Sheep Easy 2021 Williams

Driving production in variable rainfall climates

Braden Johnston, Nyabing

Andrew Scanlon, Arthur River

Murray Hall, Brookton

Braden Johnston, Nyabing

- 30% Stock
  - 5000 Ewes (SAMM/Dohne X) plus 1000 ewe hoggets
  - 45% mated to SAMM/Dohne – mid June drop
  - 55% mated to White Suffolks – April drop
- 70% Crop
  - Canola/Wheat/Lupins/Barley
  - Rainfall 360mm

Andrew Scanlon, Arthur River

- 25% Stock
  - 6 000 Ewes plus 2700 ewe hoggets
  - Aim for high stocking rate
- 75% Crop
  - Barley/Canola/Oats/Wheat/Lupins
  - Rainfall 392mm (278mm GSR)

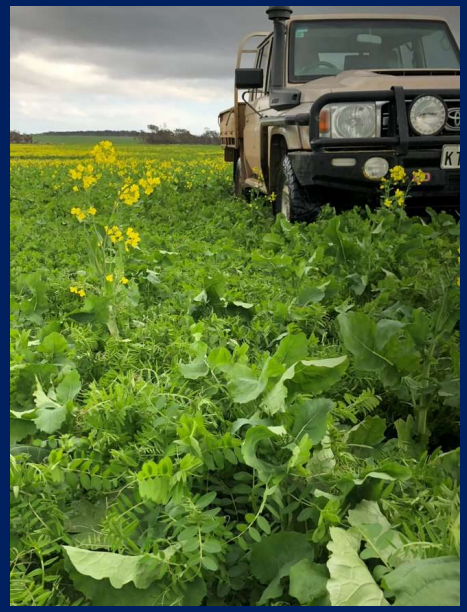
Murray Hall, Brookton

- 40% Stock
  - 8 500 Ewes (75% mated to merino)
  - PD & Merino nucleus
- 60% Crop
  - Wheat/Canola/Barley/Oats/Pasture ryes & vetch/Lupins/Haylage
  - Rainfall 407 mm (last 30 years)

Beneficial Changes

Braden

- Confine feeding
- Vetch/canola seeded
- Improved legume pastures
- Pregnancy scanning ewes
- Smaller lambing mobs



Beneficial Changes

Andrew

- Benchmarking
- Lupin fodder crops
- Lambing date
- Evolving sub clover based system into growing more grass
- Upgraded sheep infrastructure

Beneficial Changes

Murray

- Benchmarking
- Implementation of technology
- Infrastructure – covers on yards
- Change shearing regime
- Change lambing date
- Flock performance
- EID
- Precision feeding

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- Benchmarking
- Implementation of tech
- Infrastructure – covers on yards
- Δ shearing regime
- Δ lambing dates
- Confine feeding
- Feed budgeting
- Flock performance
- EID
- Precision feeding

Braden – Confine Feeding

1. Why?
2. Tough seasonal starts/consultant advice
   - Allows us to lamb later
   - Sow pastures
   - Increased seeding time management

Andrew – Growing grass

Evolving system

1. Benchmarking
2. Death rates – over summer
3. Lupin fodder crops to wean lambs onto
4. Evolved system
   - Change lambing date
   - Confine feeding + short season crop varieties
   - Increased stocking rate
   - Using nitrogen & seeder to grow grass

Murray – Precision Feeding

- Feed budgeting
  - Dry Autumns & exit strategies
- Dedicated staff
- On-farm Feed production
  - Utilising Haylage operation linked to crop rotation
  - Savings in cost/reductions in poor season cashflow
  - Need to analyse feeds and tailor system
- Weigh scales on all feeding systems

Take Home Messages

Braden

- Confine feeding maintains output of sheep system in poor seasons

Andrew

Murray

Take Home Messages

Braden

- Confine feeding maintains output of sheep system in poor seasons

Andrew

- Grow grass ↑ income on poor dirt
- KISS

Murray

Take Home Messages

Braden

- Confine feeding maintains output of sheep system in poor seasons

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- Grow grass ↑ income on poor dirt
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Murray

- Start feeding earlier (Christmas time)
- Plan for extended feeding
- Precision feeding de risks sheep enterprise in poor season

Research Priorities

Braden

- Match ewes and lambs on commercial scale
- Identify high performing ewes
- Chemical damage on legume pastures

Research Priorities

Andrew

- Growing grass to increase stocking rate to increase profit
- Maintain water quality over summer at high stocking rates

Research Priorities

Murray

- Pasture legumes
- Ongoing genetics research
- Labour efficiencies – shearing

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