



RED MEAT UPDATES

T A S M A N I A

28 July 2017

The missing pieces of young ewe productivity

Tom Bull

LAMBPRO



Joining hoggets — less is more

- Joining minimum one and two-year-old ewes is important to maximum production of kilograms in flocks.
- Target should be <20% of hoggets as a percentage of flock.
- Many flocks above 30% hoggets, which is too high.
- Many producers doing it well after a few years of fine-tuning.

The basics of hogget joining

- Weight (nutrition)
- Days of age
- Genetics
- Growth path
- Weaning age
- Two-year-old joining recovery

Weight (nutrition)

Weight (kg)	Conception (%)	Scanning results (%)
>55	100	150
50–55	94	124
45–50	89	115
40–45	88	104
35–40	65	77
<35	39	53

Days of age

Days of age (days)	Weight (kg)	Scanning result (%)
250	50.1	132
237	47.9	114
219	45.6	106
205	42.2	106
189	41.8	72

Genetics (YNLW ASBV)

Yearling number of lambs weaned (YNLW)

Percentile	YNLW ASBV
Top 1%	23%
Top 5%	18%
Top 10%	15%
Top 20%	12%
Top 30%	10%
Top 40%	8%
Top 50%	7%
Top 60%	5%
Top 70%	4%
Top 80%	3%
Top 90%	0%

Growth path

- 45kg minimum joining weight
- Average weight means little
- Percentage of ewes above 45kg is key
- 60kg target lambing weight
- 100–150g/day target with the rams (not 300g/day)
- Watch third trimester growth with poorly-grown ewes
- Metabolic issues the biggest driver of dystocia; not rams

Two-year-old strategy

- Lambs need to be weaned by 75 days of age
- Past 75 days two-year-old result impacted
- Pregnancy foetus aging important to correct weaning age
- Feed quality should be big focus (barley grass free)
- Imprinting is important (seven days of grain feeding before weaning)

Top three take home messages

1. Weight targets — ensure sufficient nutrition to meet required growth path.
2. Genetics — breed for success.
3. Have a management strategy that supports consistent results.

Tools, resources and training

- Module 10: *Wean more lambs* from the [Making More from Sheep](#) manual
- MLA Tips & Tools: [45x7 - Joining ewe lambs for more profit](#)
- [Lifetime Wool](#)



RED MEAT UPDATES

T A S M A N I A

The missing pieces of young ewe productivity

Tom Bull

LAMPRO

tom@lambpro.com.au



[@lambproholbrook](https://twitter.com/lambproholbrook)