



Advantage Feeders



GRAIN FEEDING LIFTS LAMBING PERFORMANCE



PROFIT INCREASED
\$18,600
FROM 2000 EWES
IN ONE YEAR

An on-farm trial found that ewes supplemented with Advantage Feeders for several years, **produced significantly more lambs** than those that were trail-fed their supplement.

RESULTS

Following the introduction of Advantage Feeders' supplementary feeding system, weaning rates increased by 24% and 27% compared to the prior decade average.

Other benefits included:

- Ewes were also cutting an average half a kilo more wool with better staple strength
- Lambs were weaned in better condition, increasing their production and survival rate
- Rearing more lambs from better quality ewes, has allowed them to run more wethers boosting wool production and also improving the barrier with older stock, protecting the lambs from predators.

We can now breed our flock replacements from about 3000 ewes instead of 5000 – increasing the speed of genetic gains within the flock.

TRIAL OUTLINE

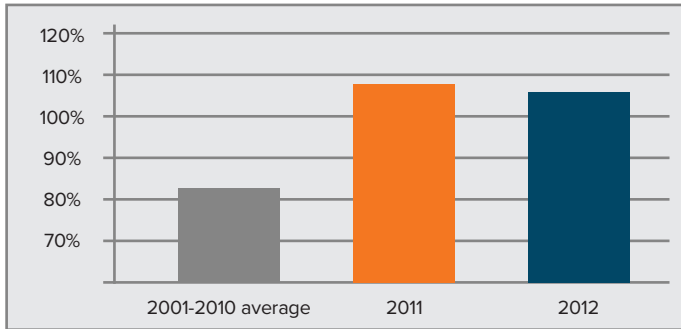
- Duration:** 107 days
- Quantity:** Approx. 220 in each mob
- Ewe age:** 2½ yo
- Mating period:** 15/2/15 to 29/3/15
- Scanning date:** 21/5/15
- Duration:** 135 days each year
- Quantity:** Approx. 2350 ewes
- Stock type:** Merino ewes
- Feed:** 250g/day of corn for single-bearing ewes
400g/day of corn for twin-bearing ewes





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Weaning rates



Results from 2012

Days of feeding	135
Feed quantity (kg/day)	0.3
Corn cost (tonne)	\$ 300.00
Feed expense/head	\$ 12.15
Depreciation/ewe*	\$ 1.28
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 13.43
Added weaning rate	24%
Weaner value	\$ 75.00
Increased weaner value	\$ 18.00
Increased wool production (kg)	0.5
Price of wool (kg)	\$ 6.00
Increased wool income	\$ 3.00
TOTAL INCOME**	\$ 21.00
PROFIT/HEAD	\$ 7.57

* This assumes that the feeder is only used for this sole purpose throughout the year.

** This doesn't include the benefits of increased wool sample strength, increased weaner survival and performance, increased numbers of wool producing wethers and the increase in pace of genetic gains within the flock.



ABOUT THE TRIAL OPERATORS

Pat and Sue Hegarty along with their children James and Emma, operate the 13,365Ha grazing property 'Colanya', 140km west of Longreach, QLD. It supports 9000 sheep.

They established the Colanya Poll Merino SRS Stud in 2011, the northern most Merino Stud in Australia.

COMMENTS FROM THE TRIAL OPERATOR:

"We had been pregnancy testing for ten years and we knew we were getting consistent conception rates around 95 percent. But it wasn't translating into live lambs."

Pat said wild dogs were a serious issue, but after his grain feeding experience, he now ranks nutritional influence around 70 percent and predation 30 percent.

When we attempted to trail feed, the flock would panic to get to the feed resulting in serious lamb mis-mothering and a lot of grain was trampled into the dirt.

Our investment in equipment has been about \$50,000 which will last for years and pay for itself many times over,"

Pat Hegarty