lifetimewool

## Managing twinning ewes for higher production

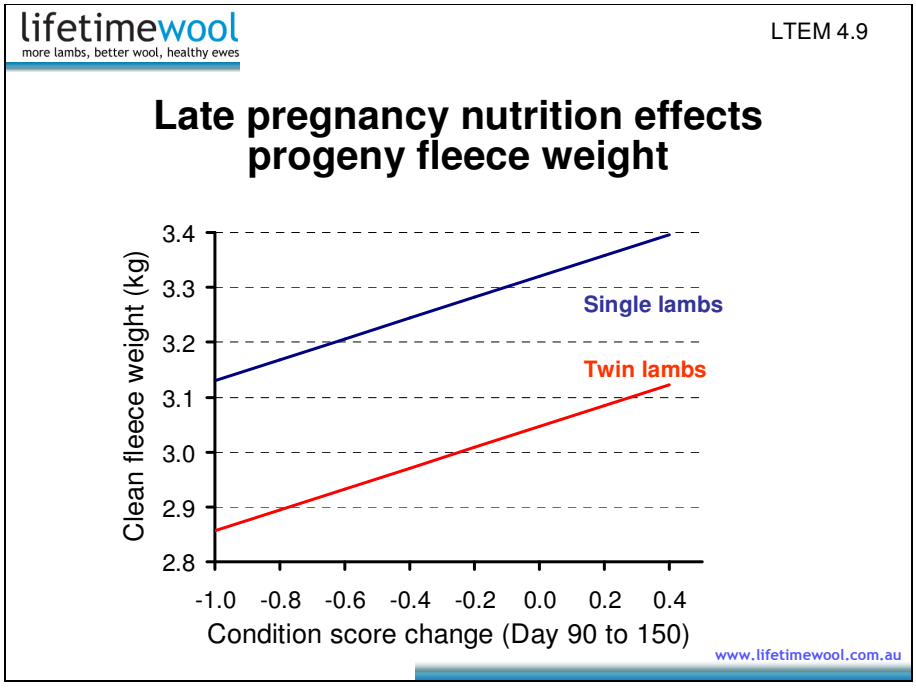
How much extra effort you spend on managing twins will depend on your objectives and what proportion of the flock are twinners.

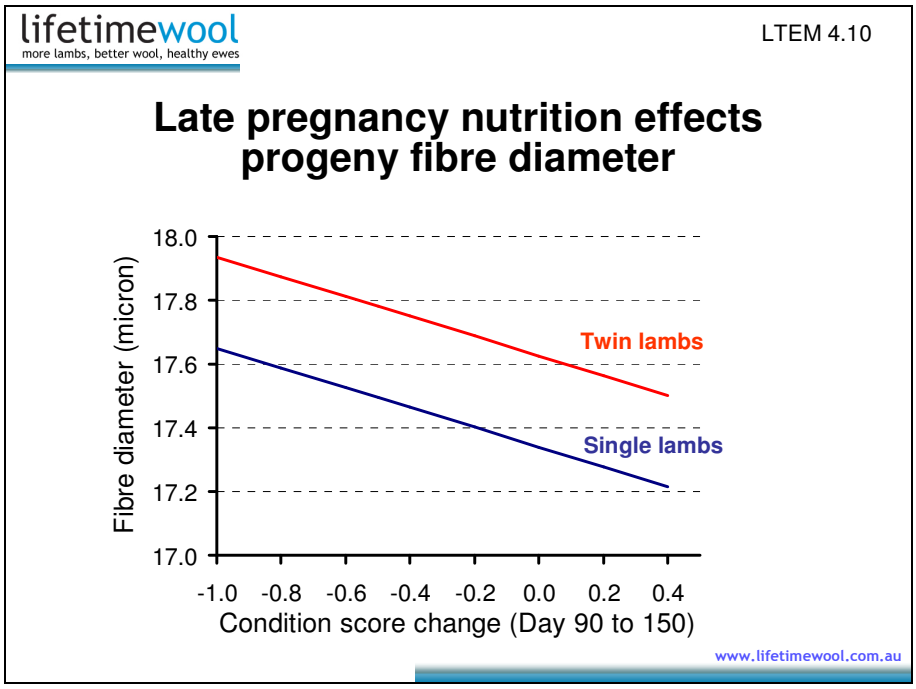
Twinning rate is dependant on condition of the ewe at joining (and flocks have different responses). Better condition means higher proportion of twinners (up to 45 extra foetuses per 100 ewes with each condition score increase).

Once ewes are identified with twins, there are good opportunities to manage them for higher production (survival, birth weight and wool production). Selective feeding twin ewes over single ewes may mean no increase in total feeding for the flock but significant increases in production.

**Effect on Progeny Wool Production**

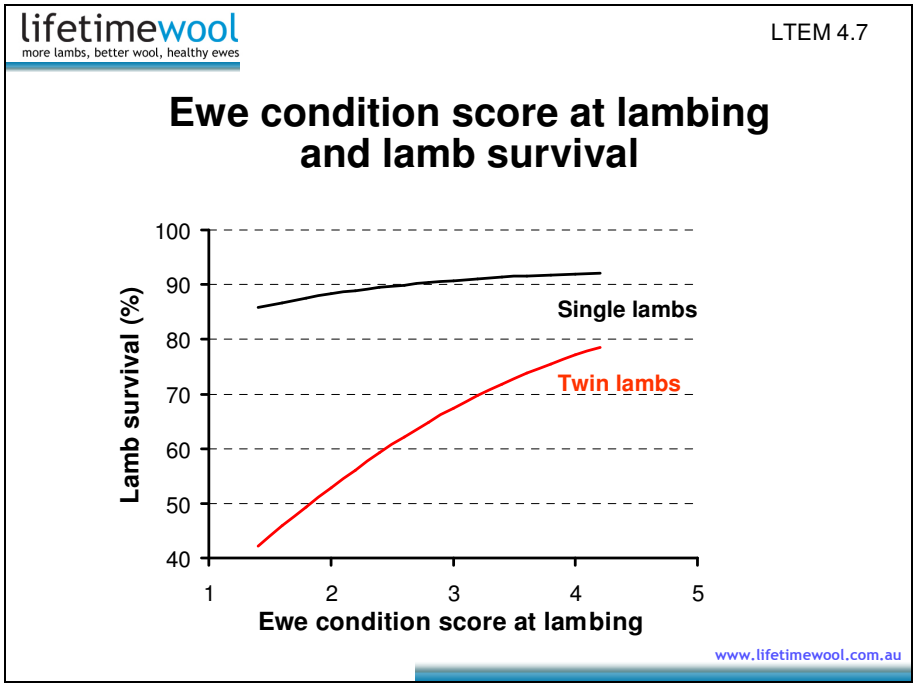
Good ewe condition by lambing impacts on twin lamb wool production by increasing CFW by up to 0.3kg and decreasing fibre diameter by 0.15µm. Twin bearing ewes will always produce progeny who have less wool and are broader, however, there is an opportunity to minimise this if twin bearing ewes have been identified and managed differently (LTEM 4.9 and 4.10).






**Effect on Lamb and Ewe Survival**

Twin ewes are more prone to higher mortality at lambing, particularly when conditions are poor or the ewes are older and twin lambs generally have poorer survival and lower birth weights. Improving condition of the ewe prior to lambing has a large impact on twin survival with increases of up to 20% per condition score (LTEM 4.7).



## Guidelines

General

- Twin ewes should be at least 2.7 CS, preferably 3.2 CS by lambing
- Any ewe < CS2 should be removed from the mob and managed separately
- Provide adequate intake and maintain good condition prior to lambing to avoid pregnancy toxaemia
- Provide pasture to meet targets for twin bearing ewes and good shelter. Twin lamb survival is very affected by poor weather.
- If there is no opportunity to gain condition in late pregnancy on green pasture then maintain ewe condition throughout all of pregnancy

At pregnancy scanning (day 90)

- If ewes are < CS 2.7, twinners require 1000 FOO of good quality green feed to allow good gains prior to lambing. If no green feed available, maintain CS through supplementation
- If ewes are > CS 2.7, twinners require 900 FOO to have a small gain by lambing.
- If < CS 2.5 then supplementary feed to gain condition to 2.5 CS by lambing

By lambing

- Separate twinners from singles, allowing twinners to have the most sheltered paddock and >1800 FOO. If no green feed then ensure 25MJ/h/d to maintain over peak lactation
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