

Optimising ewe lamb joining outcomes

Project aim

To demonstrate the decision-making process and additional management skills required to successfully join ewe lambs.

Project duration

February 2023 to December 2026

Background

'Optimising Ewe Lamb Joining', utilises the principles of a Producer Demonstration Site (PDS) to guide producers through the design of a property-specific plan using existing tools and management strategies to assist producers with identifying when it is most suitable to join ewe lambs.

The demonstration

This project involves four groups of producers located in different regions of NSW (see map over the page), representing different production systems, sheep breeds and environments. The groups will be supported by the project team. They will consist of one core group of producers and an observer group of like-minded producers within the region. The program includes discussion groups and on-farm demonstrations to provide producers with the confidence of gaining a better understanding about what is needed to successfully join ewe lambs, before making the decision to do so.

The group program runs for the duration of the project and groups meet throughout the year, on-farm or online, for several sessions to:

- improve their knowledge and skills
- explore the opportunities and impacts
- use a range of industry tools available for improving the success of joining ewe lambs.

Key outcomes

Assist group members to:

- Develop a management plan to optimise ewe lamb joining, that is specific to each participants production system
- Utilise existing tools available to assist producers to make more informed decisions when joining ewe lambs
- Measure the production outcomes of the joined ewe lambs and continue to measure these ewes through to the hogget stage and assess the impacts on production performance, in particular reproductive performance and additional traits
- Conduct a cost/benefit analysis to measure the economic benefit of adopting the management strategies to join ewe lambs
- Provide peer-to-peer learning, networking and support.

Workshops/session content

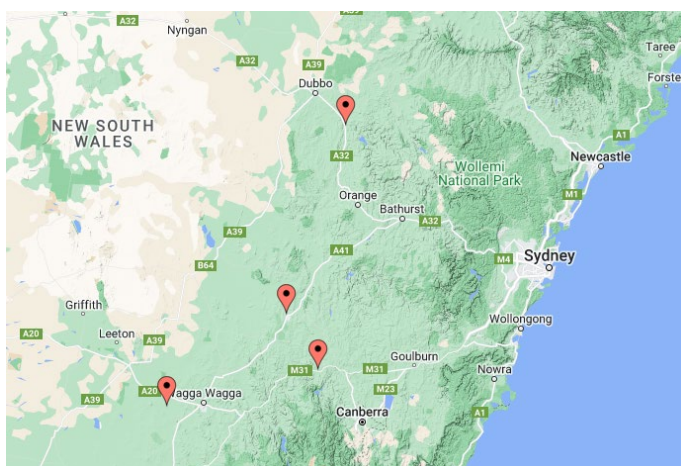
- Develop an outline for best management to prepare producers' ewe lambs for joining
- Develop a farm-specific plan and protocols for joining ewe lambs and review it regularly
- Upskill and train producers to utilize tools and resources available
- Explore the opportunities and impacts that joining ewe lambs can have on the business
- At the conclusion of the project a cost/benefit analysis will be conducted to assess productivity and profitability of joining ewe lambs versus not joining ewe lambs
- Annual Field Days.



Project locations

The four group locations for the project are:

- Wagga/Lockhart
- Bookham/Yass
- Young
- Wellington.



Project timeline



For further information:

Sally Martin, SheepMetrix **M** 0400 782 477 **E** hello@sheepmetrix.com.au

Laura Broughton, Productive Livestock Systems **M** 0487 181 896 **E** laura@productivelivestock.com.au