



Advantage Feeders



SAME WEIGHT GAIN ON 45% LESS FEED



ADVANTAGE FEEDERS MOB \$17.02 PER HEAD HIGHER PROFIT

An on-farm trial found that a mob of lambs grazing a stubble crop and supplemented feed ad-lib, **compared to lambs in a feed lot, grew faster with lower feed and labour inputs.**

RESULTS

The two mobs had similar weight gain.

The Lot-fed mob grew at 286g/day while the stubble supplement mob grew at 295g/day.

The big difference was the supplement consumed. The Lot-fed mob consumed 2.04kg/head/day while the Stubble supplement mob only consumed 1.11kg/head/day – 45% less supplement.

Other benefits:

- Less labour. The Lot fed mob required two vaccinations and required their feeders to be filled approximately twice as often at the stubble supplement mob.
- There were no stock losses in the stubble supplement mob while 3% of lambs died in the lot-fed mob.

TRIAL OUTLINE

- Duration:** 60 days
- Quantity:** 270 in each group
- Stock:** 5mth 2nd cross lambs

Stubble supplement mob:

- Adlib barley seconds (approx. 0.5kg/day)
- Adlib lentil seconds (approx. 0.5kg/day)
- Ad-lib stubble pasture (0.55Ha/lamb)

Lot feeding mob:

- Adlib barley seconds (approx. 0.5kg/day)
- Adlib lentil seconds (approx. 1.0kg/day)
- Adlib oats/medic hay (approx. 0.5kg/day)



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RECALCULATING WITH NORMAL INPUTS:

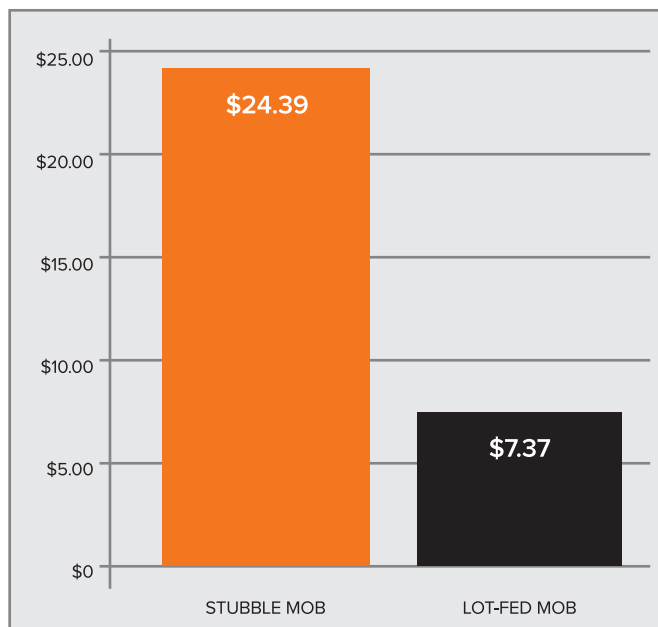
The trial utilised cost effective feeds (barley and lentil seconds, screened out of the harvested samples) unavailable to most enterprises. Between the start and end of the trial, lamb value decreased from approx. \$2.70/kg liveweight to \$2.55/kg. It is common for the liveweight value to increase approximately \$0.10/kg/month.

If the trial was conducted with the following inputs:

- Finishing value of \$2.90/kg liveweight,
- Barley valued at \$250/tonne,
- Beans substituted for lentils at \$400/tonne; and
- 10% less barley and beans consumed to account for the lower energy content of the seconds used;

profit would increase to \$15.30/head for the lot-fed mob and \$35.13/head for the stubble supplement mob

Comparison of profit per finished lamb



ABOUT THE TRIAL OPERATORS

Tim and Paul Petering operate a mixed farming enterprise, with their main focus on cereal production. They complement this by running 900 ewes, thus increasing diversification and profitability while reducing chemical costs and spilt/lost grain from harvest operations.

COMMENTS FROM THE TRIAL OPERATORS

On the 13/1/15 (one week before the trial commenced), 60mm of rain fell and this germinated self-sown barley in a 140 Ha paddock. Half way through the trial, this germinated feed had "hayed" off.

The lambs that made up the Stubble supplement mob were considered the "poorer" doers because they had the lower growth rates before the trial commenced.

Tim Petering, Murtoa, VIC

Income, expenditure and profit

	Stubble mob	Lot-fed mob
Feeding duration (days)	64	59
Number at start	256	291
Avg. starting weight (kg)	40.6	47.8
Avg. value on 20/1/15 (\$2.70kg LW)	\$109.62	\$129.06
Total starting value	\$28,062.72	\$37,556.46
Number at finish	256	282
Avg. finishing weight (kg)	59.5	64.7
Avg. value on 20/3/15 (\$2.55kg LW)	\$151.73	\$164.99
Total finishing value	\$38,841.60	\$46,525.77
TOTAL ADDED VALUE	\$10,778.88	\$8,969.31
Barley seconds consumed (kg)	9200	11380
Lentil seconds consumed (kg)	9000	15650
Oats/medic hay consumed (kg)	0	6840
Barley cost (\$150t)	\$1,380.00	\$1,707.00
Lentil cost (\$150t)	\$1,350.00	\$2,347.50
Oats/medic hay cost (\$180t)	\$ 0.00	\$1,231.20
Grazing cost (\$0.50/head/week)	\$1,152.00	\$ 0.00
Salt and Lime	\$ 0.00	\$189.66
2x 6in1 vaccinations	\$ 0.00	\$127.60
Total feed weight (kg)	18200	33870
Feeding cost (\$30/tonne)	\$546.00	\$1,016.10
Labour input (hrs)	2	10
Labour cost (\$40/hr)	\$80.00	\$400.00
Depreciation cost *	\$280.20	\$475.95
Total feeding cost	\$4,534.00	\$6,891.46
PROFIT	\$6,244.88	\$2,077.85
PROFIT/finished lamb	\$24.39	\$7.37

*This is calculated by multiplying the depreciation rate of 15% by the investment of 2x NGF1800 feeders and 2x Sliding Gates Hay Feeders for the Lot-fed mob and 2x NGF1800 feeders for the Supplement mob. This also assumes that this application of feeders accounts for 50% of their use throughout the whole year.