

Sheep CRC Practical Wisdom Case Studies

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Implementing lifetime ewe management

CASE STUDY

Graham Clothier, Nuffield Scholar, SA

Lifetime Ewe Management (LTEM) assists producers to improve their understanding of ewe nutrition and management. The course is small group-based, with about 500 producers currently involved in near 100 LTEM groups nationally. One of those producers is Graham Clothier.

About Graham Clothier

Based at Lucindale in South Australia, 2004 Nuffield scholarship winner Graham Clothier runs a 1440 hectare sheep and cropping property with his wife Karen, along with his brother Leigh and his wife Debbie.

They run a total of 4500 ewes with a mixture of Merinos and White Suffolk Merino Cross.

The aim of Graham's Nuffield scholarship study was to look at similar products and businesses to Limestone Coast Lamb, to see if any improvements could be made and also to investigate how other businesses keep and maintain supply from producers to consumers.

Graham said the LTEM course, which runs over two years, has been very beneficial to his sheep operation.

Facilitated by RIST and supported by the Sheep CRC, the basic ingredients that LTEM participants repeatedly practice to achieve production targets are condition scoring, pasture quantity and quality assessment, and feed budgeting.

"The course is built around Merino ewes and it's a very accurate guide for Merinos. But it's also very good for crossbreds," he said.

"It helps that there is a very good facilitator that drives the course."

Take home messages

- Scan for multiples and singles, and then feed accordingly.
- Re-mate ewes prior to scanning.
- Keep track of your ewes' condition.
- Shorten mating periods to around five-week joinings.

Further information

• www.sheepcrc.org.au