

# Ewes for the future

## → lambs, wool & profit

trial results →



Progressive report  
on results to

31 December 2010

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# Ewes for the future

## - lambs, wool & profit

Progressive report on results until 31 December 2010

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## Note

These are early results from young ewes that were born over a four month period and reared in very different environments until January 2009. The Elmore Field Days sheep trials committee need to script read results before they are passed on to the media by participating groups. They are concerned that selected information may be used out of context without presenting the full situation and results. When breed groups use the results in their promotions it is expected the Elmore Field Days will be acknowledged.

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### Section 1 Summary

What's the best sheep type for a combination of prime lamb and wool production? This question has been debated by sheep producers for years.

In January 2009, the Elmore Field Days trial, Ewes for the Future – Lambs, Wool and Profit, began. The trial aims to compare the merits of five alternative sheep types. The results will assist sheep producers determine the merits of a number of ewe breed alternatives for prime lamb production. The main characters of interest are lambing percentages, lamb growth rates and wool production.

At the start of the trial, a total of 210 ewe lambs were delivered to the site. The five breed-types are each represented by 42 ewes. Each breed type group was randomly selected from three properties, with 14 ewe lambs per property after an allowance for culling. The ewes are run together as one mob except at lambing. It is planned to continue the trial for at least four lambings

The ewe breed types are:

**Crossbred ewes.** The most common prime lamb mother in northern Victoria. Ewes were sourced with the help of the SuperBorders group, a group within the Border Leicester breed society using Sheep Genetics Australia techniques to help breed better Border Leicester rams.

**Peppin merino.** The second most common prime lamb mother in northern Victoria. Ewes were sourced with the help of the Loddon Valley Stud Merino Breeders Association.

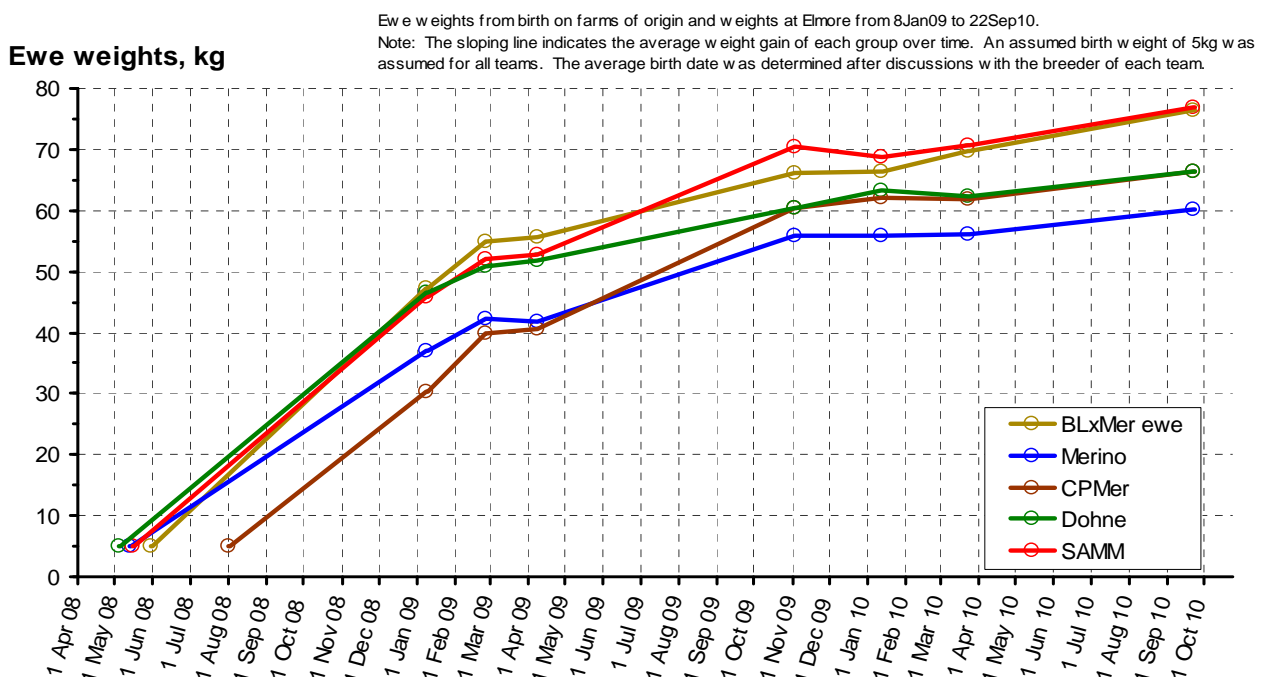
**Centre Plus merinos.** Centreplus is a group breeding scheme and registered merino stud and in Central West NSW that aims to produce multi purpose sheep. This Merino strain has achieved a good reputation from the high dual purpose and fine wool index values on the Sheep Genetics Australia website.

**Dohne.** The Dohne is a dual-purpose breed developed in South Africa using Peppin-type Merino ewes and German Mutton Merino sires. They have been selected for high fertility, rapid lamb growth rate and fine wool. There is a high level of farmer interest in this dual-purpose breed. Sheep were sourced with the assistance of the Australian Dohne Breeders Association.

**SAMM.** The Prime SAMM (South African Meat Merino) is a dual-purpose sheep originally bred in South Africa to produce heavy slaughter lambs at a young age as well as good quality wool. The breed society is aiming at 60 per cent meat and 40 per cent wool in members breeding programs. Sheep were sourced with the assistance of the Prime SAMM Breeders' Society of Australia.

Ewe lambs, 2008 drop were delivered to the Elmore Field Days by early January 2009. They were fed a high-quality diet to reach a suitable joining weight in late February 2009, when they were joined to White Suffolk rams. The following breeding season started with joining on 29 Dec 2009. The peak of lambing was on 13 June 2010 and the first batch of 92 lambs was sold on 5 Nov at an average weight of 49kg.

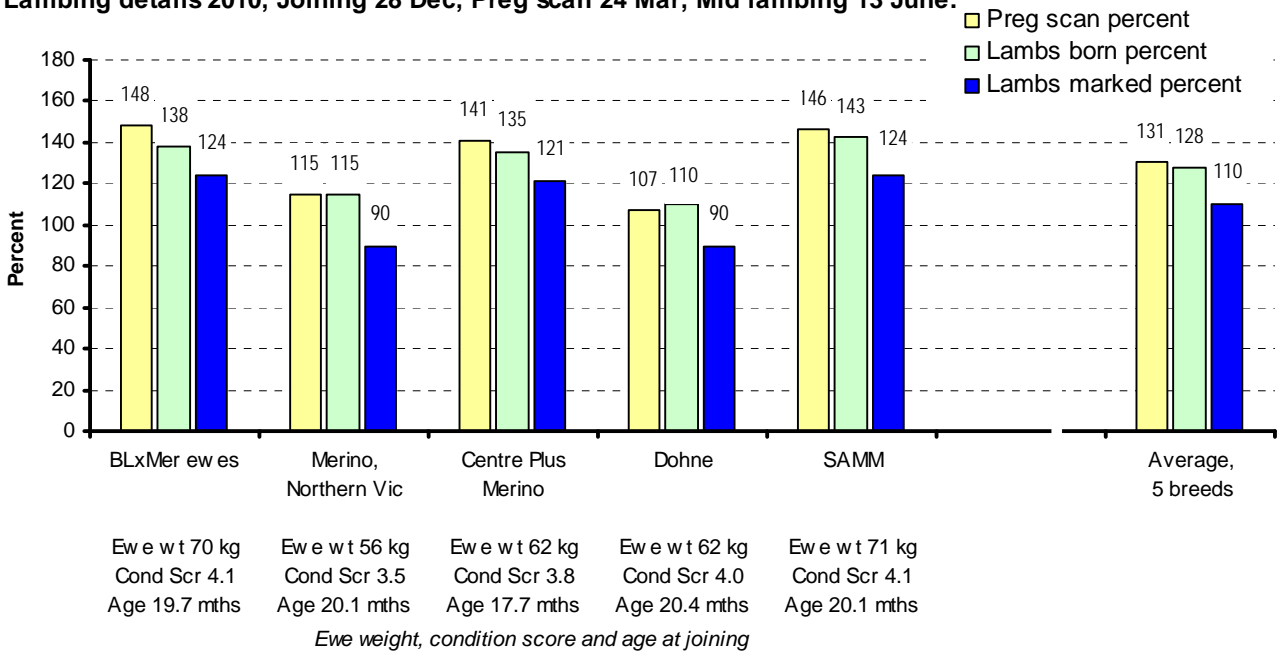
### Ewe weight



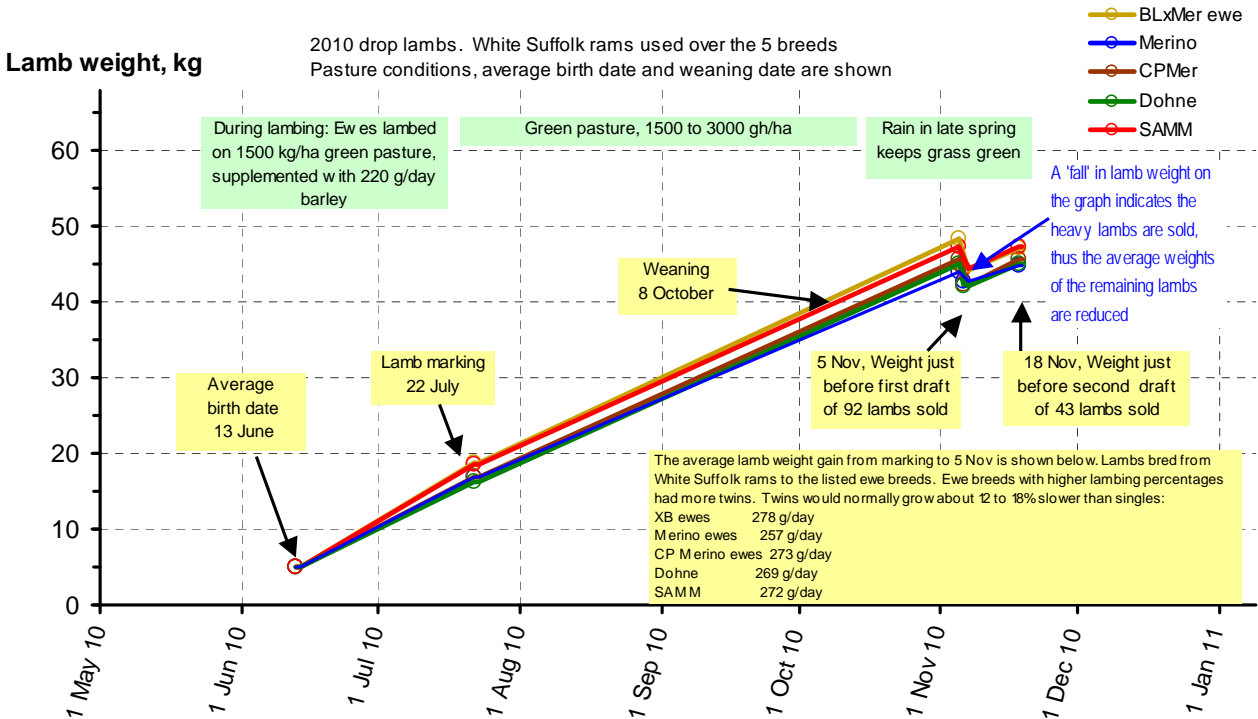
**Sheep weight by breed.** Sheep weights from birth (birth weights were assumed at 5kg, birth dates obtained for each group) to current. This graph indicates the lambs were born over four months and the early drop lambs were heavier at the first complete weighing on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009. The lambs continued to gain weight on their supplements after arrival. The aim of feeding over the first year is to steadily grow all the lambs out to maturity and ensure that they suffer no permanent disadvantage over the length of the trial.

### 2010 drop lambing details

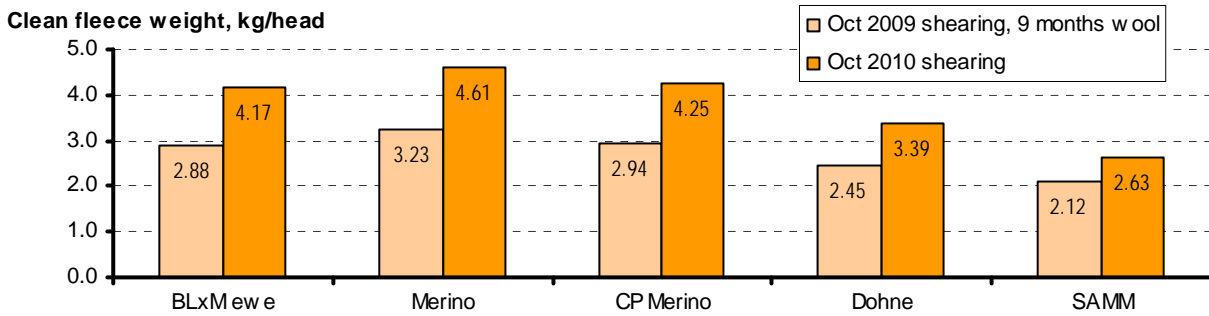
Lambing details 2010, Joining 28 Dec, Preg scan 24 Mar, Mid lambing 13 June.



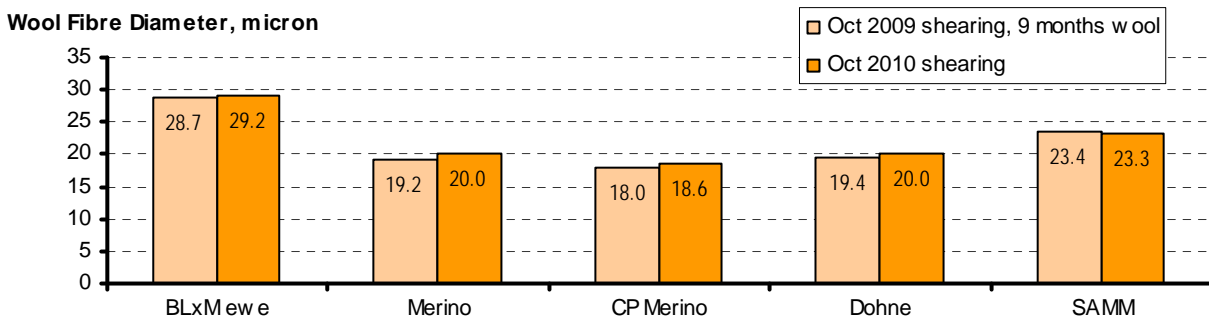
### 2010 drop lamb weight



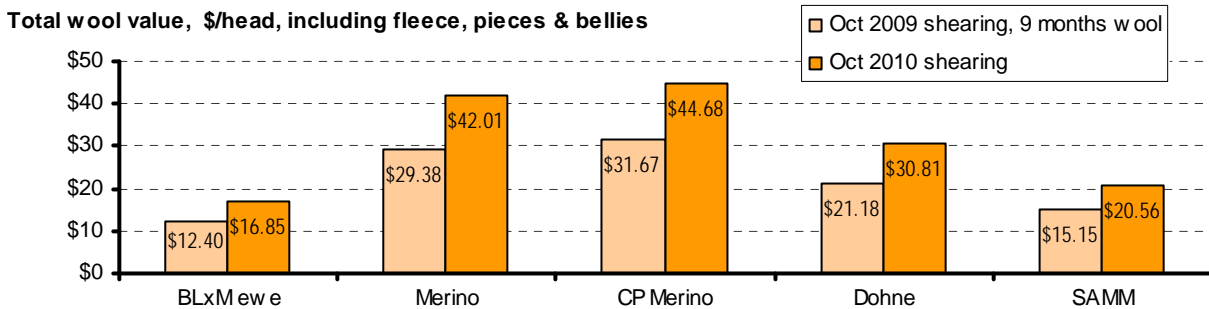
### Clean fleece weight



### Wool fibre diameter



### Wool returns



Wool returns are calculated using average wool prices for each diameter and type over the previous 12 months.

### 2010 Season - Total returns, lamb & wool

The total lamb and wool returns per ewe were calculated for the 2010 season.

Lamb carcass prices are the average of the previous year for trade and heavy lambs calculated from the MLA Market Weekly newsletter. The same price per kilo was used for all breeds because the lighter lambs were still steadily gaining weight after the first draft were sold on 5 Nov 2010.

Skin prices are also the average over the previous year of sucker lamb skins; again sourced from the MLA Market Weekly newsletter.

Ewe breed	BL x Merino cross	Merino	CP Merino	Dohne	SAMM
Average lamb weight, 5 Nov 2010, kg	48.3	44.1	45.7	45.1	47.3
Dressing percentage (assumed), %	49	49	49	49	49
Lamb price, av Dec2009-Nov2010, \$/kg	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$4.75
Estimate lamb carcass value, \$/lamb	\$112.42	\$102.64	\$106.37	\$104.97	\$110.09
Skin value, av price Dec2009-Nov2010, \$/head	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Total lamb value, carcass & skin, \$/head	\$124.42	\$114.64	\$118.37	\$116.97	\$122.09
Lambs marked, %	124	90	121	90	124
Lamb value per ewe, adjusted for lambing percent, \$/ewe	\$154.28	\$103.18	\$143.22	\$105.27	\$151.39
Wool value per ewe, \$/ewe	\$16.85	\$42.01	\$44.68	\$30.81	\$20.56
Total returns, wool & lamb, \$/ewe	\$171.13	\$145.19	\$187.90	\$136.08	\$171.95

## Section 2 Main results

### 1 Background

What's the best sheep type for a combination of prime lamb and wool production? This question has been debated by sheep producers for years.

In January 2009, the Elmore Field Days trial, Ewes for the Future – Lambs, Wool and Profit, began. The trial aims to compare the merits of five alternative sheep types. The results will assist sheep producers determine the merits of a number of ewe breed alternatives for prime lamb production. The main characters of interest are lambing percentages, lamb growth rates and wool production.

At the start of the trial, a total of 210 ewe lambs were delivered to the site. The five breed-types are each represented by 42 ewes. Each breed type group was randomly selected from three properties, with 14 ewe lambs per property after an allowance for culling. The ewes are run together as one mob except at lambing. It is planned to continue the trial for at least four lambings. The lambs were fed a high-quality diet to reach a suitable joining weight in late February 2009, when they were joined to White Suffolk rams.

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### 2 Management

#### 2.1 Delivery to the site

Lambs were delivered to the Elmore Field Days from late November 2008 until early January 2009. Teams came from Victoria, (Euroa, Tarnagulla, Wedderburn, Yarrawonga), New South Wales (Ivanhoe, Moama, Temora, Tottenham, Trundle, Tullamore, Walgett - 2teams, West Wyalong) and South Australia (Kingston – 2 teams).

#### 2.2 Management

On arrival the sheep were grazed on green weeds, mainly hogweed, after summer storms from delivery until early January. They were then introduced slowly to a supplement of grain, hay and wrapped silage. Their ration for the next 14 weeks consisted of 630kg barley per week, fed over 3 feeds, one wrapped silage roll every 5 days (weight 500kg) and one roll of hay (weight 420kg) fed every 5 days.

The lambs were weighed and condition scored three times in the few months following their arrival. They steadily gained weight and condition. They were joined on 26 February 2009 to White Suffolk rams for six weeks. Twenty five lambs were considered too light to join as they weighed 37 kg or less. The lambs were pregnancy scanned on 28 May.

The ewes were divided into their breed groups just prior to lambing each year.

The first lambing, as ewe lambs, began on 26 July 2009 and proceeded for six weeks. Lambing paddocks had about 2000kg dry matter per hectare at lambing and no supplementary feeding was necessary. The overall lamb marking percentage was 74% lambs marked per ewe joined and 94% lambs marked over joined ewes scanned as pregnant. This was considered excellent for ewe lambs as some were not joined because they were considered too young or too light.

The following breeding season started with joining on 29 Dec 2009. Seasonal conditions were good as rain storms during the autumn started adequate green feed that lasted for most of 2010. Ewes were split into their breed groups just before the start of lambing. A grain supplement of 230 g/day of barley was fed during lambing. The peak of lambing was on 13 June and the first batch of 95 lambs was sold on 5 Nov at an average weight of 49kg.

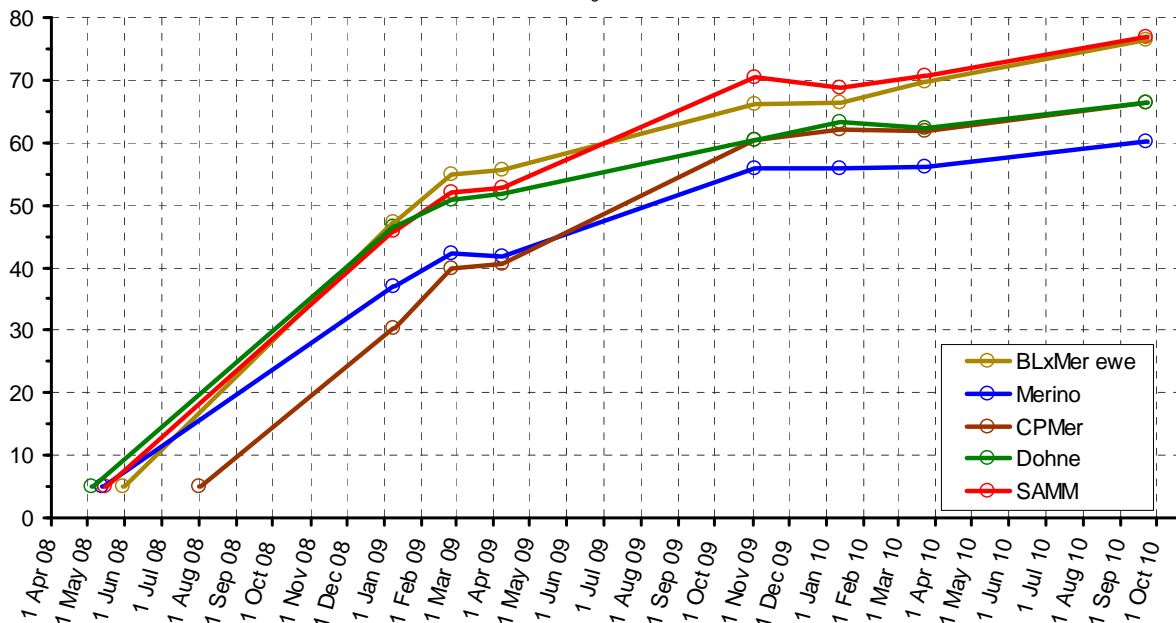
### 3 Ewe weights and condition scores

#### 3.1 Ewe weights

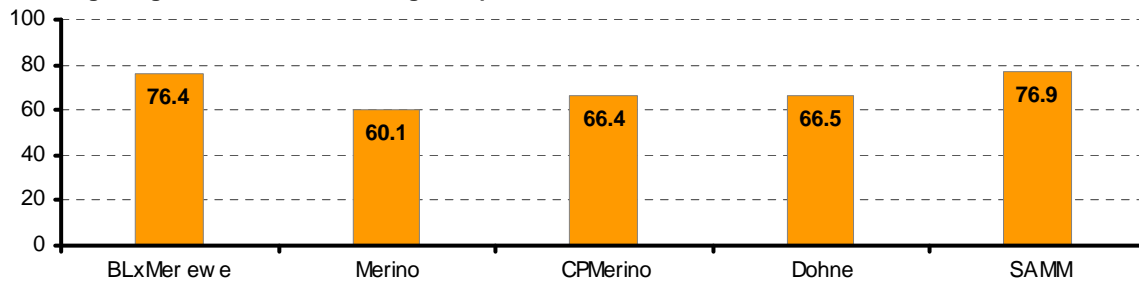
Ewe weights from birth on farms of origin and weights at Elmore from 8Jan09 to 22Sep10.

Note: The sloping line indicates the average weight gain of each group over time. An assumed birth weight of 5kg was assumed for all teams. The average birth date was determined after discussions with the breeder of each team.

Ewe weights, kg



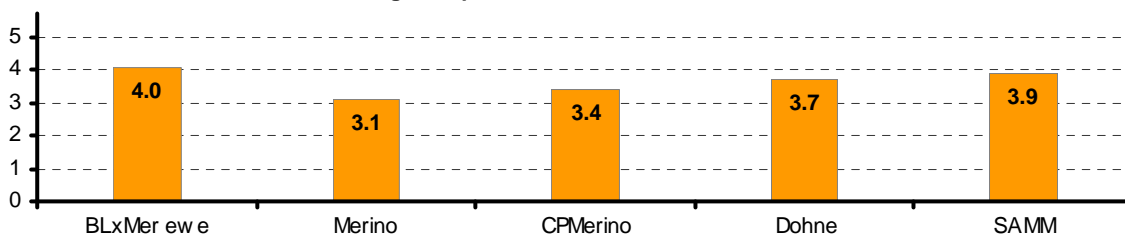
Ewe weight, kg/head, at lamb weaning 22Sept2010



**Sheep weights by breed.** Sheep weights from birth (birth weights were assumed at 5kg, birth dates obtained for each group) to current. This graphs indicates the lambs were born over a four month and the early drop lambs were heavier at the first complete weighing on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009. The lambs continued to gain weight on their supplements after arrival. The aim of feeding over the first year is to steadily grow all the lambs out to maturity and ensure that suffer no permanent disadvantage over the length of the trial.

#### 3.2 Ewe condition score

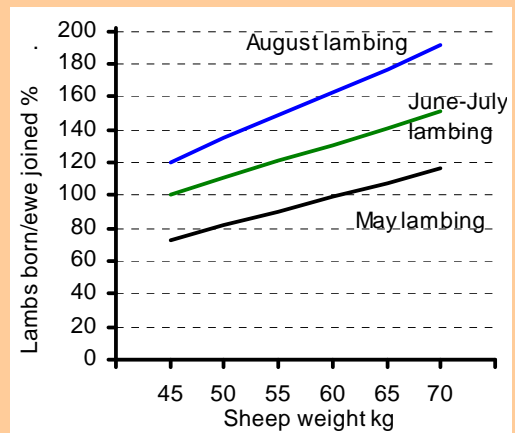
Ewe condition score, at lamb weaning 22Sept2010



### 4. Lambing details

Lambs born in August 2009 were from ewe lambs joined at ages from 7.7 to 10.4 months. The second lambing in June 2010 drop was the result of rams in 28 Dec 2009. The 2011 lambs will be the result of rams in 1 Dec 2010. It is planned the 2012 and 2013 drop lambs will be from later joinings. Some breeds of ewes, for example Border Leicester x Merino cross will probably have substantially higher lambing percentages from later rather than earlier joining due their seasonal breeding nature. The lambing percentage differences between early and late joining for the other breeds are unknown. It will be several years before reliable lambing percentages are available for both early and late lambing times.

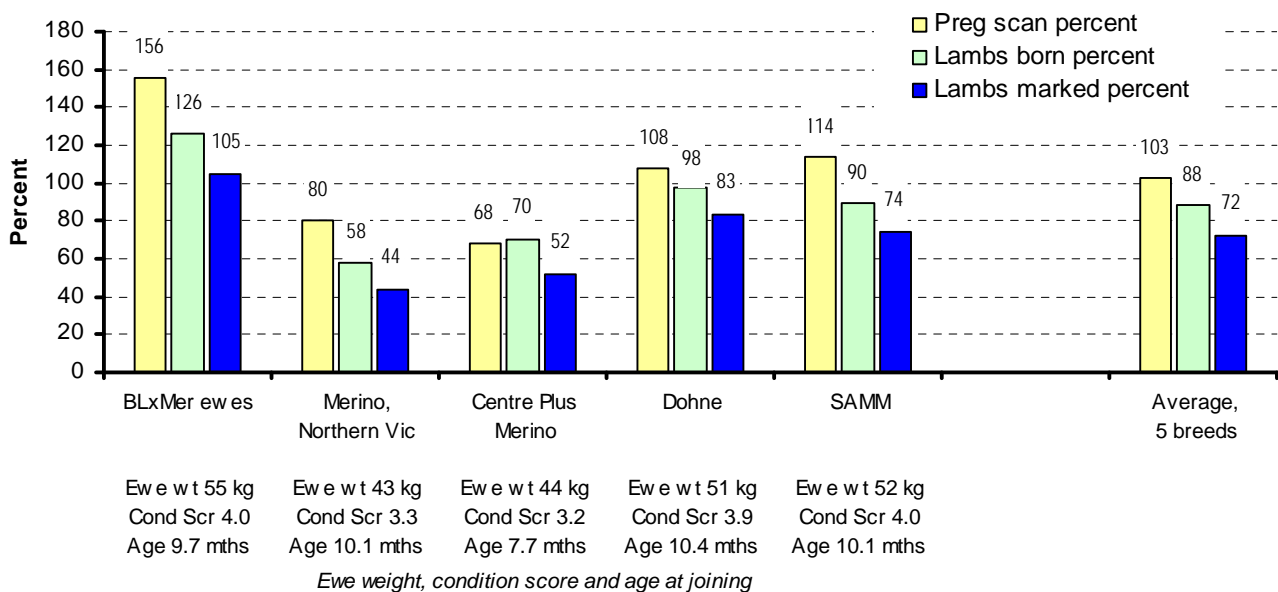
The graph shows the relationship between live weight at joining and the percentage of lambs born for Border Leicester x Merino cross ewes at Rutherglen Research Institute during the 1970s. The experiment was run over four years at three stocking rates with three times of lambing.



The ewe weight, condition score and age at joining is shown immediately under the graph for each breed.

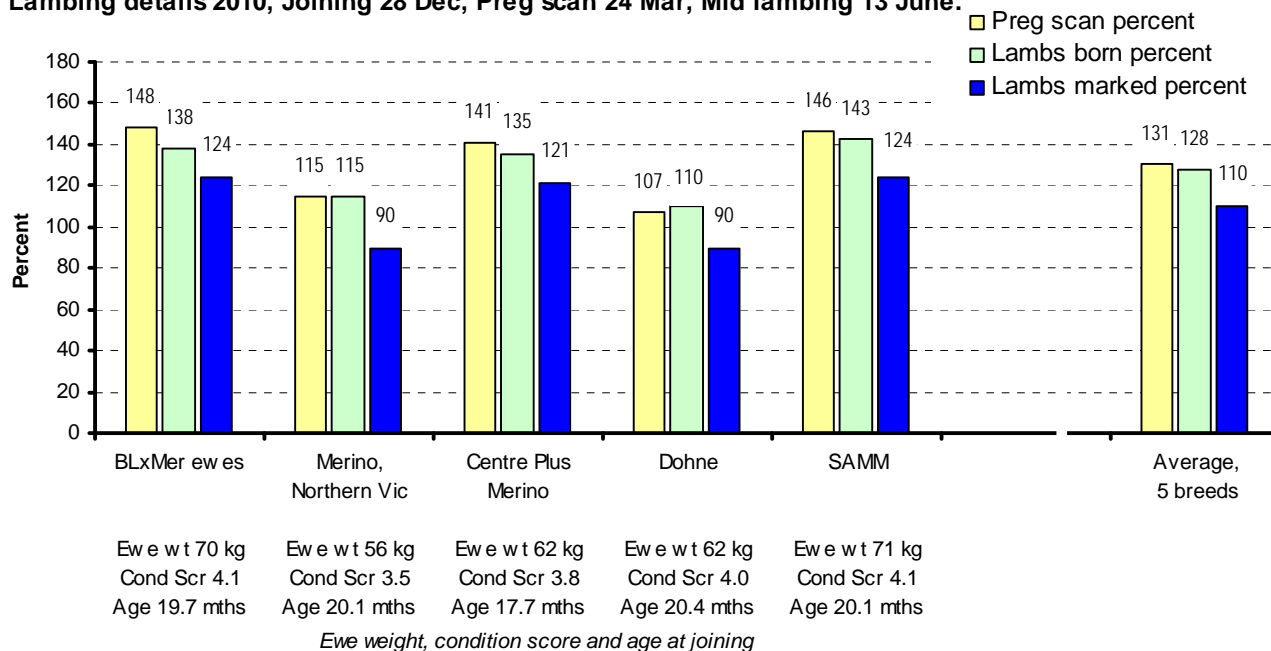
#### 4.1 2009 drop lambing details

Lambing details 2009, Joining 26 Feb, Preg scan 27 May, Mid lambing 12 Aug.



### 4.2 2010 drop lambing details

Lambing details 2010, Joining 28 Dec, Preg scan 24 Mar, Mid lambing 13 June.



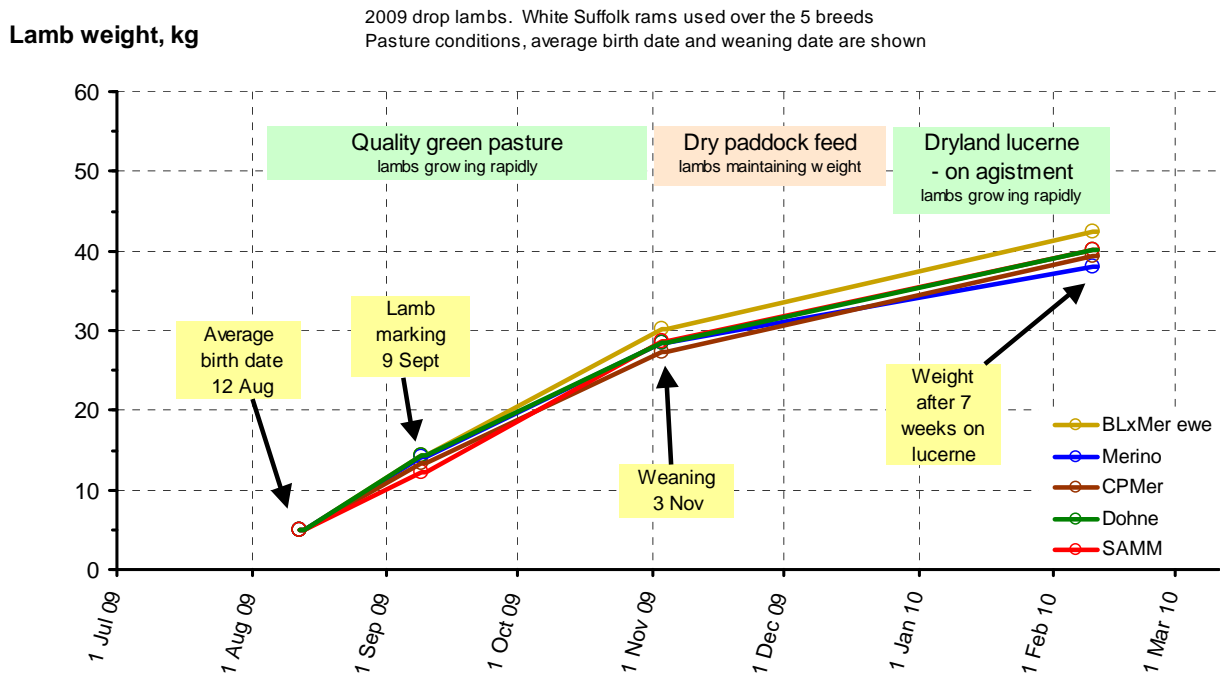
### 4.3 Cause of lamb death

Cause of lamb death summary for the 2009 and 2010 lambings. DPI vets at Bendigo were involved in post mortem examination of dead lambs.

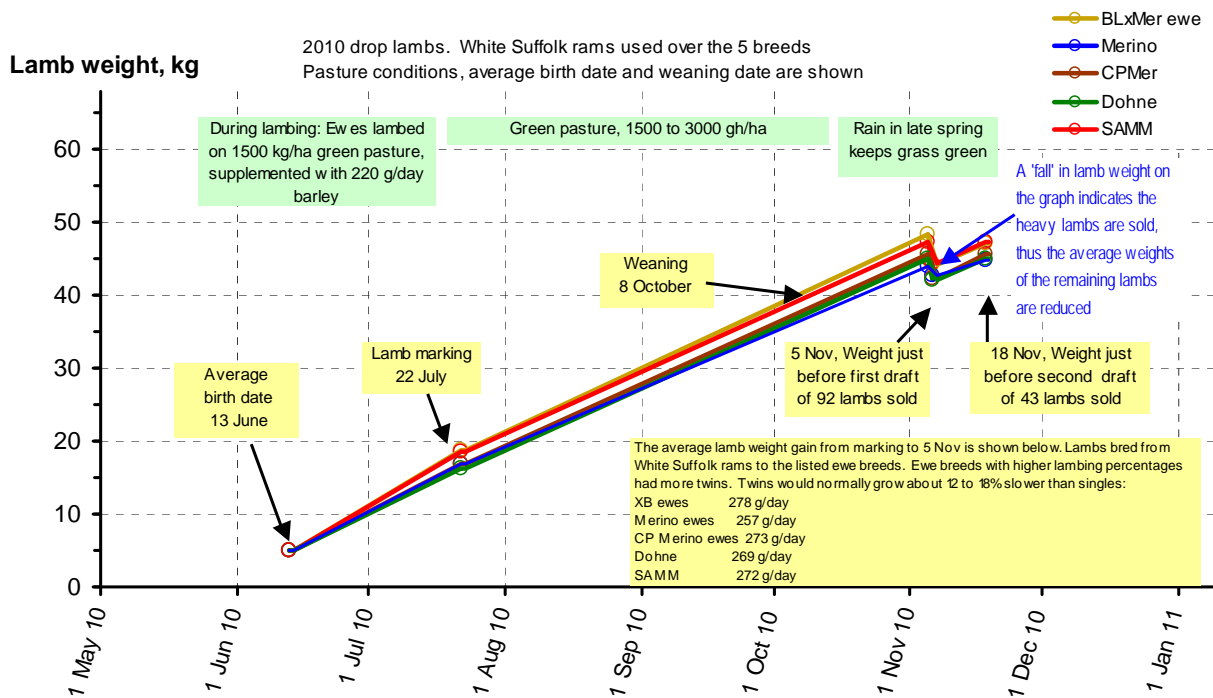
Cause of death	Number of lambs 2009	Percentage 2009	Number of lambs 2010	Percentage 2010
Dystocia	10	32%	18	47%
Mis-mothered and starvation includes stronger twins	9	29%	9	24%
Still born, but not dystocia	8	26%	1	3%
Small and weak, includes premature and weak twins	2	6%	2	5%
Predation (fox or dog)	2	6%	3	8%
Exposure	0		1	3%
Unknown	0		4	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 5. Lamb weight

#### 5.1 2009 drop lamb weight

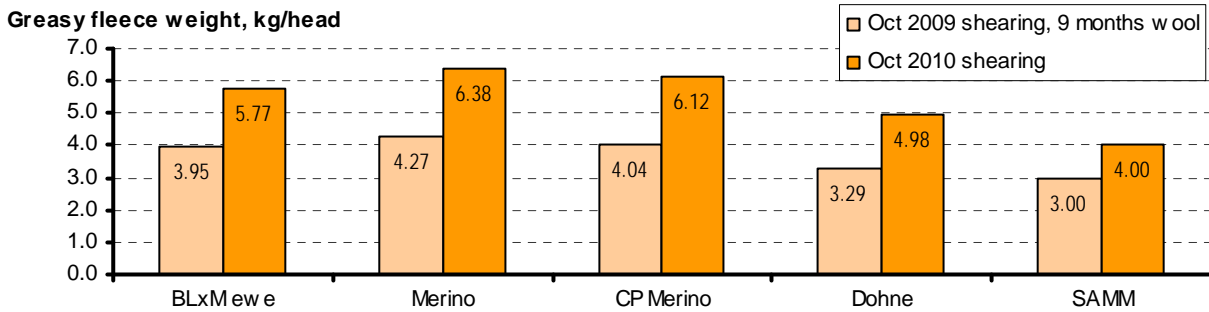


#### 5.2 2010 drop lamb weight

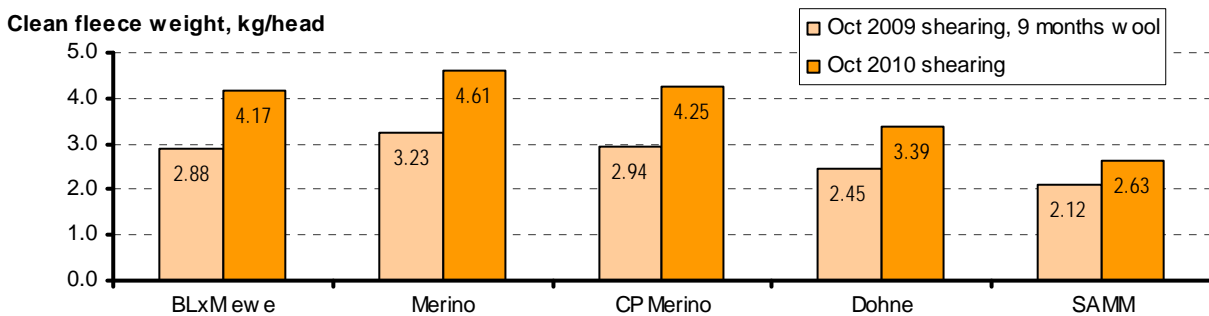


### 6 Wool results

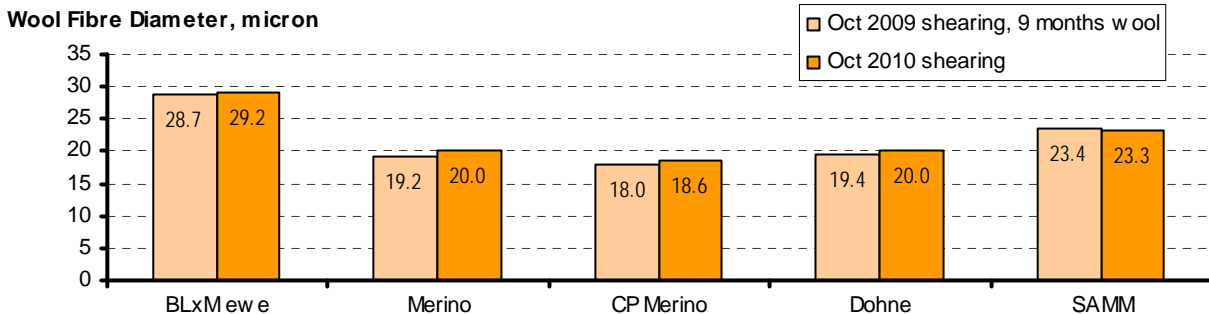
#### 6.1 Greasy fleece weight



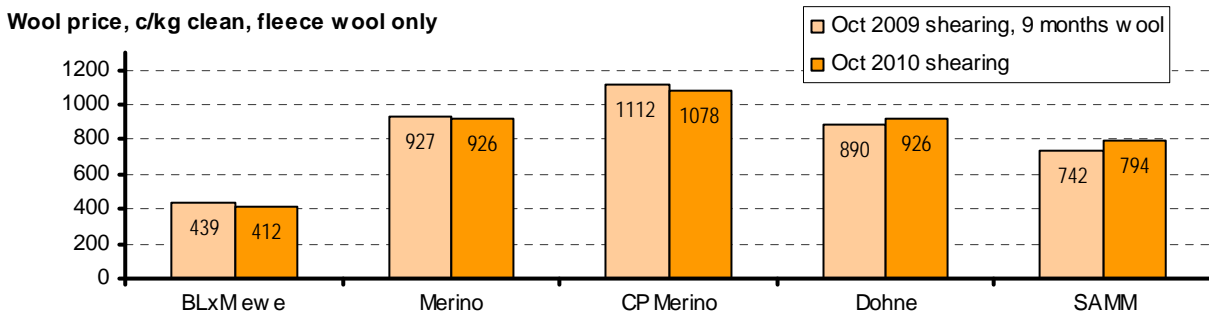
#### 6.2 Clean fleece weight



#### 6.3 Wool fibre diameter



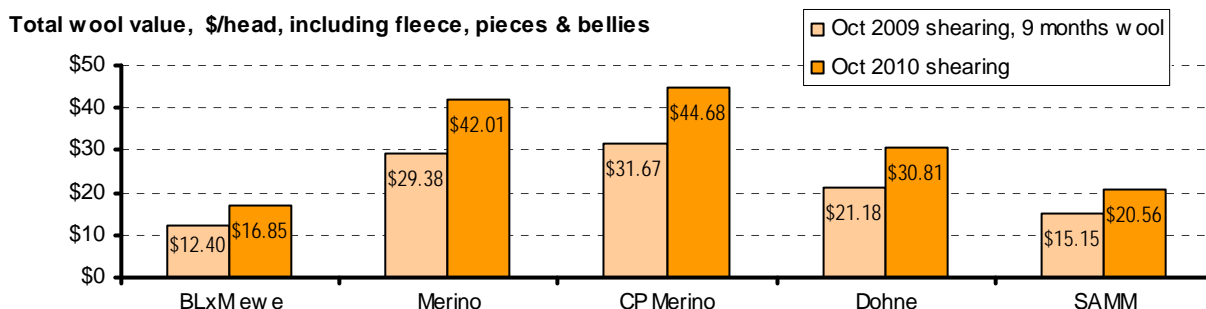
#### 6.4 Wool price



Wool prices are the average for each diameter and type over the previous 12 months.

### 6.5 Wool returns

Wool returns are calculated using average wool prices for each diameter and type over the previous 12 months.



### 6.6 Additional measurements on wool mid side samples

Additional measurements on the individual sheep mid side samples from the AWTA are shown below.

Ewe breed	BL x Merino cross	Merino	CP Merino	Dohne	SAMM
Coefficient of variation of fibre diameter (CV), 2009 shearing	22.7	19.1	17.0	17.2	16.4
Coefficient of variation of fibre diameter (CV), 2010 shearing	21.1	18.0	16.1	16.7	17.0
Wool comfort factor, 2009 shearing	65.1	98.3	99.5	99.1	95.9
Wool comfort factor, 2010 shearing	61.6	98.2	99.2	99.1	95.5

## 7 Total returns from lamb & wool, DSE estimate

The total lamb and wool returns per ewe were calculated for the 2010 season.

Lamb carcase prices are the average of the previous year for trade and heavy lambs calculated from the MLA Market Weekly newsletter. The same price per kilo was used for all breeds because the lighter lambs were still steadily gaining weight after the first draft were sold on 5 Nov 2010.

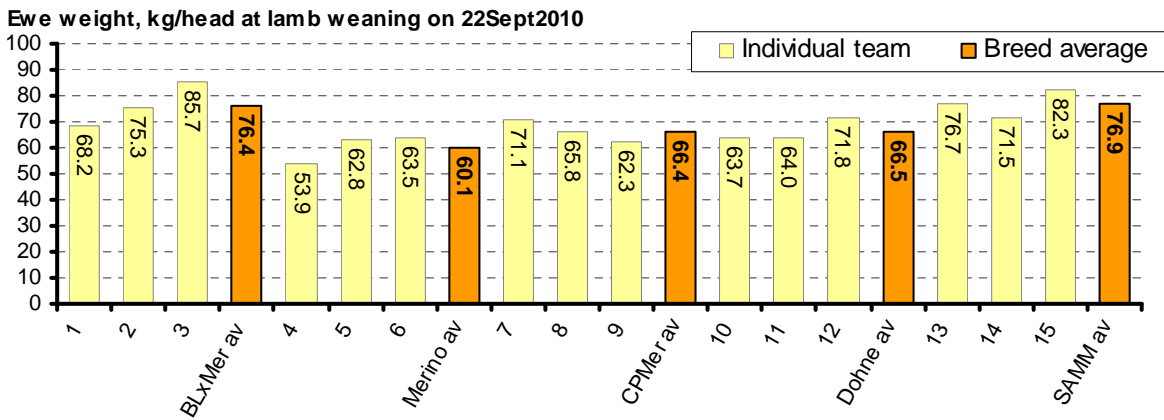
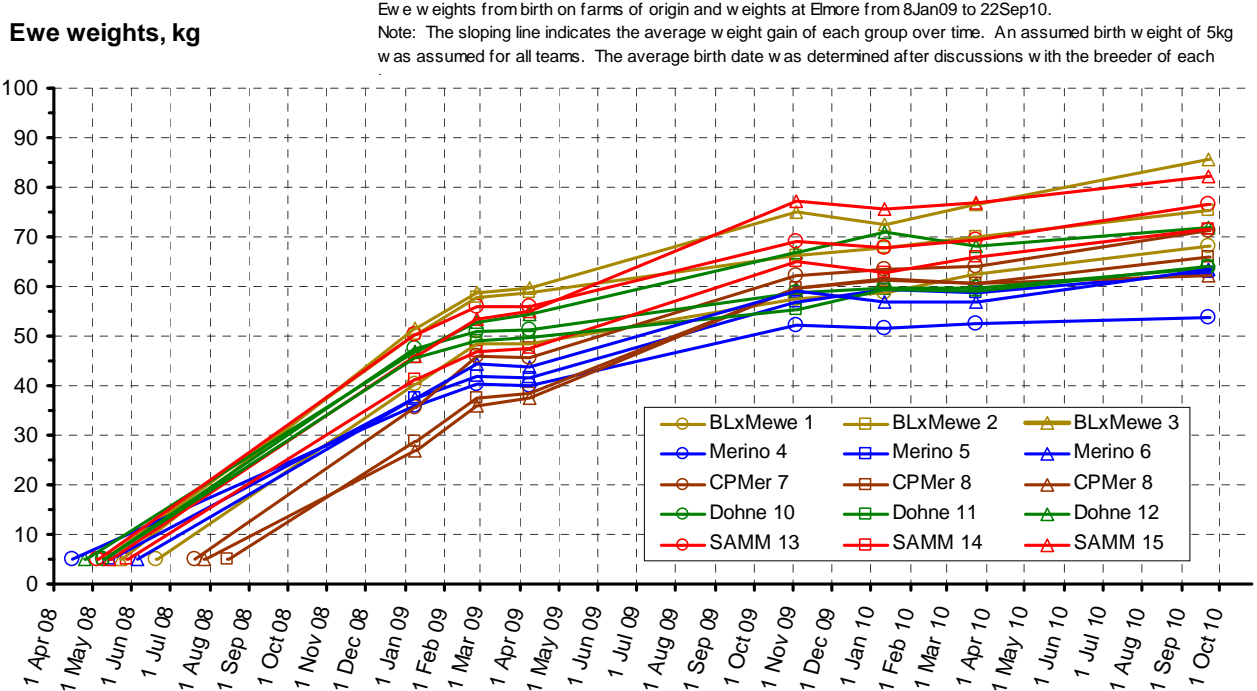
Skin prices are also the average over the previous year of sucker lamb skins; again sourced from the MLA Market Weekly newsletter.

Ewe breed	BL x Merino cross	Merino	CP Merino	Dohne	SAMM
Average lamb weight, 5 Nov 2010, kg	48.3	44.1	45.7	45.1	47.3
Dressing percentage (assumed), %	49	49	49	49	49
Lamb price, av Dec2009-Nov2010, \$/kg	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$4.75
Estimate lamb carcase value, \$/lamb	\$112.42	\$102.64	\$106.37	\$104.97	\$110.09
Skin value, av price Dec2009-Nov2010, \$/head	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Total lamb value, carcase & skin, \$/head	\$124.42	\$114.64	\$118.37	\$116.97	\$122.09
Lambs marked, %	124	90	121	90	124
Lamb value per ewe, adjusted for lambing percent, \$/ewe	\$154.28	\$103.18	\$143.22	\$105.27	\$151.39
Wool value per ewe, \$/ewe	\$16.85	\$42.01	\$44.68	\$30.81	\$20.56
Total returns, wool & lamb, \$/ewe	\$171.13	\$145.19	\$187.90	\$136.08	\$171.95
Ewe weight, year average, fleece free, kg	67.6	53.8	60.0	61.2	69.9
Lamb marking percentage, %	124%	90%	121%	90%	124%
DSE - Dry sheep equivalent estimate per ewe-lamb unit	2.76	1.97	2.48	2.17	2.82

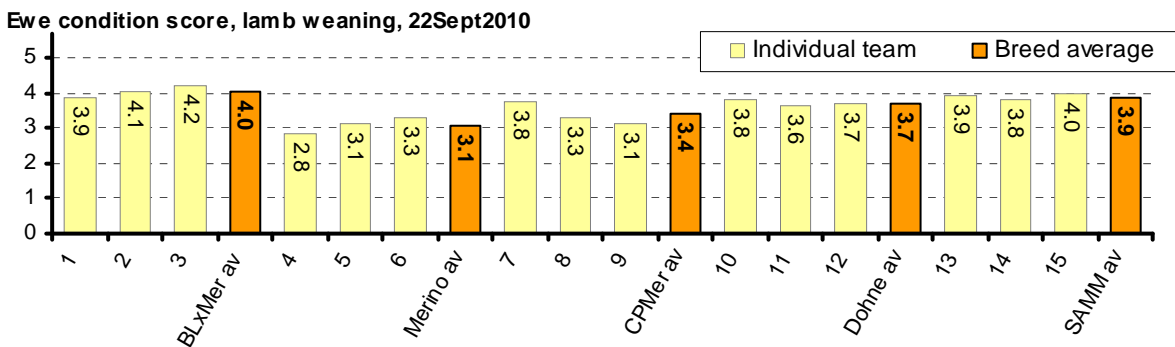
### Section 3 Additional details

#### 8 Ewe additional details

##### 8.1 Ewe weight by team and breed



##### 8.2 Ewe condition score by team and breed



### 8.3 2009 Lambing, additional scanning results

2009 breeding season as ewe lambs, only lambs over 37 kg were joined. Ewes joined 26 Feb2009. Average age at mid joining for all groups is 9.7 months.

Team	Ewe lamb age at mid joining, for 2009 joining. (joined shortly after arriving at field day site) Age in months	Average weight of joined lambs during joining (lambs too light to join not included in this average) kg	Number of lambs not joined (37 kg or less)	Ewes scanned as dry, (percent of ewes joined)	Ewes scanned as carrying singles, (percent of ewes joined)	Ewes scanned as carrying twins or triplets, (percent of ewes joined)	Pregnancy scanning result for joined lambs only. Number of foetus per ewe joined	Lambs born percent (lambs per ewe joined and present at start of lambing)	Lambs marked percent (lambs per ewe joined and present at start of lambing)
BLxMerino	9.7	55.3	0	2.4%	39.0%	58.5%	<b>156%</b>	<b>126%</b>	<b>105%</b>
Merino	10.1	42.9	6	25.7%	62.9%	8.6%	<b>80%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>44%</b>
CP Merino	7.7	44.1	19	47.6%	42.9%	14.3%	<b>68%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>52%</b>
Dohne	10.4	51.4	0	15.4%	61.5%	23.1%	<b>108%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>83%</b>
SAMM	10.1	52.4	0	16.7%	52.8%	30.6%	<b>114%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>74%</b>
Overall	9.6	49.2	25	18.6%	52.3%	29.1%	<b>103%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>72%</b>

Notes:

- Ewe lambs weighing 37 kg or less were not joined for the 2009 lambing.
- The 2009 pregnancy scanning result was related to the age of the lambs and their average weight, this is a reflection of their management before they were delivered to the Elmore Field Days. The lambs' early life on their home farm would be expected to have a lesser effect in future years.
- Lambs born are the total of lambs marked plus the dead lamb pickup for each mob. Lambing ewes were inspected twice daily during lambing.
- In 2009 the number of lambs born (168) was below the number of lamb foetuses scanned (196). This may be for several reasons including (i) the scanning result over-estimated the number of lambs, (ii) some lamb foetuses were absorbed by their mothers, no abortions were apparent at flock inspections and supplementary feedings, or (iii) some lambs were taken by predators and not counted as being born, this is unlikely as the lambing ewes were inspected twice daily in their small lambing paddocks. In 2010 the association between number of foetuses scanned and lambs born was much closer.

### 8.4 2010 Lambing, additional scanning results

2010 breeding season. Ewes joined 28Dec2009. Average age of all groups at joining is 20 months.

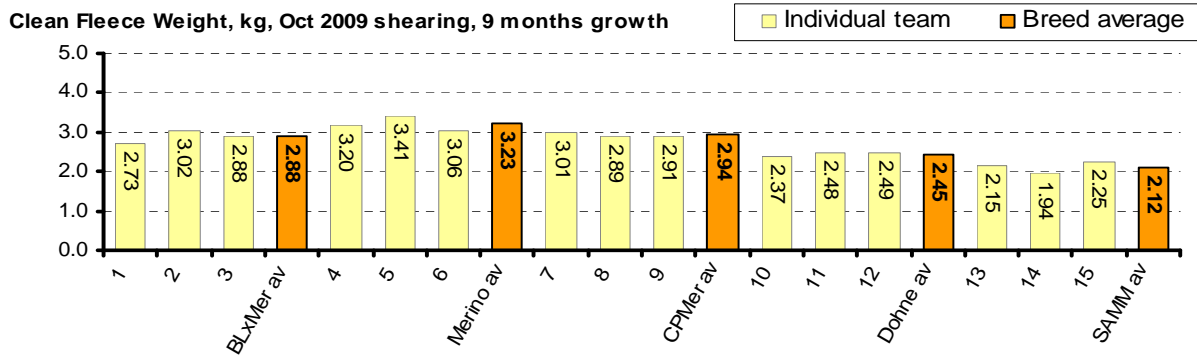
Team	Ewe age at mid joining, for 2010 lambing Age in months	Average weight of ewes at joining on 12Jan2010	Condition score at pregnancy scanning on 24Mar2010	Ewes scanned as dry, (percent of ewes joined)	Ewes scanned as carrying singles, (percent of ewes joined)	Ewes scanned as carrying twins or triplets, (percent of ewes joined)	Pregnancy scan results 24Mar2010 Number of foetus per ewe joined	Lambs born percent (lambs per ewe joined and present at start of lambing)	Lambs marked percent (lambs per ewe joined and present at start of lambing)
BLxMerino	19.6	69.8	4.1	4.8%	42.9%	52.4%	<b>148%</b>	<b>138%</b>	<b>124%</b>
Merino	20.1	56.1	3.5	9.8%	65.9%	24.4%	<b>115%</b>	<b>115%</b>	<b>90%</b>
CP Merino	17.4	61.8	3.8	4.8%	50.0%	45.2%	<b>141%</b>	<b>135%</b>	<b>121%</b>
Dohne	20.3	62.3	4.0	12.2%	68.3%	19.5%	<b>107%</b>	<b>110%</b>	<b>90%</b>
SAMM	20.0	70.8	4.1	0.0%	56.1%	43.9%	<b>146%</b>	<b>143%</b>	<b>124%</b>
Overall	19.5	64.2	3.9	6.3%	56.3%	37.4%	<b>131%</b>	<b>128%</b>	<b>110%</b>

Notes:

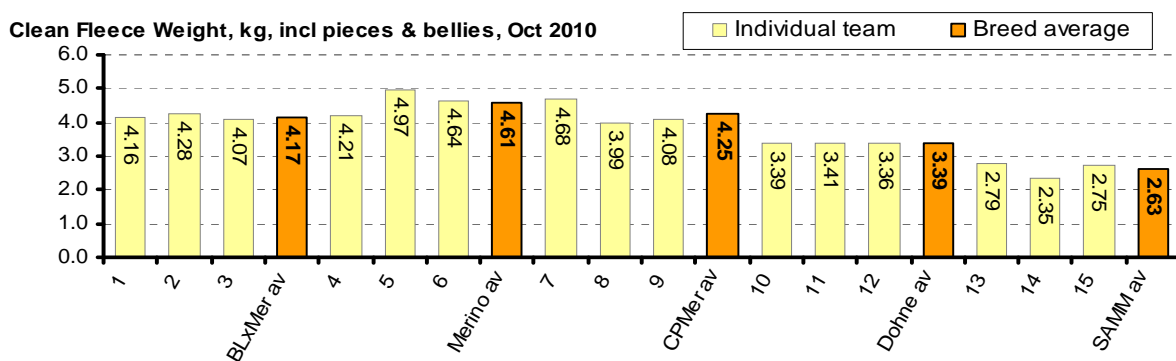
- Lambs born are the total of lambs marked plus the dead lamb pickup for each mob. Lambing ewes were inspected twice daily during lambing

### 9 Wool results by team and breed

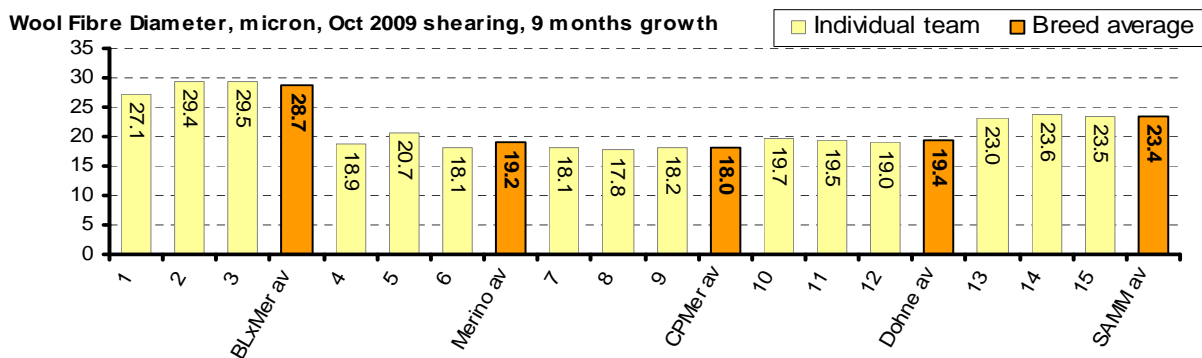
#### 9.1 2009 Clean fleece weight



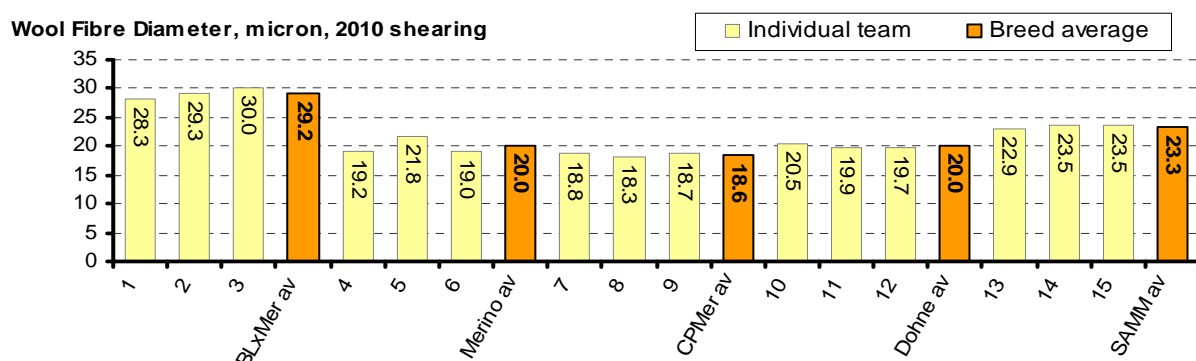
#### 9.2 2010 Clean fleece weight



#### 9.3 2009 Fibre diameter



#### 9.4 2010 Fibre diameter



## 10 Bale core and grab sample measurements and sale results

The fleece wool was auctioned as five single bale lines. The results from the pre sale tests and the auction results are shown below.

### 10.1 2009 Bale results

Breed	BL x Merino cross	Merino	CP Merino	Dohne	SAMM
<b>Fibre diameter</b>					
Micron um	28.5	19.7	18.4	19.5	23.5
CV %	23.9	21.3	19.0	18.5	18.7
Comfort factor (% fibres under 30 um)	66.3	97.9	99.4	98.9	94.3
Curvature	56	53	56	64	75
Hauteur mm	90	79	78	74	75
<b>Yield</b>					
VM %	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
Sch dry yield %	72.6	73.0	69.0	70.5	63.5
<b>Staple</b>					
Length mm	100	81	86	76	75
CV%	13	16	11	12	14
Strength n/kt	39	50	47	47	43
<b>Position of break</b>					
Tip %	10	68	44	25	29
Mid %	61	28	51	58	71
Base %	29	4	5	17	0
<b>Wool price at auction 10-Dec-2009</b>					
c/kg greasy	310	702	762	679	509
c/kg clean	427	962	1104	963	802

### 10.2 2010 Bale results

Breed	BL x Merino cross	Merino	CP Merino	Dohne	SAMM
<b>Bale brand</b>	AAAFX	AAAM	AAAM	AAAMDOHNE	AAAMSAMM
<b>Fibre diameter</b>					
Micron um	29.1	20.3	18.8	19.8	23.0
CV %	23.0	21.2	18.6	18.2	19.1
Comfort factor (% fibres under 30 um)	62.7	97.8	99.3	99.1	95.1
Curvature	59	59	56	66	79
Hauteur mm	88	85	91	77	83
<b>Yield</b>					
VM %	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	.1
Sch dry yield %	71.6	72.5	69.5	69.0	65.8
<b>Staple</b>					
Length mm	106	105	115	90	110
CV%	10	12	7	15	20
Strength n/kt	26	26	27	28	31
<b>Position of break</b>					
Tip %	2	2	7	3	11
Mid %	79	18	17	31	73
Base %	19	80	76	66	16
<b>Wool price at auction 15-Dec-2010</b>					
c/kg greasy	319	713	850	714	550
c/kg clean	446	983	1223	1035	836
<b>Average Yellowness, see note below</b>	10.5	9.3	9.3	9.1	10.5

Note: AWTA introduced Average Yellowness (and conversely, the Whiteness) of wool after scouring in the late 1980s. Average Yellowness is related to dyeing performance and it is not necessarily related to the colour of greasy wool. However the uptake of the measurement has been slow, largely because there is a widespread belief that the bulk of Australian wool is white and bright and therefore the Yellowness measurement adds little value. More information on the AWTA website.

### 11 Visual scores on wool and sheep

The following visual information was collected on 8 Sept 2010 about a month before shearing:

- Fleece Rot Score,
- Wool Greasy Colour Score, both over the backline and from the mid-side sample, and
- Face Cover Score

All scoring was done using the visual standards guide published by AWI and MLA. The season from January to August 2010 provided an opportunity to access the effect on rain on the fleece due to the rain in February and March when the sheep were in about 6 months wool. Elmore monthly rainfall for 2010 is shown below.

Month, 2010	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Total Jan-Aug
Rain mm	32	44	53	35	34	32	67	104	418

#### 11.1 Fleece rot score method and results

##### Fleece rot

**Age:** Over 9 months.

**When:** Classing or shearing, provided a minimum of 6 months (or 40 millimetres) of wool growth.

Caused by moisture and bacterial growth at skin level, fleece rot refers to the degree of wool discolouration and/or crusted banding across wool fibres and parallel to the skin. Discoloured bands can be yellow, green, red-orange, pink-violet, blue, brown or grey in colour.

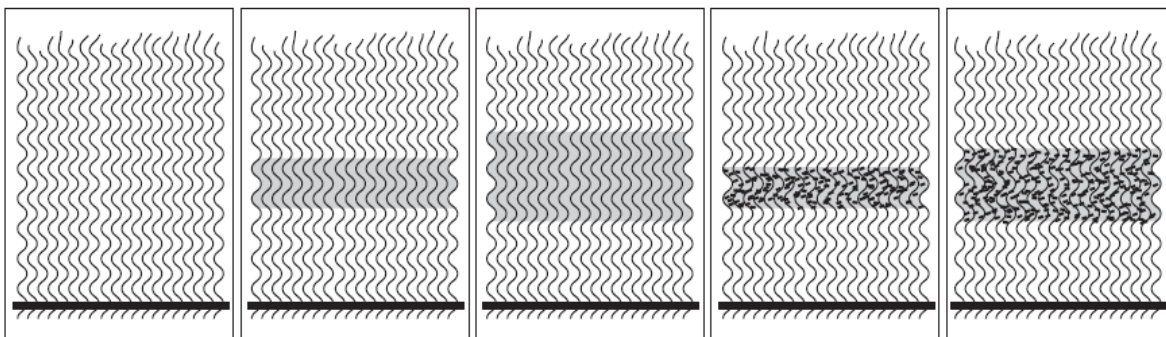
Note: fleece rot should not be confused with Dermatitis (or 'lumpy wool'), which tends to form columns of hard lumps along the staple.

**How to score:** Open the fleece at a minimum of **three sites** along the backline and look for evidence of staining and bands of crusting. The highest score across the sites is recorded.

**Rule of thumb:** An animal with Score 1 has no bacterial colour or staining. An animal with Score 5 has bands of 'crusting' greater than 5 millimetres wide, with or without bacterial staining.

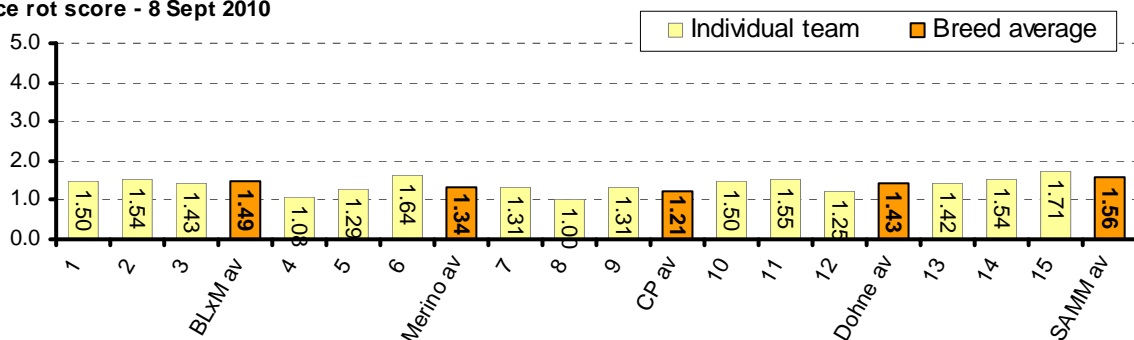
Score 1:	Score 2:	Score 3:	Score 4:	Score 5:
No bacterial colouring or staining.	Band of bacterial staining <10mm wide with no crusting.	Band of bacterial staining >10mm wide with no crusting.	Band of crusting <5mm wide, with or without bacterial staining.	Band of crusting >5mm wide, with or without bacterial staining.

##### Fleece rot



Fleece rot over the backline was estimated by Kieran Ransom – DPI Bendigo and Athol Frederick – Landmark Bendigo.

Fleece rot score - 8 Sept 2010



### 11.2 Wool greasy colour score method and results

#### Wool colour

**Age:** Over 9 months.

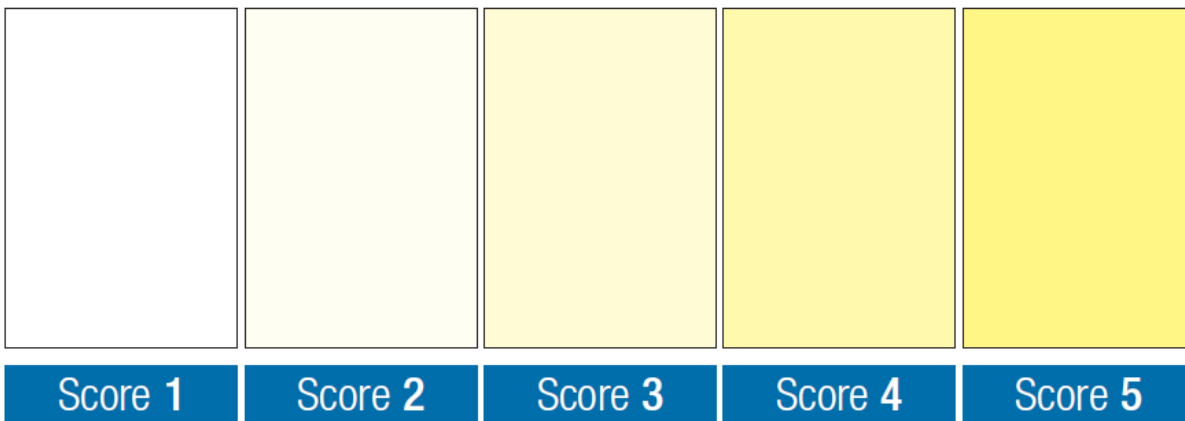
**When:** Classing or shearing, provided a minimum of 6 months (or 40 millimetres) of wool growth.

Wool colour describes the degree of whiteness of greasy wool.

**How to score:** Open the fleece at a minimum of **three sites** – side of shoulder, mid-side and hip. The highest score across the sites is recorded.

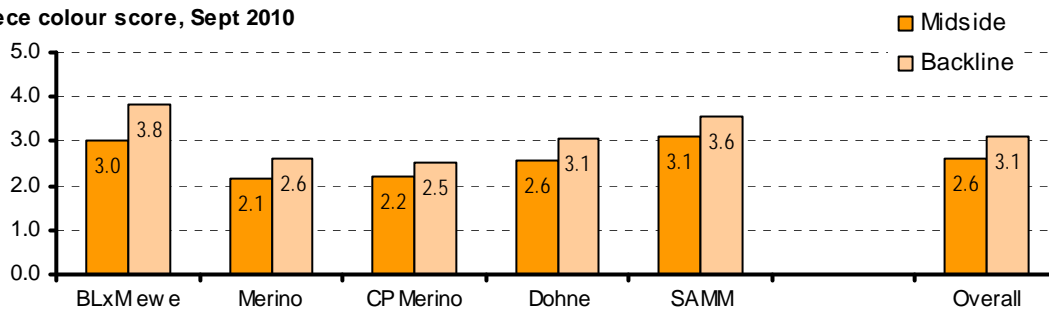
**Rule of thumb:** An animal with Score 1 has the 'brightest' white wool, whereas a Score 5 animal has yellow wool.

#### Wool colour



Greasy wool colour over the backline was estimated by Kieran Ransom – DPI Bendigo and Athol Frederick – Landmark Bendigo on 8 Sept 2010. The greasy wool colour of the mid side sample was estimated by Kieran Ransom on 10 Sept, 2 days after the samples were removed from the sheep.

Fleece colour score, Sept 2010



### 11.3 Face cover score method and results

#### Face cover

**Age:** Over 4 months.

**When:** Minimum of 4 months wool.

Face cover refers to the degree of wool cover on the face, including the top of head and jowl.

**How to score:** A single score of 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

**Rule of thumb:** An animal with Score 1 has an open face with no wool on the jowls or top of the head. A Score 5 animal has wool covering its entire face, commonly referred to as 'wool blind'.

**Score 1:**

Open face with no wool in front of the ears and topknot, or on the jowls.

**Score 2:**

Wool cover over the top of head; some on the side of muzzle, but not joined between the ears and eyes.

**Score 3:**

Wool cover over the top of head and on the side of muzzle; wool joined between the ears and eyes.

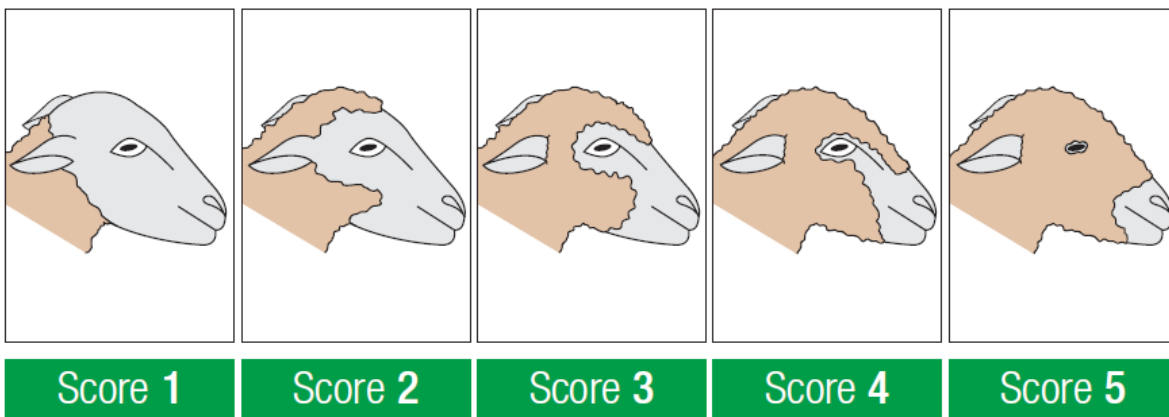
**Score 4:**

Wool cover from the top of the head down the muzzle; clear channel remains between the eye and the mouth.

**Score 5:**

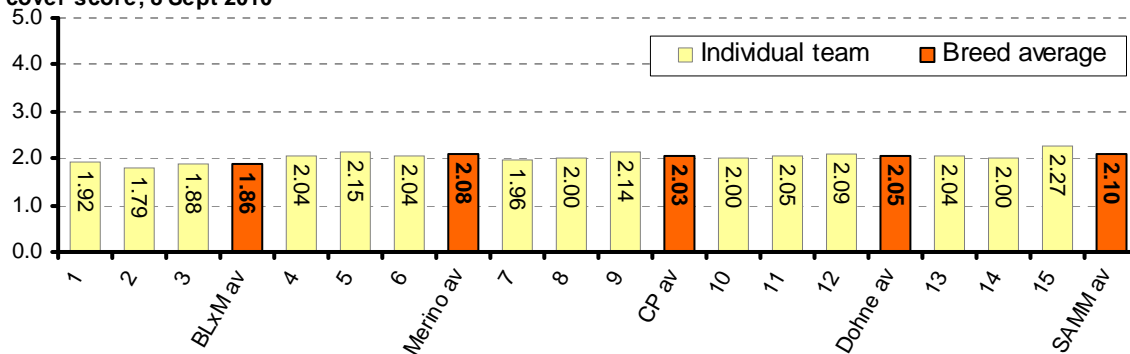
Heavy wool growth over the entire face; wool from the top and side of the muzzle joining.

#### Face cover



The ewes were wiggled at crutching in late May prior to lambing and the Face Cover Score was done on 8 Sept. This could have limited the ability to give an accurate face cover score. The ewes will be scored again for Face Cover just prior to crutching in 2011. Face cover score was estimated by Melissa Neal – DPI Bendigo.

Face cover score, 8 Sept 2010



## 11.4 Fleece rot, wool colour and face cover by team and breed

Team	Ewe Fleece Rot Score, 8 Sept 2010	Ewe Fleece Colour Score – Backline, 8 Sept 2010	Ewe Fleece Colour Score from midside sample after removal from sheep, 8 Sept 2010	Face Cover Score 8 Sept 2010
1	1.50	3.86	2.79	1.92
2	1.54	3.85	3.04	1.79
3	1.43	3.79	3.21	1.88
<b>XB ewe</b>	<b>1.49</b>	<b>3.83</b>	<b>3.01</b>	<b>1.86</b>
4	1.08	2.62	2.19	2.04
5	1.29	2.93	2.25	2.15
6	1.64	2.29	1.96	2.04
<b>Merino</b>	<b>1.34</b>	<b>2.61</b>	<b>2.14</b>	<b>2.08</b>
7	1.31	2.62	2.11	1.96
8	1.00	2.54	2.38	2.00
9	1.31	2.38	2.11	2.14
<b>CP Merino</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>2.51</b>	<b>2.20</b>	<b>2.03</b>
10	1.50	2.80	2.55	2.00
11	1.55	3.09	2.55	2.05
12	1.25	3.25	2.67	2.09
<b>Dohne</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>3.05</b>	<b>2.59</b>	<b>2.05</b>
13	1.42	3.50	3.00	2.04
14	1.54	3.62	3.17	2.00
15	1.71	3.57	3.19	2.27
<b>SAMM</b>	<b>1.56</b>	<b>3.56</b>	<b>3.12</b>	<b>2.10</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>3.11</b>	<b>2.61</b>	<b>2.03</b>