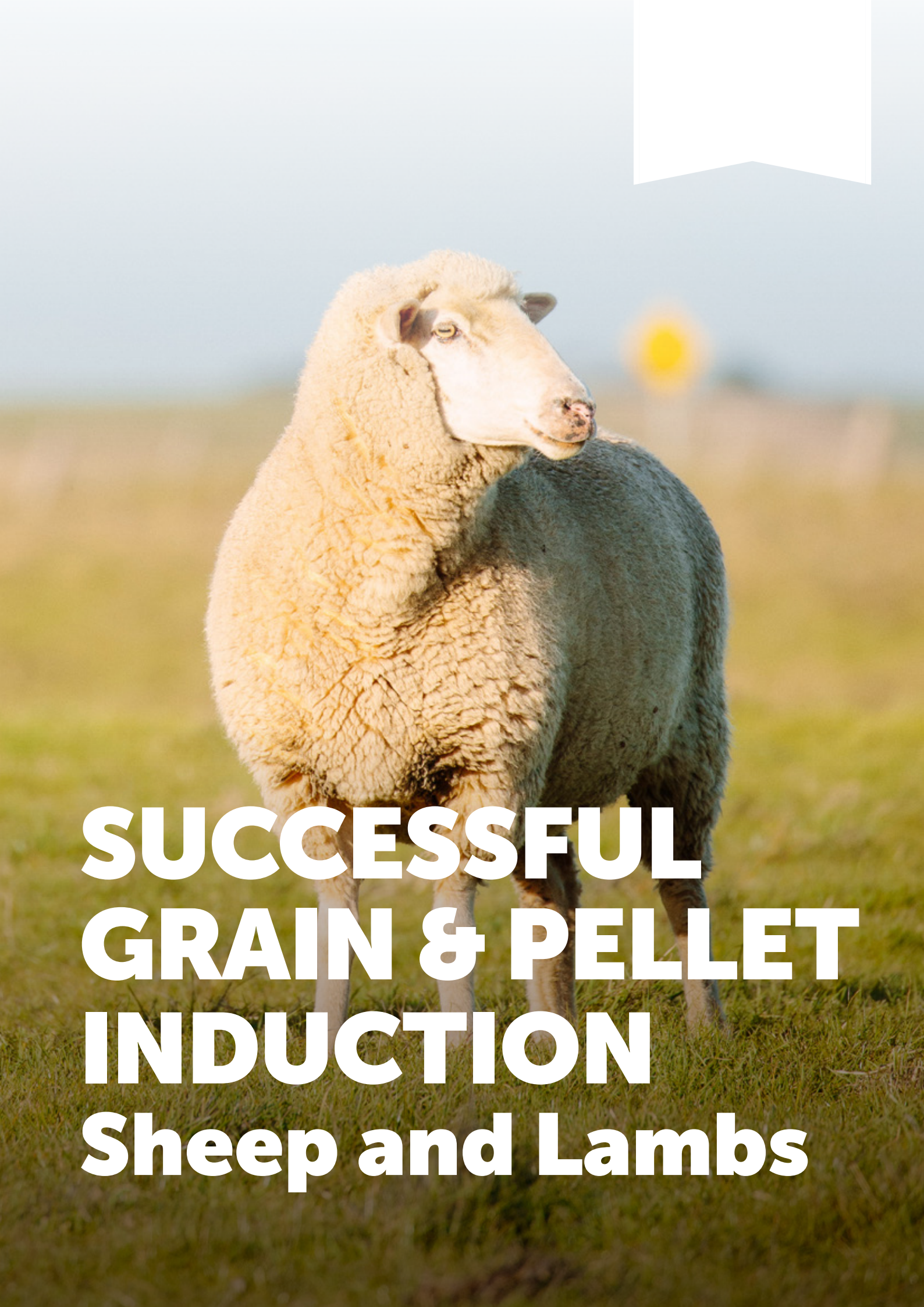


SUCCESSFUL GRAIN & PELLET INDUCTION

Sheep and Lambs

Consistent excellent growth rates and carcass yields.

No further mixing required. Flows well in silos, augers, feeders.

Feed quality monitored and changed to meet specification.

Lambs love it!

Coarse grain and pellet mixes designed for optimal feed conversion efficiency, growth and the health of your lambs & sheep.

Lamb blends are available for both containment feedlot and pasture/crop compliment options.

Ewe and lamb rations improve body condition, milk production, mineral requirements and management of metabolic disorders. Benefits for lambs include imprinting, induction, early weaning and reduced morbidity / mortality.

Stud ram rations are designed for health, fertility and staple growth.

Lamb creep feeds for early accelerated growth programs.

Feedlot concentrates designed for mixing with home-grown grain and total mixes rations (TMRs).

Feed conversion efficiency.

Animal health / performance.

Quality control / ability to monitor.

Ease of management / labour efficiency.

Confidence in meeting contract specifications.

Less stress - both the animals and operator!

Environmental considerations.

Risk management e.g. locking in feed costs and lamb sale prices-"back-to-back".

Improved bottom line - maximising returns.

Increased appeal to stock, and a variety of protein/energy sources. Increased palatability resulting in early uptake.

And of course, the ability to customise your feed blend. Giving you what you need!

Lambs & Sheep Feeding Program

Is there a known health history of the animals such as vaccinations or previous diseases, on these animals?

Have animals travelled long distances, spent time in yards without suitable feed and water availability?

Stressed animals or animals off feed for substantial periods of time should be introduced to fresh clean water and provided a suitable hay source upon arrival, and not introduced to grain supplementation until adequate intakes and rumen fill are achieved.

Have mature sheep had a vaccine booster in the past 6 months?

Have lambs had two vaccinations of 3-1 or greater vaccine at least 14 days prior to commencement?

Are stock at risk of scabby mouth – if so, have they been vaccinated?

Have lice been treated? – Transmission will only get worse in a confinement setting and with bunching around feed and water sources.

Have stock been worm drenched prior to commencement of feeding?

Injections of Vitamins A, D, E & B12 are commonly recommended prior to feedlot entry.

Faecal egg counts and identification of worm species present prior to commencement are highly recommended.

Have feeding areas, equipment and water sources been cleaned and sterilised?

If there has been a previous history of illness and death, please consider use of feed additives that can assist in reducing reoccurring challenges.

All sheep and lambs should be weighed prior to commencement and an initial BCS should also be assessed at this time.

Sheep should be separated into similar weight and sex groups for feeding to minimise competitive behaviour (Maximum 5kg weigh difference within groups).

What is the aim of the feeding program – maintenance, increase BCS, liveweight gain, or target liveweight for sale? This should inform the feeding program and feed type's selected.

Sheep should be weighed monthly and performance assessed against targeted growth plans. Rations can be reviewed and reformulated especially for intake following weighing.

Under performing or over performing animals should be regrouped at time of weighing – Graduate Up – Stay – Held Back.

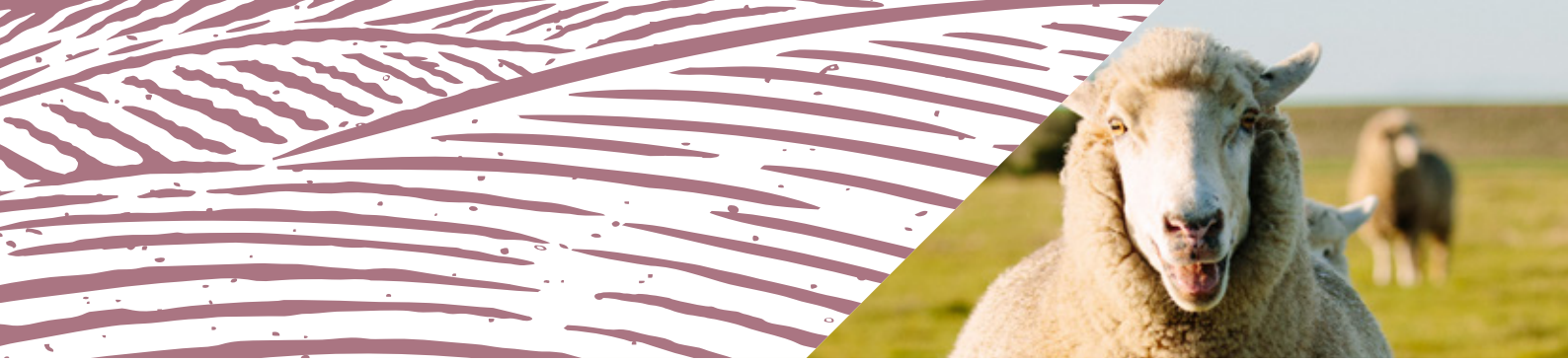
Stock with health challenges should be removed and treated.

Have stock been backgrounded on Pasture / Crop / or Unknown?

Are the stock hungry? If so, can they be filled up with forage well before starting on grain?

Have they been previously imprinted on feeding and watering infrastructure?

Has there been induction in the paddock on whole grains? What grains? How long? What feed rate?



Assess what types of feeding system you have available - Ad lib, Troughs, Self Feeders, Automated Feeders or Trail feeding.

Is the there clean, mud free access to feeders that does not limited accessibility?

How is intake to be assessed and controlled?

Do you have good all weather access for trucks and loading equipment?

Is Silo capacity adequate to make sure you have feed reserves to cover long weekends, public holidays, or floods?

If not ad lib feeding, feeding should be at least daily at a similar time.

Ad lib feeders should never be allowed to run empty.

How many stock are planned to be fed? (Ideally 200-300 per pen, maximum 500/mob) (3-5m2/hd required).

How many feeders and pens do you require? What feeder/trough area is available per animal? (4-5cm/hd feeder, 15-25cm/hd trough).

As animals grow will the area available limit access?

Are they close to sorting and weighing equipment, or will animals be off feed for weighing periods?

Ad lib forage should be supplied, and accessible to all sheep and lambs at all times

Is the forage of "good" quality and palatability? A personal visual assessment for colour, smell and frangibility, plus a feed analysis and mould count is recommended to reduce the impact of toxins

Have the sheep and lambs had access to the forage before commencement? Have they been consuming it? How much? Quality? Green or dry?

Have the sheep and lambs had previous access to the water supply, or will it change source or presentation?

Is there a recent stock water analysis of the water supply?

Recent = last 2 years maximum for bores. Surface water drawn from dams, creeks and rivers is highly variable across the year and should be assessed annually.

Is the water supply high in salt? (> 3000ppm Salts).

Is there sufficient water trough space available (30cm + 1.5cm / hd) and water supply (5-10L/hd/day)?

Is the water supply cool – not hot (surface pipes should be avoided in summer)?

Would you drink the water being offered and from the sources provided? Poor quality will limit consumption and resultant weight grains.

Water toughs should be emptied and cleaned at least weekly.

Check water availability daily.

Can shade/shelter be provided for stock especially for heat and cold, wet and windy conditions?

Can bales be used for shelter, trees for wind breaks and shade, shade cloth?

If wet where will the water collect and flow? Is effluent flowing from higher pens into lower pens? Pooling water in pens can be contaminated and consumed.

Poor conditions can put animals under immunity challenges.

Ensure animals have access to ad lib good quality forage. The definition of good quality is:

- Palatable
- Digestible
- Appropriate energy, protein and fibre content
- Uncontaminated by urine/faeces
- Without toxins/mould
- Stored in an appropriate location

Ensure stock are not Hungry or thirsty prior to commencement of Feeding concentrates. Induction should be avoided during challenging weather conditions; temperature, humidity, excessive wind and rain need to be considered.

Start Supplemental Feeding at 50-100gm/day of concentrate & maintain until all sheep & lambs are seen to be consuming feed.

Shy feeders should be removed from the groups that are consuming feed after 2 days & placed in another group/pen until they are also consuming at starting feed rates.

Once stock are confirmed to be eating concentrate, increase feed rate at 50gm/day until target intakes are achieved.

After 1 month all stock should be re-weighed & any regrouping based on weight / class conducted. It is preferable that the maximum variation in group live weight is 5kg.

Performance at the monthly weighing should inform on decisions around feeding levels and targets as well as rations provided for the next month.

Any ill or underperforming stock should be removed from "feeding" groups & placed in an treatment pen for assessment by an animal health expert or veterinarian. This pen should be supplied ad lib water & quality forage and may also be provided lower levels of concentrate. Your nutritionist will be able to make a recommendation on feeding level. Where serious disease or illness is suspected, seek Veterinary advice quickly to determine the source of the health challenge. Autopsy's are advised on any deceased animals.

Assessment of illnesses & stock should also be taken to determine if there are nutritional or management interventions that will result in better performance for remainder & future feeding programs.

After 36 hours without concentrate - feeding level should be reduced to ½ of prior to interruption level for at least 2 days & then increased at 50gm/hd/day until target is again achieved.

After 72hrs without concentrate – feeding level should be reduced to 50-100gm/hd/day and induction program recommenced from beginning.