





SEPTEMBER

Around here things have turned ugly very quickly. Unfortunately we are going to have another very bad spring. At some point people in this area have to decide whether they change their production system to deal with the changed circumstances. We would assume that because less feed is being grown less product can be produced. If however we could improve the efficiency of lamb production then maybe we can produce the same amount of lamb. There is no more inefficient system than having a huge ewe produce 1-1.2 lambs. As the research of Dave Kleeman showed ewes rearing twins were 46% more efficient at converting feed into meat. The British research shown below makes the same point.

Effect of lamb output efficiency



- Going from one lamb to two lambs per ewe per year reduces the ME required per kg of carcass by around 40%
- Target 1Kg of lamb sold or retained /Kg ewe to ram.



To produce a 1000 lambs requires 833 ewes rearing 1.2 lambs or or 625 ewes rearing 1.6 lambs. The feed requirements of a ewe rearing twins is only slightly more than one rearing a single. Many of our Multimeat clients have marked 160% this year from mature ewes. Changing to Multimeat ewes gives you the opportunity to reduce ewe numbers and produce the same number of lambs.

Mature Multimeat ewes will scan 200% at a body weight of 60 kgs. A normal ewe will scan 150% at 80- kgs. To lift a 60 kg ewe to 80 kgs requires 20 Mj per day for 10 weeks. To maintain a ewe at 60 kgs takes 7 Mj per day. The extra 13 Mj per day you are feeding normal ewes to get them to a high mating weight should be being used for lamb growth not ewe fattening. The fact that in normal lamb production systems only 15% of the feed grown is actually ends up as lamb product is alarming.

In the Multimeat system lambs are weaned early and the ewes shut up so they do not put on too much weight and the feed is used for lamb growth.

This is the time of the year when producers are extremely busy and but decisions have to be made about ram purchases. These decisions could determine whether you are still going to be viable in the future. Traditional lamb production systems are inefficient and barely profitable. A change to the Multimeat system is one way of improving the efficiency and profitability of your enterprise.

**To ensure your supply of Multimeat rams contact me on
0428647457.**

For terminal rams the most important decision you can make is the stud you choose to attend. There are some studs where many of the rams presented at other studs would be culled because their performance does not measure up. I have attached the catalogues for Phil's Woolumbool stud which is next Wednesday. The catalogue shows rams which are in the top 10% for that trait across Australia clouded in blue. A brief look at these catalogues shows you just how superior these rams are . If you want to collect a few Multimeat rams while you are there then you can arrange that by calling me.

Colin