 is a list of abbreviations; grammatical corrections and other related structural suggestions that you should adopt in order to maintain a consistent and high standard of market commentary.

Table 7: List of abbreviations; grammatical corrections and other related structural suggestions

	Example	Rule
Quoting sheep and lamb prices	New season lambs were $3 to $4 dearer, to average $40/head.	$.../head is used once at the end of a sentence where a price, or change in price has been quoted. The Dollar sign needs to be in front of every price.
Quoting carcase weight	lwt or cwt following a quoted price	Only use the abbreviations in the report when there is a change in the price quoted. For example, if the prices being quoted have changed from $/head to ¢/kg cwt it would be then necessary to use the abbreviation.
Quoting weight categories	Light, trade and heavy lambs or light, medium and heavy for sheep	You can quote specific weight ranges if necessary.
Quality	Well-finished, well-conditioned	Quality is described subjectively and must be followed by fat score – with exception where quality is described in the opening paragraph to provide an overall picture of the market on that particular day.
Quoting fat scores	The 3 and 4 score lambs	Provide reason for variation in prices with emphasis on muscle and fat scores. Classification of muscle and fat score should be quoted throughout the commentaries alongside any price quotations.
Write in past tense	500 young lambs were offered	Keep your 'tense' consistent throughout the market report.
Capital letter for sheep breeds	Merino lambs/Dorper	For every breed included in your market report, a capital should be used.
Round up/down prices	360¢/kg, or $185/head	If market report states 360.2¢/kg, round down to 360¢/kg cwt, if it states 360.6¢, round up to 361¢/kg cwt.

SECTION 4

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

A Quality Management System (QMS) is a set of policies, processes and procedures required for the planning and execution of a business.

MLA's Market Information Service (MIS) has been certified through SAI Global for its QMS since the 28th August 2006. In that time, the QMS has continued to provide direction and control, highlighted areas of concern and created areas of improvement within the organisation.

The QMS is currently certified to the AS/NZS ISO 9001:2008 standards. The main benefit to having a QMS and being certified is to help maintain the quality and integrity of the data that we provide to levy payers. It has also been developed and implemented to ensure that all customer and stakeholder requirements are satisfied.

Quality problems arising in various areas are to be identified and solved with timeliness, professionalism, efficiency and cost effectiveness. We focus our resources, both technical and human, towards the prevention of quality deficiencies to satisfy organisational goals.

The successful operation of the system relies upon the co-operation and involvement of personnel at all levels. Our commitment to quality will ensure the continued success of our service and the satisfaction of clients and other key stakeholders.

Some of the purposes of the QMS are:

- Requirements, feedback and opportunities are addressed and documented within the management system at the appropriate location and that they are addressed
- Ensure all staff using the QMS are trained and provided with an induction to the system
- Produce records and provide evidence that system requirements have been met
- Continually measure, monitor and analyse any changes that need to be made to ensure the quality and integrity of the data
- Execute an internal and external audit annually
- Log any opportunities that will help improve the QMS
- The five tick standards mark helps us to let customers know that we are certified with the market leading certification body in Australia

Quality
ISO 9001
SAI GLOBAL

APPENDIX 1

AUS-MEAT LANGUAGE

Figure 6: Fat class

CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3	CLASS 4	CLASS 5
GR Up to 5mm	GR Over 5mm up to 10mm	GR Over 10mm up to 15mm	GR Over 15mm up to 20mm	GR Over 20mm
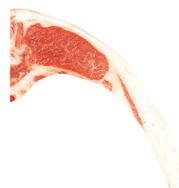
Source: AUSmeat

Table 8: Basic categories

LAMB *L*		
Female, castrate or entire male ovine that:	*Up to 12 months	
• Has no permanent incisor teeth in wear		
• Grain Fed Lamb (symbol 'G8'). Refer Australian Meat Industry Information for specification and feed details		

MUTTON *M*		
Female, castrate or entire male ovine that:	*Over 10 months	
• In male shows no SSC • Has at least 1 permanent insisor tooth in wear		
• OVINE – May be used as optional alternative generic description for Mutton. Refer Australian Meat Industry Information for conditions of use. • MANUFACTURING BONELESS – Lamb and Ram may be backed in the same carton as Mutton and described as Mutton • PRIMAL CUTS – Bone in or Boneless Lamb and Mutton primal cuts my be mixed in the same pack but the category used can only be the basic category Mutton – *M*		

RAM *R*		
Entire or castrate male ovine that:	*Over 10 months	
• Shows SSC • Has at least 1 permanent insisor tooth in wear		

Source: AUSmeat

SSC = Secondary Sexual Characteristics
* Chronological age as shown is approximation only

Table 9: Definition of a permanent incisor

| A permanent incisor is defined as:	
• A new incisor that has broken (erupted) through the gum surface • Permanent incisors are used to determine age in animals	
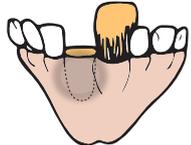
| A permanent incisor is considered 'in wear': |
|---|
| • It touches the upper pad when the sheep's mouth is closed
• It is above the height of the milk teeth either side of the permanent incisors |

PERMANENT INCISOR	PERMANENT INCISOR NOT IN WEAR	PERMANENT INCISOR IN WEAR
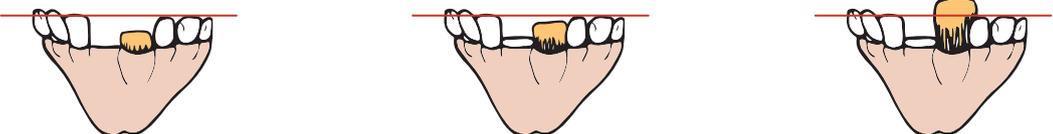
Source: AUSmeat

Table 10: Alternative categories

Young Lamb *YL*

Female or castrate male ovine that:
- Has zero permanent incisor teeth (in addition)
- Has no eruption of permanent upper molar teet

*Up to 5 months only

- Milk Fed Lamb (Symbol MF) – Lamb that has not been weaned. Younger than 8 weeks

Hogget or Yearling Mutton or Yearling Sheep Meat *H*

Female or castrate male ovine that:

- Has 1 but no more than 2 permanent incisor teeth in wear, and
- In males shows no evidence of SSC

*10 to 18 months

- Grain Fed Hogget (symbol 'GF'). Refer Australian Meat Industry Information for specification and feed details

Ewe Mutton *E*

Female ovine that:

- Has at least 1 permanent incisor incisor tooth in wear

*Over 10 months

Weather Mutton '*W*

Castrate male ovine that:

- Has at least 1 permanent incisor tooth in wear
- Shows no evidence of SSC

*Over 10 months

Source: AUSmeat

SSC = Secondary Sexual Characteristics

NSW Department of Primary Industries dressing percentage matrix

Figure 7: Dressing percentage matrix

LIVEWEIGHT TO HOT STANDARD CARCASE WEIGHT CONVERSION

LIVEWEIGHT	37%	38%	39%	40%	41%	42%	43%	44%	45%	46%	47%	48%	49%	50%	51%	52%	53%	54%
34.0	12.6	12.9	13.3	13.6	13.9	14.3	14.6	15.0	15.3	15.6	16.0	16.3	16.7	17.0	17.3	17.7	18.0	18.4
35.0	13.0	13.3	13.7	14.0	14.4	14.7	15.0	15.4	15.8	16.1	16.5	16.8	17.2	17.5	17.9	18.2	18.6	18.9
36.0	13.3	13.7	14.0	14.4	14.8	15.1	15.5	15.8	16.2	16.6	16.9	17.3	17.6	18.0	18.4	18.7	19.1	19.4
37.0	13.7	14.1	14.4	14.8	15.2	15.5	15.9	16.3	16.7	17.0	17.4	17.8	18.1	18.5	18.9	19.2	19.6	20.0
38.0	14.1	14.4	14.8	15.2	15.6	16.0	16.3	16.7	17.1	17.5	17.9	18.2	18.6	19.0	19.4	19.8	20.1	20.5
39.0	14.4	14.8	15.2	15.6	16.0	16.4	16.8	17.2	17.6	17.9	18.3	18.7	19.1	19.5	19.9	20.3	20.7	21.1
40.0	14.8	15.2	15.6	16.0	16.4	16.8	17.2	17.6	18.0	18.4	18.8	19.2	19.6	20.0	20.4	20.8	21.2	21.6
41.0	15.2	15.6	16.0	16.4	16.8	17.2	17,6	18.0	18.5	18.9	19.3	19.7	20.1	20.5	20.9	21.3	21.7	22.1
42.0	15.5	15.9	16.3	16.8	17.2	17.6	18.1	18.5	18.9	19.3	19.7	20.2	20.6	21.0	21.4	21.8	22.3	22.7
43.0	15.9	16.3	16.8	17.2	17.6	18.1	18.5	18.9	19.4	19.8	20.2	20.6	21.1	21.5	21.9	22.4	22.8	23.2
44.0	16.3	16.7	17.2	17.6	18.0	18.5	18.9	19.4	19.8	20.2	20.7	21.1	21.6	22.0	22.4	22.9	23.3	23.8
45.0	16.7	17.1	17.6	18.0	1.8.5	18.9	19.4	19.8	20.3	20.7	21.2	21.6	22.1	22.5	22.9	23.4	23.9	24.3
46.0	17.0	17.5	17.9	18.4	18.9	19.3	19.8	20.2	20.7	21.2	21.6	22.1	22.5	23.0	23.5	23.9	24.4	24.8
47.0	17.4	17.9	18.3	18.8	19.3	19.7	20.2	20.7	21.2	21.6	22.1	22.6	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.4	24.9	25.4
48.0	17.8	18.2	18.7	19.2	19.7	20.2	20.6	21.1	21.6	22.1	22.6	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.4	25.9
49.0	18.1	18.6	19.1	19.6	20.1	20.6	21.1	21.6	22.1	22.5	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5
50.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5	27.0
51.0	18.9	19.4	19.9	20.4	20.9	21.4	21.9	22.4	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5	27.0	27.5
52.0	19.2	19.8	20.3	20.8	21.3	21.8	22.4	22.9	23.4	23.9	24.4	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5	27.0	27.6	28.1
53.0	19.6	20.1	20.7	21.2	21.7	22.3	22.8	23.3	23.9	24.4	24.9	25.4	26.0	26.5	27.0	27.6	28.1	28.6
54.0	20.0	20.5	21.1	21.6	22.1	22.7	23.2	23.8	24.3	24.8	25.4	25.9	26.5	27.0	27.5	28.1	28.6	29.2
55.0	20.4	20.9	21.5	22.0	22.6	23.1	23.7	24.2	24.8	25.3	25.9	26.4	27.0	27.5	28.1	28.6	29.2	29.7
56.0	20.7	21.3	21.8	22.4	23.0	23.5	24.1	24.6	25.2	25.8	26.3	26.9	27.4	28.0	28.6	29.1	29.7	30.2
57.0	21.1	21.7	22.2	22.8	23.4	23.9	24.5	25.1	25.7	26.2	26.8	27.4	27.9	28.5	29.1	29.6	30.2	30.8
58.0	21.5	22.0	22.6	23.2	23.8	24.4	24.9	25.5	26.1	26.7	27.3	27.8	28.4	29.0	29.6.	30.2	30.7	31.3
59.0	21.8	22.4	23.0	23.6	24.2	24.8	25.4	26.0	26.6	27.1	27.7	28.3	28.9	29.5	30.1	30.7	31.3	31.9
60.0	22.2	22.8	23.4	24.0	24.6	25.2	25.8	26.4	27.0	27.6	28.2	28.8	29.4	30.0	30.6	31.2	31.8	32.4
61.0	22.6	23.2	23.8	24.4	25.0	25.6	26.2	26.8	27.5	28.1	28.7	29.3	29.9	30.5	31.1	31.7	32.3	32.9
62.0	22.9	23.6	24.2	24.8	25.4	26.0	26.7	27.3	27.9	28.5	29.1	29.8	30.4	31.0	31.6	32.2	32.9	33.5
63.0	23.3	23.9	24.6	25.2	25.8	26.5	27.1	27.7	28.4	29.0	29.6	30.2	30.9	31.5	32.1	32.8	33.4	34.0
64.0	23.7	24.3	25.0	25.6	26.2	26.9	27.5	28.2	28.8	29.4	30.1	30.7	31.4	32.0	32.6	33.3	33.9	34.6
65.0	24.1	24.7	25.4	26.0	26.7	27.3	28.0	28.6	29.3	29.9	30.6	31.2	31.9	32.5	33.2	33.8	34.5	35.1

DRESSING PERCENTAGE

GUIDELINES for:

2nd Cross lambs (DxBL/M)
2-3 hours off feed
50mm of wool
Weaned

FAT SCORE

1	41%
2	43%
3	45%
4	47%
5	49%

TIME OFF FEED

0-3 hours	0
4-5 hours	1%
6-8 hours	2%
9-12 hours	+2.5% to 3%
13-24 hours	+3.5% to 4.5%

SKINWEIGHT

75mm skin just too wet to shear holds 0.2-0.5kg water. Thouroughly saturated 1.5-2.0kg water.

BREED

BL/Merino, Bond and Merino lambs will generally dress 1.5% to 3.5% less than 2nd cross

Source: adapted from Bernard Munro, NSW DPI 11/05/2001

APPENDIX 2

MLA's Sheep assessment sheet

Figure 8: Sheep assessment sheet

Pen No.	Description	Fat score	Carcase weight	Skin value

APPENDIX 3

ANNUAL ABATTOIR ASSESSMENT AND REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Under assessments (see section 2), you are required to undertake a minimum of three forms of training to demonstrate competency.

Unit descriptor

This unit covers the functions required by those enlisted to assess livestock using methods and procedures and defines the standard required to: provide accurate assessments of sheep including weight, breed, fat and skin type; identify livestock and minimise undue stress and risk to livestock, handlers and assessors.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the annual abattoir assessment and regional workshop is to ensure those enlisted to assess livestock using specific methods and procedures provide accurate assessments of sheep including weight, breed, fat and skin type; can identify livestock and minimise undue stress and risk to livestock, handlers and assessors.

Elements to be covered during annual abattoir assement and regional worskhops

Table 11: Elements and performance criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
1. Training requirements sheep	1.1 Hazards in the assessment environments are recognised and any concerns reported. Comply with third party WHS requirements.
	1.2 Identify stock categories, breed, sex, weight and fat score, in relation to AUS-meat standards.
	1.3 Handle livestock with care when assessing for fat score and weight.
	1.4 Suitable personal protective equipment is selected and used in relation to WHS requirements.
2. Attaining formal accreditation	2.1 Must pass the formal unit of competency for sheep assessment.
	2.2 Accurately assess stock to the standards set out in the formal accrediataion
	2.4 Consistently assess stock to the accuracy standards set out in the formal accrediataion.
	3.1 Sheep carcase estimates must be within 1.6kg (+/-) of actual carcase weight. 70% of the animals assessed must be within this range.
	3.2 Estimate must be within 1 score (+/-) of the actual fat score. 70% of the animals assessed must be within this range.
4. Maintaining accreditation	4.1 Once formal accreditation is received, maintaining your accreditationis required by:
	• Annual abattoir assessment training day. 70% of the selected stock must be accurately assessed to maintain competency (see Appendix 2; Figure 8).
	• Annual MLA FEEDLOT question and answer assessment – this is based on livestock assessment and market commentary (multiple choice).
	• Acquire results and determine further action with LMO Manager.

Table 12: Required skills and knowledge for Livestock Market Officers

This table describes the skills and knowledge required for Livestock Market Officers

Required skills
• Identify hazards and follow safe work practices • Recognise livestock abnormalities • Read and comprehend oral and written information and instructions, write fundamental statements and maintain livestock assessment and reporting records • Assess and calculate livestock numbers • Current drivers license • Apply contingencies in adverse weather conditions. Eg: raining, which makes assessment difficult • Use oral communication skills/language competence to fulfil the job role specified by the organisation including questioning, active listening, asking for clarification when necessary and seeking advice from supervisor • Use numeracy skills to estimate, calculate and record routine assessments and workplace practices • Use interpersonal skills to relate to people from a range of backgrounds and abilities • Develop constructive relationships with key livestock sales personnel.

Required knowledge
• Livestock breeds, sex and age can be identified • Conduct training within saleyard and abattoir environments • Livestock classification or scoring system • AUS-meat standards • Assess for quality.

Table 13: Evidence guide

The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the assessment guidelines for the training package.

Overview of assessment	
Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency	The evidence required to demonstrate competency must be relevant to workplace operations and satisfy holistically all of the requirements of the performance criteria and required skills and knowledge and include achievement of the following. A minimum of three forms of evidence are required to demonstrate competency. Three forms of evidence means three different kinds – not three pieces of the same kind. All assessments must be conducted against AUS-meat industry standards and regulations as well as MLA's guidelines.
Context of and specific resources for assessment	Competency requires the application of work practices under work conditions. Selection and use of resources for some sites of assessment may differ due to regional and enterprise circumstances. Competency must be identified and sustained over time.
Context and specific resources for assessment	Real saleyard environment. Real abattoir environment.