



Department of
Agriculture and Food



Money Making Mums

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Money Making Mums

Your ewes should be working hard for you in the paddock – not out on the streets



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Mums make money by:

- Rearing lambs – for sale and as replacements
- Growing wool if breed appropriate
- Sale of surplus or cull ewes



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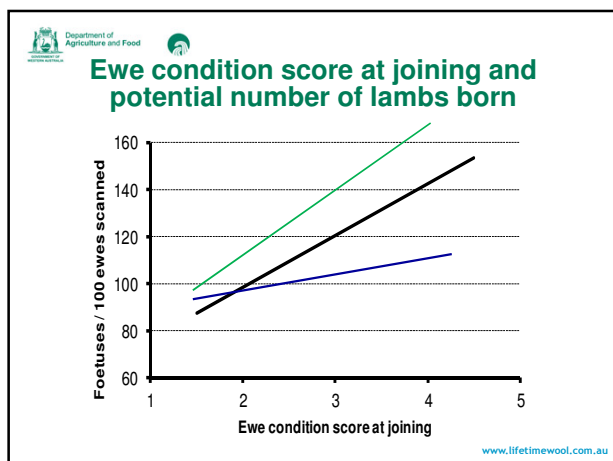
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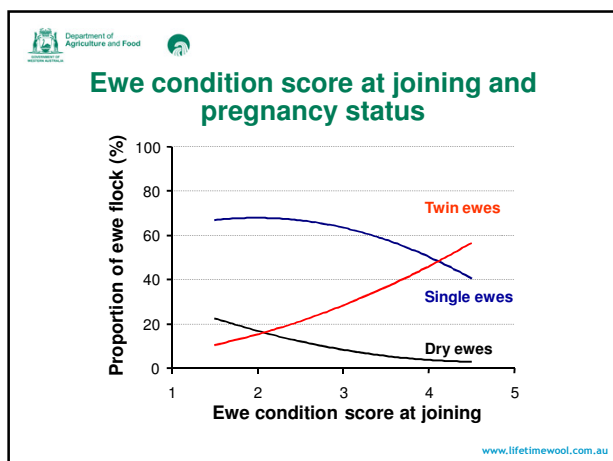
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Rearing lambs is a result of:

- Fecundity and fertility – genetics and environment
- Lamb survival at birth
- Ability to rear lambs

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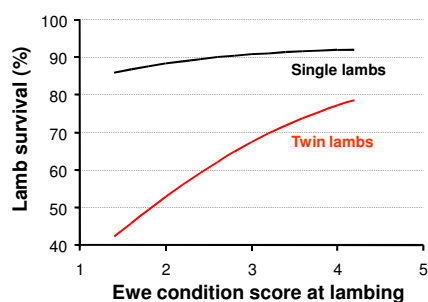
Rearing lambs is also a result of:

- Lamb survival at birth
 - Appropriate ewe condition and lamb birth weight
 - Ease of lambing
 - Mismothering
 - Maternal ability
 - Feed availability and time at birthsite
 - Environment

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Ewe condition score at lambing and lamb survival



www.lifetimewool.com.au



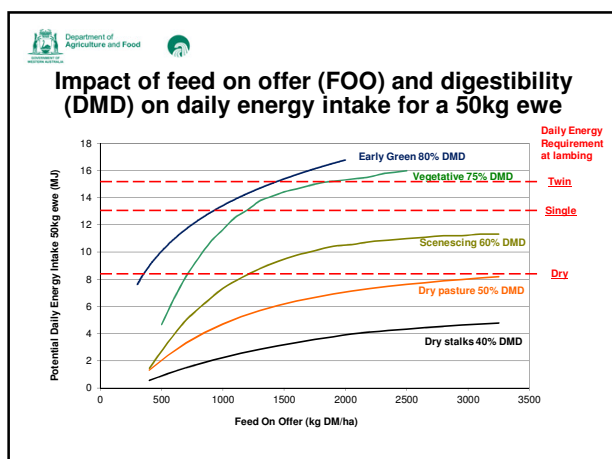
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Rearing lambs is also a result of:

- Ability to rear lamb
 - Feed availability
 - Ability to feed lambs
 - Milk production



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What if my ewe doesn't rear a lamb

- Why – was dry
 - Wasted feed resources but grew wool
- Why – lambed and lost at birth
 - Wasted feed resources and grew less wool, plus distress of dead lambs
- Why – lambed and lost after birth due to inability to milk
 - Wasted feed resources and grew less wool, plus distress of dead lambs that should have lived but starved
- BUT - I still have my wool
 - Yes only if your breed is a wool sheep.
 - But that ewe could have made space for others to have a lamb instead

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What to do

- #1 job – get shearers to identify damaged teats at shearing - cull
- Wet and dry ewes at lamb marking – cull repeat offenders

Even better


- Scan ewes – dries go unless maidens – separate twins and singles
- More feed for twinners – deferment or grazing crops
- Less feed for singles – less dystocia
- Identify and consider culling lambed and lost (check udders)
- Low numbers of lambs born per day per paddock for twinners especially

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What else

- Use ram/ewe sources that have appropriate ASBVs for:
 - Number of lambs weaned
 - Birth weight
 - Lamb growth rate
- Identify best ewes and keep in breeding flock for longer
- Identify poor performers and cut your losses... literally!



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Thank you
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