lifetimewool

more lambs, better wool, healthy ewes

A short report on the value of the lifetimewool project to Australia's wool industry

lifetimewool

Contents

Further information
For more information about the lifetimewool project and its outcomes, and to obtain copies of any material mentioned in this document, visit the lifetimewool website:

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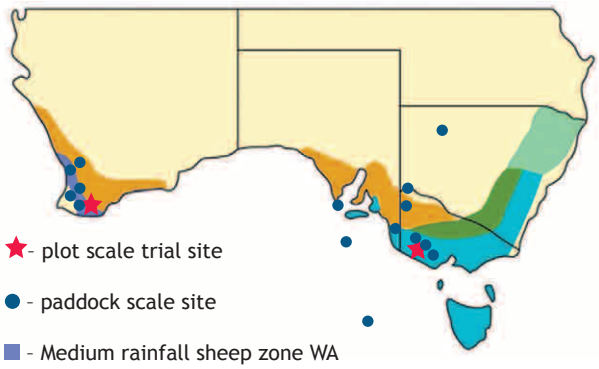
lifetimewool has been a truly national research, development and extension project that has delivered profitable and practical guidelines for managing Merino ewes in the Australian wool industry.

The guidelines developed by lifetimewool are a series of optimum condition score profiles. These are based on robust and sound research and demonstration studies carried out by scientists, wool producers, private consultants and government extension officers. The project was conducted on farms at plot (2), paddock (15) and demonstration (200+) scale, in temperate wool growing areas in five states across southern Australia.



★ - plot scale trial site

● - paddock scale site

■ - Medium rainfall sheep zone WA

■ - Cereal sheep zone

■ - High rainfall zone

■ - Central northern Vic/southern slopes NSW

■ - Northern tablelands sheep zone NSW

The results showed that managing Merino ewes to specific condition score profiles could increase whole farm profit by changing:

- ewe health and survival
- ewe wool production and staple strength
- ewe reproduction
- lamb birth weight and survival
- progeny fleece weight and fibre diameter.

In particular, the project has validated that the effects of ewe nutrition during pregnancy on progeny wool production are permanent for the lifetime of the progeny.

Highlights of the lifetimewool project

The lifetimewool project, through extensive research and demonstration, produced critical new understanding of ewe management and production in southern Australia.

New knowledge from research

The project generated three key points of new knowledge.

- Whole farm profit is sensitive to the changes in ewe condition throughout the year.
- Production from ewes and their progeny can be predicted from knowledge of ewe condition during the breeding cycle.
- Condition scoring is a quick reliable method to measure ewe condition for managing to condition score targets.

The project also confirmed that the effects of ewe nutrition during pregnancy on the progeny are permanent over the lifetime of the progeny.

Better management system

The lifetimewool guidelines developed by the project take the form of optimum condition score profiles, developed for five regions across southern Australia for a number of lambing times and pasture systems.

Economic analysis using the new knowledge quantified the impacts of missing condition score targets at key times – particularly joining and lambing. Economic analysis also identified that contrary to previous recommendations, optimum condition score at lambing is the most important target to achieve, more so than the joining target, from both a production and profitability perspective.

By following the guidelines developed by the project, wool producers potentially could increase their profit from $0.70 to $5.20 per ewe.

Practical outcomes

Working closely with producers at all stages of the project ensured that the guidelines recommended by the modeling were both practical and effective. Grower feedback also led to the development of 'easier to use' tools for feed budgeting, assessment of animal condition and assessment of pasture.

Additionally, working closely with producers enabled the development of the highly effective accredited training program, *Lifetime Ewe Management*, which is currently available across southern Australia, through Rural Industry Skills Training (RIST).

Sound research investment

If 20% of producers achieve a $2.00 per ewe increase in profit by 2015 due to lifetimewool, the project investment will yield:

- an internal rate of return of 68%
- a benefit:cost ratio of 12:1
- a net present value of $11 per dollar invested.

lifetimewool is among the most successful livestock research projects undertaken in Australia.

Project success

The success of the lifetimewool project was demonstrated by the numbers of wool growers who had heard about the lifetimewool management system and changed practice.

By the end of the project in 2008, over 41% of wool producers had heard of lifetimewool; and the project resulted in more than 3000 wool producers changing their ewe management practices between 2005 and 2008.

About 95% of consultants and extension officers surveyed changed their recommendations or validated their current beliefs due to the new knowledge generated by lifetimewool.

"lifetimewool has had a tremendous impact on our business and how we manage our ewes."

David Robertson, Austral Park, Victoria

Putting theory into practice

Producers' experience with lifetimewool

Better ewes improve whole flock productivity

Ian and Michael Walsh of Cranbrook, Western Australia, believe following lifetimewool guidelines lifted their stocking rates on winter grazed pasture.

The Walsh family hosted a demonstration site for the lifetimewool project. Ian was keen to see if by following the guidelines he could manage ewes and pasture to lift whole flock productivity. He believes several changes made because of the project improved their production, including:

- better distribution of available feed for twin bearing ewes and running them in more protected paddocks during lambing
- keeping ewes in peak condition during joining and then allowing a measured decline
- assessing pasture production and allowing grazing after the paddock reaches 700–900 kg DM/ha after the season break.

Ian, Melinda and Mark Walsh believe lifetimewool guidelines have lifted their whole farm productivity. Photo: Farming Ahead

They learnt that it was vital to keep ewes well fed at the end of pregnancy, so as to keep lamb fleece weights higher and fibre diameter lower. They expected their production costs to go up but believed that would be offset by higher productivity and profit.

Several years later, the Walsh family continue to manage their ewe flock based on lifetimewool guidelines. Ian says it requires some discipline but the effort pays off.

Words adapted from an article published in Farming Ahead No. 169.

Maintaining stocking rates in dry seasons

Doug and Lachie Stewart of Kingston, south east South Australia, hosted a paired paddock evaluation of ewes managed according to lifetimewool principles compared with ewes managed as 'normal'.

The demonstration showed that it was possible to manage ewes to achieve target condition scores – even in the harsh lambing conditions of the 2005 winter.

Valuable lessons learned by participating in the project, or confirmation of existing beliefs, were:

- it is more effective to feed small quantities over a long period to maintain condition rather than feed large quantities after condition has slipped
- condition scoring is a more accurate assessment of a sheep's health than weighing
- condition scoring enables supplementary feed requirements to be assessed with precision
- pastures should be managed, through rotational grazing in the Stewarts' case, to ensure feed levels do not fall below 700 kg DM/ha.

The Stewarts increased grain feeding in a dry season, according to lifetimewool guidelines, and lifted lambing rates and improved fleece weight and quality compared with conventionally managed ewes. Photo: Katrina Copping, PIRSA-SARDI

The Stewarts' ewe management practices remain closely aligned to lifetimewool guidelines. They continue with pregnancy scanning and condition scoring (especially after autumn shearing), and manage feed supply according to targets – in an ongoing run of difficult seasons. Lachie has tracked the performance of the progeny from the trial and says they have been proven contributors to their business enterprise over the years.

Words adapted from an article published in Farming Ahead No. 166.

Lifting productivity and profitability

A comprehensive project to get answers

In the 1990s it was believed that running Merino ewes at minimal condition was the most profitable management strategy. However, it was also known from research that restricting nutrition during the ewe's pregnancy could affect the wool production of her progeny but little practical information was available at the time to indicate how great or important these effects would be on farms.

Modeling carried out before the establishment of the lifetimewool experiment indicated that improving ewe nutrition during pregnancy could increase farm profitability by $5000 and $10,000 per flock of 1000 ewes, for early and late lambing flocks respectively. The promise shown for significant productivity and profitability gains by understanding the impact of ewe nutrition on progeny wool value led to the establishment of the lifetimewool project.

The objective of the project was to develop simple and practical ewe management guidelines, based on robust science and economic modeling to optimise lifetime production from ewes and their progeny, in terms of farm profit and animal welfare.

The project sought to answer three key questions.

- What is the impact of ewe nutritional management on production of the progeny?
- What are the critical condition score and feed intake targets for the ewe during the breeding cycle?
- How can critical targets be cost effectively achieved?

The project was comprehensive in that it:

- generated new knowledge through research trials
- tested the knowledge in paddock scale trials and on-farm demonstrations
- conducted economic analysis of the results
- formulated the lifetimewool guidelines by developing region and enterprise specific optimum condition score profiles
- implemented a communication and adoption program to educate producers and their advisors about the guidelines
- surveyed producers to evaluate acceptance and uptake of lifetimewool guidelines, messages and products.

Project history

1999	Sites selected at Kendenup, Western Australia, and Coleraine, Victoria, for research, and a funding proposal submitted to Australian Wool Corporation
2000	Preliminary modeling of the value of the project to the sheep industry conducted. Department of Primary Industries Victoria (DPI Vic) and Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) committed $1 million to establish the project
2001	Plot scale research sites established and a full proposal for a seven-year project submitted to Australian Wool Innovation
2002	DPI Vic and DAFWA committed to the research phase
2003	Funding of $6.7 million received from AWI for research, extension and evaluation. Paddock scale work commenced across five states
2004	Demonstration phase commenced
2006	Economic modeling, tool development and adoption phase commenced
2008	Project activities completed and final review held with major funders (AWI, DPI Vic and DAFWA)

Understanding the full impact of ewe nutrition

Plot scale research (2001-2003)

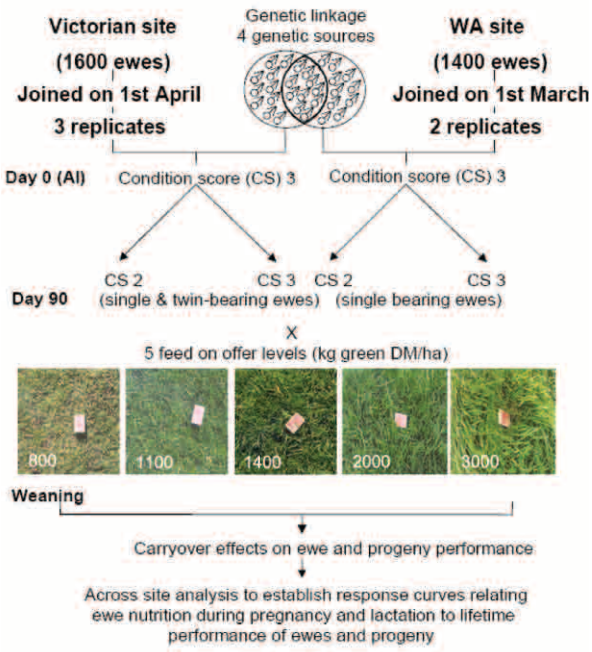
Two research sites were established as the first stage of the project: one site at *Austral Park* near Coleraine in Victoria and the other at *Billandri* near Kendenup in Western Australia. Research was undertaken from 2001 to 2003.

A detailed experiment was designed to enable scientists to understand the effect of ewe nutrition during pregnancy and lactation on the lifetime performance of the progeny. This understanding could then be used to predict effects across different genotypes and environments.

The plot scale research validated existing knowledge and provided new data on production responses to ewe nutrition during different stages of the reproductive cycle. The knowledge gained made it possible to predict responses to ewe nutrition for:

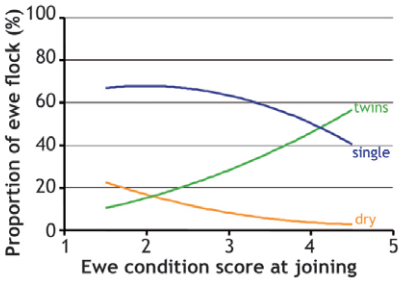
- reproductive rates of the ewe
- ewe mortality at lambing
- ewe wool production
- lamb birth weight and survival
- weaner growth and survival
- progeny clean fleece weight and fibre diameter over their lifetime.

This knowledge subsequently enables a better understanding of the impact of changes to feeding systems.

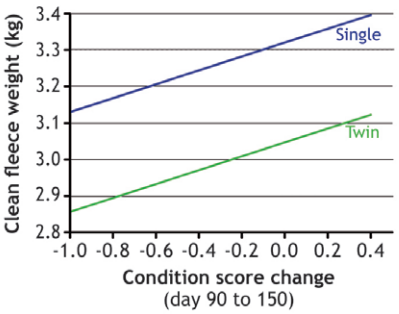


The design of the research trial is shown in this diagram. A large mob of ewes at each site was joined at condition score 3.0 and split into two or three groups so results were replicated. Each group was managed so that at day 90 of the breeding cycle, ewes were at condition score 2.0 or 3.0. Each group was further split into five sub groups based on feed levels, ranging from 800 to 3000 kg green DM/ha.

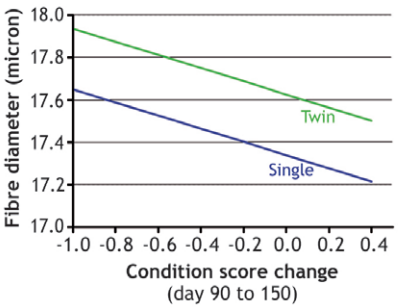
The effect of ewe condition at joining on the proportion of dry, single and twin bearers



The effect of changes in condition score in late pregnancy on progeny clean fleece weight



The effect of changes in condition score in late pregnancy on progeny fibre diameter



A series of relationships between ewe nutrition (as measured by condition score) and ewe production, progeny survival and progeny production were established by the plot scale research. For most ewe and progeny traits the effects of nutrition in early pregnancy and late pregnancy were similar. Therefore the effects of any loss of condition in early pregnancy are overcome by good nutrition in late pregnancy.

Testing the science in the paddock

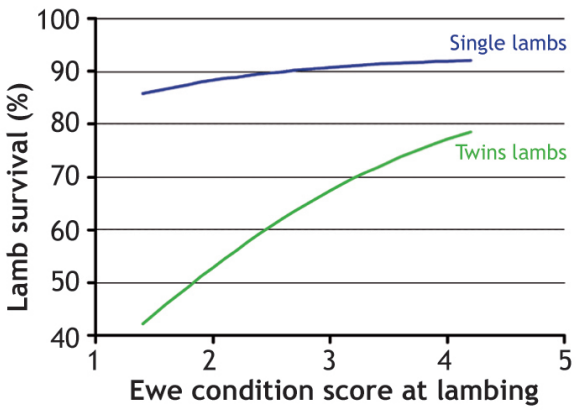
Paddock scale research (2003-2005)

Paddock scale research sites were established with the cooperation of wool producers across Victoria, Western Australia, New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania. Results from 15 sites enabled the project to validate on a large scale the effects of ewe nutrition during pregnancy on progeny.

At each site, 1000 Merino ewes were joined, at average condition score 3.0, in a single flock. The ewes were then split into two groups (treatments) receiving either high or low nutrition during pregnancy and lactation. All single and twin bearing ewes and their progeny were identified and the wool value produced by the ewes and progeny was measured. In the subsequent year, the reproductive performance of the ewes was measured and wool production and quality of all progeny for each flock was measured.

The paddock scale experiments confirmed the plot scale results of the effects of ewe nutrition on progeny survival, fibre diameter and fleece weight. Additionally, the paddock scale work provided more detail on survival of single and twins as affected by ewe nutrition. This work gave useful insight into the practicalities of managing ewes to set nutritional targets for a range of environments.

The relationship between ewe condition at lambing and lamb survival



In the paddock scale research, the effect of ewe condition score at lambing on both single and twin lamb survival was particularly evident at sites in more severe weather environments such as western Victoria.

"Fantastic research - very practical and helpful on the ground to farmers."

Survey respondent

Testing the science with producers

Demonstration phase (2004-2005)

The recommendations that arose from the detailed research work were tested on farm with the cooperation of more than 200 sheep producers across southern Australia.

Victoria

Fourteen groups of four producers across western Victoria monitored a flock of ewes on each member's farm, averaging 500 ewes per flock. The group visited each property on five occasions throughout a year and conducted assessments on pasture, condition score of ewes and feed budgeting. The format of this demonstration program evolved into the short course training program *Lifetime Ewe Management*.

Western Australia

On four focus farms spread across the south west corner of the state, the host producer managed a flock to their normal practice or the recommended lifetimewool profile. Associated with each focus farm, six neighbours also monitored their pasture and the condition of a flock of sheep. Each of the four groups met at their 'focus farm' to discuss the implications for their own flocks at least five times during the year. Combined, over 12,000 ewes were monitored in this demonstration.

"By following the data and recommendations we have in one season been able to lift our performance by an average of 25% or 4000 lambs."

Gordon Dickinson,
Nareen Station, Victoria

South Australia

A demonstration farm at Kingston SE was used as a focus for activities for a group of 15 sheep producers who observed the results of management using the lifetimewool recommendations. Twenty five flocks were managed to targets.

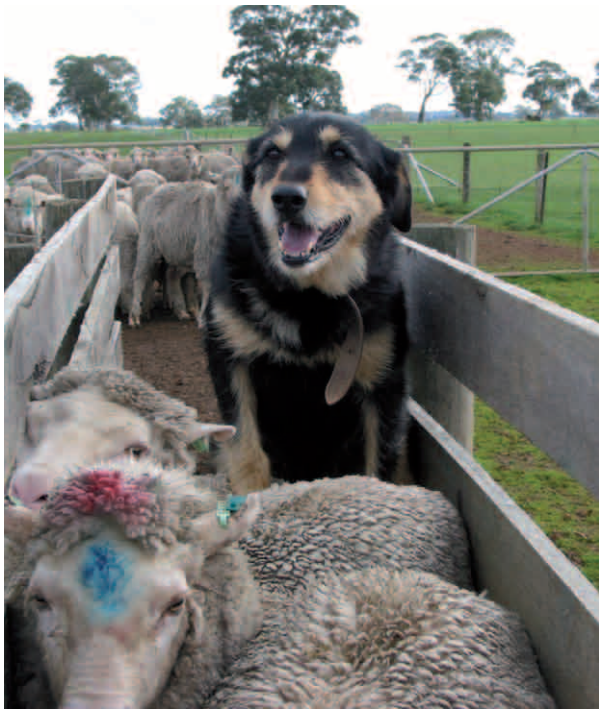
New South Wales

A similar approach to South Australia was used, based around three demonstration farms at Wagga Wagga, Parkes and Armidale.

Outcomes of the demonstration phase

The observations of the producers involved in the demonstration phase were incorporated into a review of the lifetimewool key messages and recommendations.

In addition, prototype decision tools and information products were tested by these producers and their feedback was used to determine the final design of the tools and products, to ensure maximum usefulness to wool producers across the industry.



Is there money in the science?

Economic modeling of lifetimewool results (2006)

Economic modeling showed that adoption of the lifetimewool guidelines could:

- increase farm profit from $1500 to $38,000 (depending on a range of variables such as time of lambing and pasture system)
- or more generally, add an average profit, across all production environments, of $2.00 per ewe to a wool production business.

The profitability of the condition score profiles was robust across regions, within a similar time of lambing and were relatively unaffected by wool price, premium for fibre diameter, meat price, grain price and stocking rate.

The new information on the impact of nutrition of the ewe during pregnancy on lamb survival and wool production has a large impact on the shape of the optimum management profile.

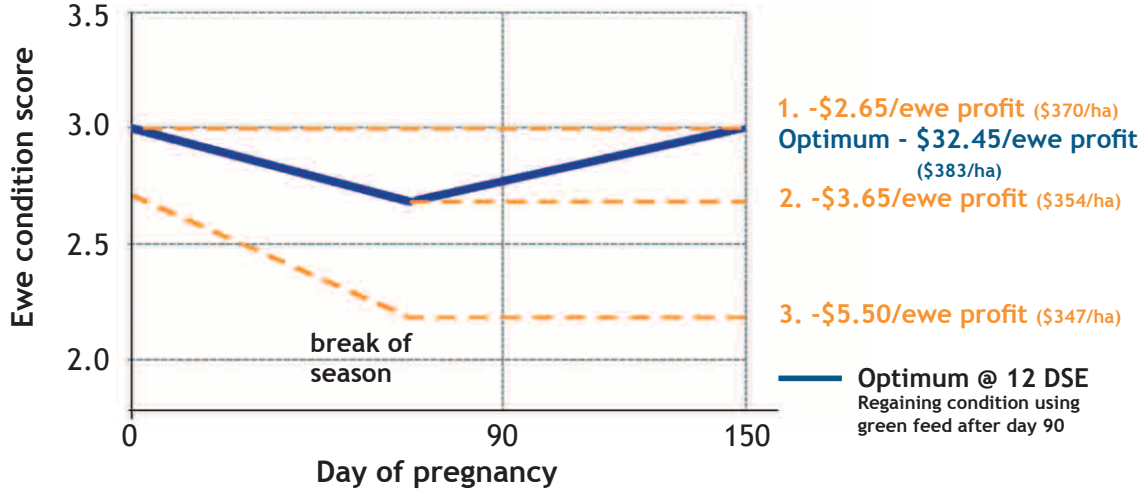
This new information meant that in the past, economic analysis which led producers to run ewes thinner over pregnancy because feeding did not pay was incorrect. In fact, having ewes in good condition and, most importantly, regaining any lost condition on green feed in late pregnancy increases production and profit.

The economic modeling showed the impact of different condition score scenarios on whole farm profit for typical farms in different zones of Australia (see example below).

"A shift of emphasis in nutrition of Merino ewes from "just enough" to good is long overdue, mainly for sheep welfare, health and survival reasons. The economic benefits are a bonus."

Survey respondent

Profitability of the optimum condition score profile compared with other condition profiles (for spring lambing Merino ewes in the high rainfall zone)



Economic analysis of the lifetimewool research enabled profitability to be assigned to different condition score profiles. The diagram above shows that for a spring lambing enterprise in the high rainfall zone, by following the optimum condition score profile, a profit of $32.45/ewe is possible. Variations of that optimum profile will reduce profit. For example, allowing ewes to lose condition after joining and not regain condition by lambing (profile 2) will reduce profit by $3.65/ewe, primarily through reduced lamb survival, and less wool production and poorer wool quality over the lifetime of the progeny.

Making the knowledge useful and practical

Development of guidelines for producers (2007)

The development of simple and practical ewe management guidelines was the objective of the lifetimewool project.

The knowledge and data from the field research and economic modeling led to the development of a series of optimum condition score profiles accommodating five different wool production zones and different lambing times within those zones.

These profiles or guidelines provide strategic, year in, year out targets for ewe management. The targets are slightly different for each zone and time of lambing but the key principles are the same.

Lambing on green feed

- Aim for condition score 3.0 at joining.
- Allow moderate condition loss (0.3 CS) from joining to day 90, provided the condition can be regained prior to lambing on green feed.

Lambing on dry feed

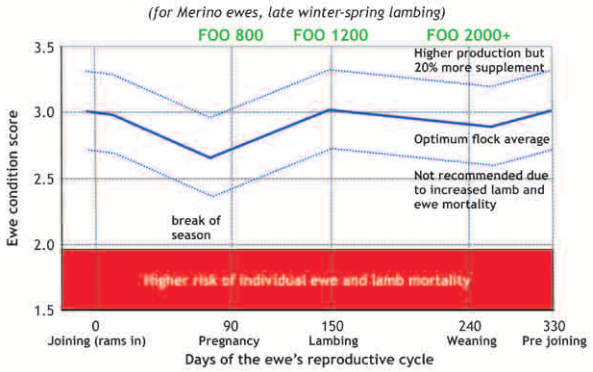
- Aim for condition score 3.0 at joining.
- Maintain or allow moderate loss in condition from joining to day 90.
- Maintain condition from day 90 to lambing.

The condition score profiles provide wool producers with clear guidelines for condition score during the year of a breeding ewe. In turn, the profiles help wool producers allocate feed resources in order to optimise stocking rate, production and lifetime performance of progeny, across a range of environments, seasons and market returns. By achieving these targets it is possible for producers to achieve greater productivity and profitability from their ewe flocks.

The series of condition score profiles is found on the lifetimewool website.

Go to: www.lifetimewool.com.au

Optimum condition score profile



An example of an optimum condition score profile for the high rainfall zone, for a late July lambing system.

Key points of new knowledge

- Whole farm profit is sensitive to the changes in ewe condition throughout the year.
- Production from ewes and their progeny can be predicted from knowledge of ewe condition during the breeding cycle.
- Condition scoring is a quick reliable method to measure ewe condition for managing to condition score targets.

Key messages that describe the practical aspects of the new knowledge were developed by the project. They are as follows.

- Ewes in better condition at joining conceive more lambs.
- Ewes in better condition at lambing will have lower mortality than ewes in poorer condition, especially twin bearing ewes.
- Better management of twin bearing ewes will increase lamb survival and lamb wool production.
- Lamb survival can be predicted from changes in condition score of ewes between joining and lambing; however the response is modified by environmental conditions at lambing.
- Improved ewe condition in pregnancy increases progeny clean fleece weight by up to 0.2 kg and decreases fibre diameter by up to 0.4 µm.
- The effects on progeny wool quantity and quality are permanent for the lifetime of the progeny and are independent of birth type and sire source.

Spreading the word

Communication & adoption of lifetimewool (2006-2008)

Communication and adoption was a critical component of the lifetimewool project. Firstly to present the lifetimewool guidelines to growers and create interest in the new knowledge, and secondly to develop programs, materials and opportunities to assist growers adopt lifetimewool practices on their farms.

The communication component of the program used a diverse range of strategies to develop awareness and facilitate adoption of the lifetimewool messages and recommendations among growers and advisors, including:

- brand and identity development
- media articles, radio segments and displays for regional field days and seminars
- links established between project and sheep producer groups and networks
- website development to store technical information and management tools.

The adoption component of the program focused on three main areas. Firstly, consultants and extension officers were involved and trained so they were kept up to date with project developments, and provided with tools and training to distribute lifetimewool messages to their clients. Secondly, lifetimewool information and materials were integrated into existing resources, such as the publications *Making More from Sheep* and *Feeding Sheep in Dry Times*, the Prograze program in New South Wales and Victoria, and university training packs and lecture notes (eg Marcus Oldham FMC, AACC Longreach, Western Australia and Victoria TAFE, and Charles Sturt University, University of Western Australia, and Murdoch and Curtin universities). Thirdly, highly valued tools and products were developed for producers.

A series of workshops, reviewing best practice and testing proposed messages, was conducted to ensure the lifetimewool guidelines would be effective, specific and practical for wool producers in southern Australia.

A comprehensive evaluation of the project was conducted (pages 12 &13) and the success of the communication and adoption program was attributed to:

- recommendations that were practical, effective, specific and credible
- high quality tools to assist adoption of knowledge
- brand identity of the project
- value imparted by project collaborators
- working with consultants and extension officers to assist adoption
- a dedicated website to back up information.

How is lifetimewool rated by the industry?

Project evaluation (2005-2008)

Generating new knowledge through research and producing a series of extension publications and tools is only part of a good project. Project success ultimately depends on the *uptake* of the new knowledge and *use* of the extension material resulting in changed practices and improved profitability and productivity.

Measuring change

To determine the impact of the lifetimewool project, 1300 wool producers (representing 5% of wool producers nationally) were surveyed on two occasions.

In 2005, the pasture and ewe management practices of the wool producers were established, as well as their awareness, beliefs and willingness to change.

In 2008, the group was surveyed again to determine the influence of the lifetimewool project.

80% of the producers surveyed agreed with lifetimewool messages that ewe condition has an effect on farm profit, conception rate, lamb birth weight and survival, ewe wool production, lamb wool production and ewe mortality.

There was agreement, but to a lesser extent, with other messages.

65% agreed with the effect of ewe condition during pregnancy on progeny wool production is for life.

47% agreed that condition scoring was necessary to accurately assess ewe condition.

28% believed progeny wool fibre diameter can be decreased by good ewe condition.

64% of producers surveyed in 2008 had changed their practices in the last five years.

12% of producers surveyed said that within three years they made changes because of information received from lifetimewool. This represents a management change for 7.7 million ewes, nationally.

The profile of a lifetimewool manager

The 12% of producers who changed due to lifetimewool on average managed larger ewe flocks (2495 ewes), were more likely to pay for advice, and were more likely to belong to a producer group.

These producers showed a greater willingness to:

- monitor ewes
- feed budget
- assess feed budgets
- separate twin and single bearing ewes
- separate mobs and manage to different nutritional requirements.

The producers who had made changes due to lifetimewool agreed more strongly with key lifetimewool messages, than other producers, that:

- the effect of ewe condition on progeny wool production is for the lifetime of the progeny
- condition score must be assessed to accurately assess ewe condition.

Change in farmer advisers

Project success was also measured by the change in attitude, aspirations and practices of consultants and extension officers. This group was surveyed in 2006 and again in 2008.

The 2006 survey served to set a benchmark of awareness, beliefs and willingness to promote change. The 2008 survey served to gauge the success of using consultants and extension officers as a conduit.

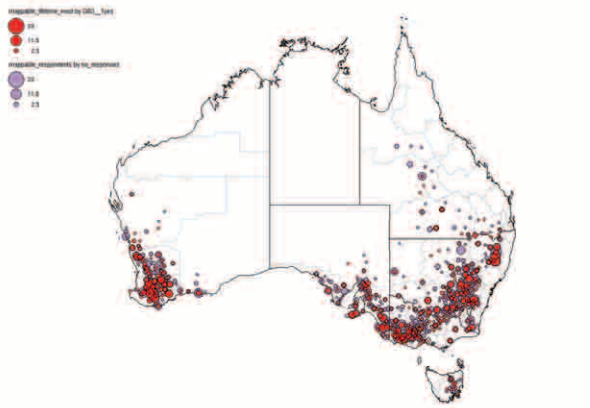
The 80 or so respondents to the survey service 2800 clients across five states and three farming systems (Merino wool production, crop and sheep production, and prime lamb production).

Of the group surveyed, 95% changed their recommendations or had their recommendations validated by the lifetimewool guidelines. Of this group, 71% had clients who subsequently changed their practices according to lifetimewool guidelines.

The key areas of practice change were:

- pregnancy scanning
- differential management of ewes
- pasture assessment
- condition scoring.

85% of respondents agreed with the key new knowledge generated by the project and 65% agreed with all messages consolidated by the lifetimewool project.



This map shows the distribution of the 41% of sheep producers who had heard about the lifetimewool project (red dots) as compared to the total survey population (purple dots). The survey was conducted in 2008 at the completion of the project.

The impact of lifetimewool

The surveys conducted as part of the evaluation process show that:

- more than 3000 wool producers changed their practices in less than three years
- more producers will change with time, given their willingness to change and strong agreement with lifetimewool messages
- 95% of consultants and extension officers changed their recommendations or validated their current beliefs due to lifetimewool knowledge.

These results give resounding evidence that the project achieved its objectives.

"This has been a marvellous success in terms of wool grower $ investment in R&D."

Consultant

Putting theory into practice

Producers' experience with lifetimewool

More production & better flock fertility

lifetimewool has been an integral part of managing a high fertility Merino ewe flock for Charles and Liz de Fegely of Ararat in Victoria. Participation in the lifetimewool demonstration phase showed that their sheep production rates could be improved.

The key benefits of lifetimewool to their business were:

- lifting the average condition score of their flock from 2.3–3.0 to over 3.0
- lifting weaning percentages by 30%
- producing an extra 3–4 lambs per hectare
- reducing supplementary feeding by 30–50%
- better control over their sheep production enterprise.

The key management factors to achieve this were:

- condition scoring 30–50 ewes per flock, at least five times a year
- drafting and managing ewes in mobs according to condition score
- manipulating stocking rates, grazing management and supplementary feed to meet the needs of different groups of ewes.

Liz de Fegely assessing condition score, as part of a strategy to maintain ewes in condition score 3.0 throughout the breeding season. Photo: Farming Ahead

Over the last four years management of their flock has become more specific and targeted. Key times for condition scoring are from weaning to joining, because of the impact of ewe condition score at joining on conception rates; and pre-lambing when ewe condition is critical to lamb survival. The whole flock is individually tagged, and after lambing, light sheep are drafted from the main mob – light ewes that have had twins will receive more feed and light single bearing ewes will be removed from the breeding flock. Understanding the performance of each ewe provides valuable information for the selection process.

Words adapted from an article published in Farming Ahead No. 168.

Lifetime Ewe Management program for producers

Putting lifetimewool guidelines to the test in Victoria, during the demonstration phase of the project, led to the development of the Lifetime Ewe Management program with Rural Industries Skills Training (RIST).

The program provides training for wool producers to develop skills in pasture and stock assessment, to implement feed budgets and manage stock according to the lifetimewool guidelines. Over 300 producers have completed the program in Victoria, and on average they claim to have increased weaning rates by 10% and reduced ewe mortality by 50%, while maintaining or increasing stocking rates.

The program was introduced to Western Australia in 2008. Steve Thompson of Newdegate joined up, keen to lift his weaning percentages. Steve believes the course has taught him to better manage the challenge of having enough feed for his winter lambing ewes throughout their breeding cycle, as 70% of the farm is dedicated to cropping. Steve uses stubble and supplementary feed to ensure ewe condition remains above 2.5 and then lifts condition to 2.7–2.8 by lambing, using green feed.

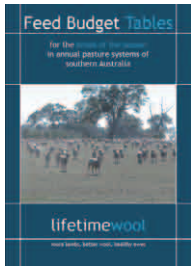
The Lifetime Ewe Management program has helped Steve Thompson develop skills to better manage his breeding ewes and lift weaning percentages. Photo: Department of Agriculture and Food, WA

Words adapted from an article published in Farming Ahead No. 198.

lifetimewool tools and products for producers

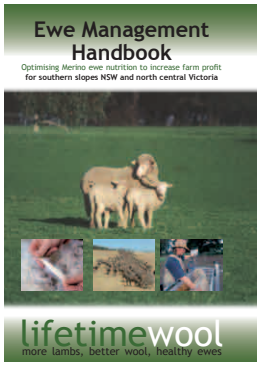
A grand total of 34,500 of lifetimewool publications and tools have been delivered to wool producers in southern Australia. The products have been a significant component of the success of lifetimewool.

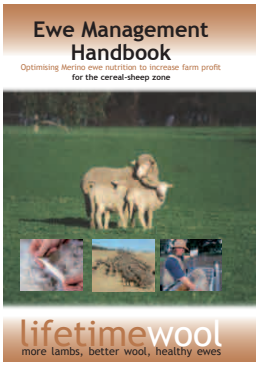
Feed Budget Tables for dry feed, break of season and green feed

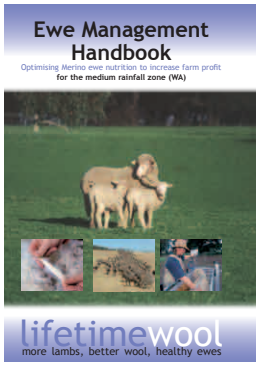


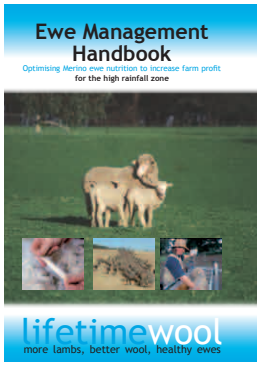
Feed on Offer photo gallery for mixed and annual pastures

Ewe Management Handbooks for four wool production zones



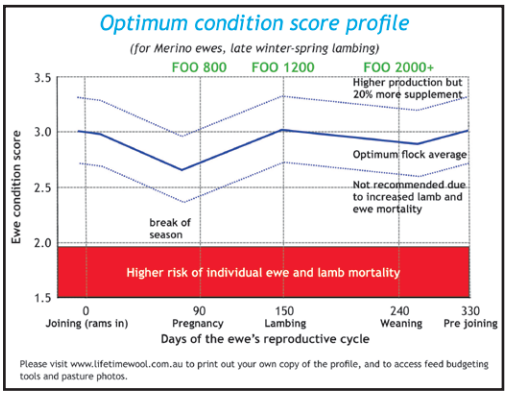






Condition score worksheets & models

Downloadable optimum condition score profiles for five wool production zones



Visit the lifetimewool website to download or order these documents.

lifetimewool.com.au

Lifetime Ewe Management – farmer training

Working closely with producers throughout the lifetimewool project enabled the development of the highly effective training program, Lifetime Ewe Management. The accredited training program delivered by Rural Industry Skills Training (RIST) has been running in Victoria since 2007, with the support of the Sheep CRC and the Farm Ready program. The program is now available across southern Australia.

This program has been phenomenally successful with participants citing big changes in weaning rates and reduced ewe mortality by 50%, while maintaining or increasing stocking rates.

The course is recognised by Farm Ready and is nationally accredited. The program runs over six sessions and is delivered to small groups of five to maximise learning and interaction between producers.

All sessions are conducted on a group member's farm, using their sheep, and sessions are delivered by leading industry experts. A 'hands on' approach with a focus on condition scoring, pasture assessment and feed budgeting ensures that the outcomes are practical and applicable to wool producing businesses.

Rural Industry Skills Training (RIST) T: 03 5573 0972 E: ristvic@rist.com.au

Who to talk to and where to go for more information

Visit the lifetimewool website for lots of information, the full set of lifetimewool guidelines, downloads of the popular tools and contacts for further details

www.lifetimewool.com.au

awi Australian Wool Innovation Limited

Government of Western Australia Department of Agriculture and Food

State Government Victoria Department of Primary Industries

CSIRO Tasmania Explore the possibilities Government of South Australia SARDI South Australian Research and Development Institute NSW Government Industry & Investment

The project was a nationwide cooperative effort of many industry and government organisations