

A joint initiative of

Making More From Sheep

australian wool  
innovation  
limited



Dear Rebecca,

**Making More From Sheep Email Update No. 1**

Welcome to the first e-newsletter from Making More From Sheep. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep subscribers informed about any changes or additions to the manual, highlight how sheep producers are involved with the Making More From Sheep program and keep you up-to-date with coming events. This e-newsletter will be sent out about four times a year and welcomes feedback or comments. Making More From Sheep is a joint initiative of Australian Wool Innovation and Meat & Livestock Australia.

**1. News: What sheep producers think of Making More From Sheep**

Eight sheep producers from across Australia have shared their thoughts on how the *Making More From Sheep - a sheep producers manual* applies to their business in a facilitated panel discussion which is webcast on the Elders website ([livestock.elders.com.au](http://livestock.elders.com.au)).

The sheep producers featured include:

- Greg and Jane Kellock, Farrell Flat, mid-north South Australia
- Don Perkins, Dirranbandi, south-west Queensland
- Matt Dunbabin, Bangor, south-east Tasmania
- Ben Ryan, Delamere, Fleurieu Peninsula South Australia
- Alison Tancred, Gulargambone, central-west New South Wales
- Andrew Dufty, Melville Forest, south-west Victoria
- Geoff Sandilands, Kendenup, south-coast Western Australia

The webcast takes 26 minutes to view and requires a broadband internet connection, but if you don't have time to watch all of it, check out the section that most appeals to you:

- How it can benefit your business
- Producer experience
- What's in it for me

As well as the webcast, you can read about how these sheep producers are using the manual in the section of the Making More From Sheep website.

**2. R & D update: Modified energy requirements for sheep**

Achieving appropriate nutrition throughout the year is the cornerstone of efficient livestock production. Sheep maintained in adequate body condition will achieve production targets and be healthier. The right body condition for sheep will vary with the type of enterprise, class of sheep and time of year. Knowing the feed requirements of different livestock classes and being able to monitor sheep condition are important in making decisions about feed demand, while pasture assessment skills are important in assessing feed supply.

The energy requirements given in the Making More from Sheep Manual on page 16 of [Module 11](#) are based on work published in 1977 and have been widely used in Prograze™. Other estimates, published in the Ruminant Standards of Australia, are used in Grazfeed® and other feed budgeting tools and are now more generally accepted. These updated estimates are generally higher than in earlier reports and are shown in the table below.

Remember ewes carrying twins in late pregnancy and in lactation have a 15% higher requirement than single bearing ewes.

Metabolisable Energy Requirements/head/day								
	Dry Sheep			Ewe - Mid pregnancy	Ewe - Early Lactation	Weaner	Weaner	Weaner
Wt (kg)	40	50	60	50	50	<20	20-25	>25
ME (MJ)*	6.4	7.0	8.0	10.0	15.0	3-4	4-5	5-6
ME(MJ)#	7.6	8.5	9.7	11.5	17.0	3.4-4.5	4.5-5.7	5.7-6.8

\* Confinement Fed

#Grazing

These figures can be used to assist in the development of feed budgets. Tables showing examples to fit the season and pasture type can be viewed at . Alternatively more detail on developing feed budgets can be found in [Tool 8.4](#) in the Making More from Sheep Manual.

### 3. Coming Events

Over 500 sheep producers have now attended events on various Making More From Sheep Modules. The events may be small workshops, larger seminars or [webinars](#)(a seminar that you attend on your computer and phone without leaving home). The one thing these events all have in common is that after participating you will be able to implement at least one of the management practices or tools from the manual on your property. Some of the coming events include:

- MEETING: Plan For Success: Cost of production - Pakenham, Vic., Monday, 12 May 2008
- WEBINAR: Healthy and Contented Sheep: Long distance transport - Thursday, 15 May 2008  
1.00pm - 2.00pm
- WEBINAR: Market Focussed Wool Production: Carbon Neutral Wool - Thursday 22 May 2008  
1.00pm - 2.00pm

For more information on upcoming events and activities go to [www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au/events](http://www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au/events)

### 4. In Brief

- 92% of people say they intend to change a management practice on their farm after attending a Making More From Sheep event.
- Over 650 hard copy Making More From Sheep manuals have been sold in the 3 months since launch
- Over 7000 people have visited the Making More From Sheep Website