

EASY DOING MERINOS



NEIL WILLIAMS | “Boyd” FORBES 2871

Ph 02 6853 1121 | Mob 0404 247 357

www.easydoingmerinos.com.au

Are your Merinos becoming too wrinkly? Unfortunately these sheep lose condition too readily when digestability decreases. A huge feeding cost, feed and labour, is required to correct this weight loss. In the cattle industry hard doing steers are removed from the feedlot ASAP. In the sheep industry hard doing sheep are retained. This is the problem.

Do you jet your merinos? This is another cost. (\$2.75 + labour)

Wrinkly sheep have many less lambs than the merino is capable of rearing. National average is 80%.

Do your merinos get body strike? Another cost (chemical, labour & maybe loss of sheep).

Do your older sheep suffer micron blowout? Another cost.

These sheep are more costly to shear because shearing takes longer. Unfortunately when young sheep have their wrinkles "tipped" at shearing bush flies can chase them around the paddock all day, causing weight loss. There can be green feed in the paddock but the lambs are losing weight. Another cost.

When greasy woolled sheep suffer heat stress they lose weight. The energy wasted to maintain body weight has to be replaced with a high energy feed. Another cost.

Do you mules your merinos?

Excessive feed costs, lamb losses, labour costs, time wasted, chemical use, etc., result in a very high cost of production.

THE MODERN MERINO

(Plain Bodied)

Maintains condition much better because of superior muscle and fat reserves and plain skin.

No body jetting.

Lambing 110 - 140+ %

Nil body strike

No micron blowout

Cheaper to shear

No heat stress

No mulesing

Reduced feed costs, lamb losses, labour costs, time wasted, chemical use, etc., result in a very low cost of production.

To attract young people to our industry we need to reduce chemical use, fly blown sheep, feeding and mulesing.

The MODERN MERINO addresses every animal welfare issue.

Creating a sustainable sheep industry.

The biggest profit driver in a self replacing flock is:

- Lambing percentage

Achieving 120% lambing versus the national average of 80% lambing = 400 extra lambs per 1000 ewes joined. At \$150 per lamb this equals \$60,000. Approximately 10% extra feed is required to run these extra lambs, a very minimal cost to what is gained. Yarong ewes averaged 125% of lambs in this drought. These ewes were fed for the entire lambing.

- Then cost of production

The ability of the Easy Doing Merino to maintain condition because of extra muscle and fat reserves enables a huge feed cost saving. Also, savings in jetting (\$2.75 per head, non mulesed, approximately \$7 per wether lamb), cheaper shearing, no micron blowout, etc. Extra lambs plus these savings should equate to an extra \$100,000 per 1000 ewes joined.

- Then wool cut

A big lambing enables Easy Doing Merinos to cut a lot of young wool. Ewes at "Boyd" cut almost 4kg twice a year in an average season ... not this year though.

6 Monthly Shearing

Sheep will cut 10% more wool

Wool will improve 6-7% in yield and 20 -30 NKT

This equates to an extra \$1-\$2 per kg in greasy wool price

Wool must be 60mm to achieve these premiums

Skirting ratio will go from 4-5 to 1 to 7-8 to 1

6 month shearing requires 4 small shearings per annum not one big event

The program at "Boyd" Forbes

Jan 1 join ewes

Jan 15 shear lambs – 7 months wool

April 27 shear ewes – 6 months wool. 2 year ewes – 7.5 months wool

June 1 lambing commences

September 15 shear hogget ewes – 8 months wool

October 27 shear ewes – 6 months wool