

On farm

Wean More Lambs

Optimising sheep reproductive performance

Authors:

Col Langford, Sheep and Wool Officer, Goulburn

Doug Alcock, Sheep and Wool Officer, Cooma

Peter Holst, Senior Research Scientist, Cowra

Chris Shands, Sheep and Wool Officer, Glen Innes

Geof Casburn, Sheep and Wool Officer, Wagga

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NSW Agriculture

Animal Production

Wean More Lambs

Provide plenty of shade and privacy for twin lambing ewes.

Lambing management

Ewes with multiple lambs should be given priority for shelter, supplements and quality forage, and need to be in their lambing paddock about one week prior to lambing. Single bearing ewes only need to go into lambing paddocks when the first lamb arrives. If no scanning data is available then put lambing ewes together but meet the nutritional requirements of the multiple-bearing ewes.

See Table 5.2 for the recommended pasture levels in lambing paddocks. Lambing paddocks ideally have effective shelter that reduces winter wind speed to less than 8 km/h at lamb height, which is equal to a slight breeze. This is best achieved by:

- A northerly aspect, which protects stock from cold southerly or west winds;
- Strategic windbreaks of trees and perennial grasses;
- Topography; and
- Fencing.



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Night campsites also need to be well drained, have good shelter and water as well as aspect (fence off poor shelter such as the top of the hill). The winter campsite is often characterised as being well drained, elevated, and positioned where the sun hits first in the morning (in the NE corner).

The amount of forage in lambing paddocks should be consistent with the levels in Table 5.2. If it is inadequate then a supplement should be provided. Supplements can be fed every second day between 2pm and 4pm, with feeding sites visible and accessible from all sections of the paddock. Supplements should always be sampled and analysed for feed value prior to use.

The best time to enter lambing paddocks is between 2pm and 4pm.

If it is necessary for paddock inspections to be carried out these should be done between 2pm and 4pm when it is warmer and the social behaviour of the ewes and lambs is relaxed.

Mob size for lambing should be:

- Multiple-bearing ewes: < 250 ewes
- Single-bearing ewes: 400–500 ewes
- Maiden ewes: 250–400 ewes

A ewe density of less than 18 ewes/ha is recommended but ewes also need room at the sheep camp to spread out.