

Joining ewe lambs

Decision support tool

In recent years, joining ewe lambs has become more popular and is now viewed by many producers as a viable option for their enterprises. However, this decision must be made after considering the impact on the whole production system. **Joining ewe lambs decision support tool is designed to help producers decide whether joining ewes early will be a valuable change, as well as understand the management targets needed to maximise profitability.**

Get started

Fill in details about your farm scenario and flock structure – including your ‘best guess’ of the prevailing markets. Within the Management tab, choose the best options using the drop-down boxes and value sliders. Ranges have been provided based on previous modelling, so choose options closest to your situation.

- **Growing season length** – average length of time you have green grass
- **Number of ewe lambs weaned** – total number of ewe lambs born that **could** become breeding ewes
- **Date of joining of adult ewes** – date rams go in for the **adult ewe flock**
- **Breed** – most closely suited to your type
- **Wool price** – total wool cheque divided by number of bales
- **Lamb price** – \$/kg carcass weight
- **Supplement price** – average \$/tonne
- **Supplement quality** – average MJ/kg DM of supplement fed

Joining Ewe Lambs decision support tool (DST)

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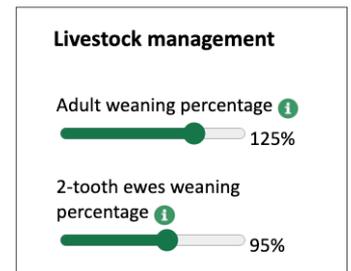
Management focus input

<p>Farm scenario</p> <p>Growing season length 6 months</p> <p>Number of ewe lambs weaned 1000</p> <p>Date of joining of adult ewes 02/12/2023</p> <p>Breed Medium wool merino(20u)</p>	<p>Flock structure</p> <p>Sale age of young ewes ~6 months</p> <p>Sale age of old ewes years 5.5yo</p>	<p>Genetic potential for reproduction</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>Wool price</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$1618/bale (clip average)</p> <p>Lamb price</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$7.75/kg carcass weight</p> <p>Supplement price</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$300/t</p> <p>Supplement quality</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12MJ/kg DM</p>
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Management focus

Continuing through the Management tab, this part of the tool compares the likely profit of mating ewe lambs compared with the potential to improve lambing performance in adult ewes and 2-tooth ewes.

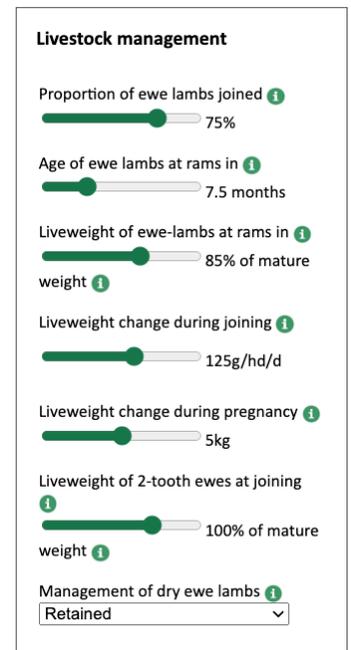
- **Adult and 2-tooth weaning %** – percentages that most accurately represent expectation



Strategic management

This part of the tool allows you to adjust metrics and scenarios to test a range of management strategies, targets and relative profitability.

- **% of ewe lambs joined** – number put to ram
- **Age of ewes at rams in** – age of oldest lamb when put to ram
- **Liveweight of ewes at rams in** – mature weight (%)
- **Liveweight change during joining** – g/day growth while with rams
- **Liveweight change during pregnancy** – increase through pregnancy excl. foetus (kg)
- **Liveweight of 2-tooth ewes at joining** – mature weight (%) at the following mating
- **Management of dry ewe lambs** – whether sold or retained for 2-tooth mating



The results will show the expected profit or loss from mating ewe lambs based on your inputs. They will also show you the expected weaning percentage and grain usage under the specific scenario.

The **Indicative Management model** predicts inputs that are more likely to result in improved profit.

For more information, visit: mla.com.au/ewe-lamb-join-tool