

# USING AN INDEX TO DRIVE PRODUCTION

# THE LAMB TRANSFORMATION

- Wool by product
- Driven by tradition
- Lambs transformation (trim lamb, export market)
- Achieving industry growth

# MAXIMISING PROFITABILITY AT ALL SECTORS

- **CONSUMER** – lean, high quality meat, visually appealing at retail, price point
- **PROCESSOR** – high carcass utilisation (lean meat yield), more expensive cuts (primal yield)
- **FINISHER** - high growth, low feed conversion, less shy feeders
- **PRODUCER** – stocking rate, weaning percentage, turn off weight

# BREEDING SYSTEMS TO MAXIMISING EFFICIENCY

- Split the roles (terminal, maternal sheep)
- Find the genes that fit the job
- Adopt the tools to make maximum gains



# SIMPLE LAMB PRODUCTION MODEL

- Stocking rate
- Weaning percentage
- Turn off weight

# INCREASING TURN OFF WEIGHT

- Milk
  - Lambs spend a large % of time on mum
  - The fuel that feeds growth
  - Sheep don't conceive while lactating (more potential)
- Growth
  - High early growth to bend the curve
  - Lamb is a 100 metre race

# INCREASING LAMBING %

- Increasing Fertility
  - Maximising twinning rate
  - Balance ovulation and lamb survival
  - Other traits (Maternal behaviour score, fat, milk)

# INCREASING STOCKING RATE

- Reducing ewe size
- Increasing fat
- Reducing ewe maintenance

# BALANCING A NUMBER OF TRAITS

- Growth rate
- Milk
- Fertility
- Adult ewe weight
- Post Weaning fat
- Muscle

# LAMBPRO MATERNAL INDEX

- 30% Weaning Weight
- 30% Fertility
- -15% Adult Weight
- 15% Muscle
- 10% Milk



# DOLLAR DIFFERENCE

INDEX	LAMB%	WEAN%	\$ WEAN	% KILL OFF MUM
>120	187%	160%	\$147.16	40%
110-120	182%	166%	\$122.15	24%
100-110	187%	162%	\$110.32	13%
<100	184%	147%	\$89.72	8%

# THE NEXT STAGE OF MATERNAL PRODUCTIVITY

- Maximising genetic gain (finding more money annually)
- Structured breeding programs
- Looking across breeds for gains
- Stabilising higher performing hybrid sheep

# THE TERMINAL IMPACT

- **On farm** (birth weight, growth)
- **Finishing** (feed conversion, shy feeders, fat deposition)
- **Processing** (increased lean meat yield, increased rack and loin)
- **Consumer** (IMF, Connective tissue, meat colour).

# TERMINAL INDEX

- 60:20:20 (Traditional lamb index)
- Trade Dollar Index
- Export Dollar Index
- Lamb 2020

# SUMMARY

- Moderate highly fertile females combined with high growth, high muscled terminal sires is our most efficient system
- New stabilised hybrid sheep genetics are taking substantial market share off purebreds driven by production
- Beef (like lamb) needs to pick up its game and get rid of the romance to survive

