



Sheep CRC Practical Wisdom Case Studies

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Using pregnancy scanning data to make money

CASE STUDY

Matthew Ipsen, Nuffield Scholar, Victoria

Using pregnancy scanning data correctly can improve the productivity of your flock and increase profits for your farming business. 2013 Nuffield Scholarship winner Matthew Ipsen explains how to best use the available data.

About Matthew Ipsen

Matthew Ipsen, from Wareek in Victoria, has used his 2013 Nuffield scholarship to investigate world's best practice in sheep reproduction and lamb survival.

Matthew is a director of a private agricultural company with his parents and together they own and operate an 820 hectare property in central Victoria, consisting of 3000 sheep and 400 hectares of crop.

The major enterprise is wool production along with sheep meat, hay and cereals.

As well as working on the farm, Matthew runs a small business in sheep artificial insemination (AI) and pregnancy scanning called Ewe Wish.

It is this business mix that has prompted Matthew to focus on the reproductive performance of sheep through his Nuffield scholarship.

He also knows the importance of pregnancy scanning, and how it can raise profits for producers.

"Pregnancy scanning is a great management tool to improve profits for meat and wool enterprises, particularly those running higher stocking rates and when paddock feed is in short supply," he said.

Take home messages

- Identify multiple-bearing ewes and manage nutrition accordingly.
- Remove dry ewes from your flock to increase productivity.
- The value of scanning increases with a poor season or a time of likely feed shortage over pregnancy.

Further information

- www.sheepcrc.org.au