

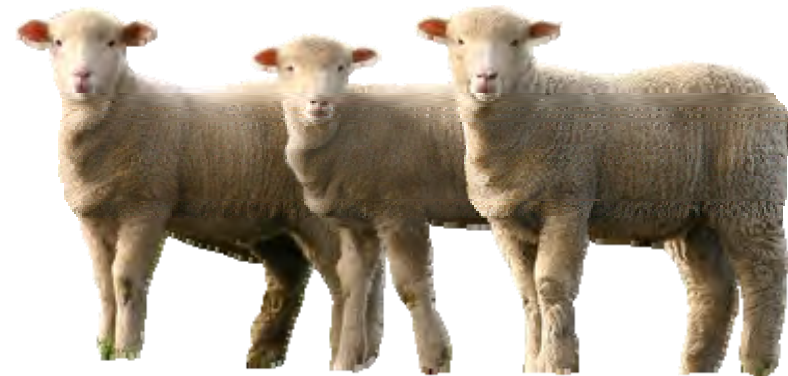
It's ewe time!

Making More From Sheep



Making it Easier

Andrew Ritchie



Event
partners:



Event
supporters:



Department of
Primary Industries

posted to FarmPhoto.com







“Average Client”

- Farms 1800 ha
- Crops 800 – 1000 ha
- Runs 10,000 – 12,000 dse
- 1.5 – 2.0 Labour Units

“Identify your constraints”

“For Our Clients”

- Short growing season.
- A long summer: H₂O, Supp. feeding, lamb survival, summer stocking rates .
- Access to labour.
- Production first, Quality second.

“Identify your target”

Run more / produce more with the same labour

Or

Run the same / produce the same with less labour

Making it easier

1. The sheep system
2. The management
3. The livestock

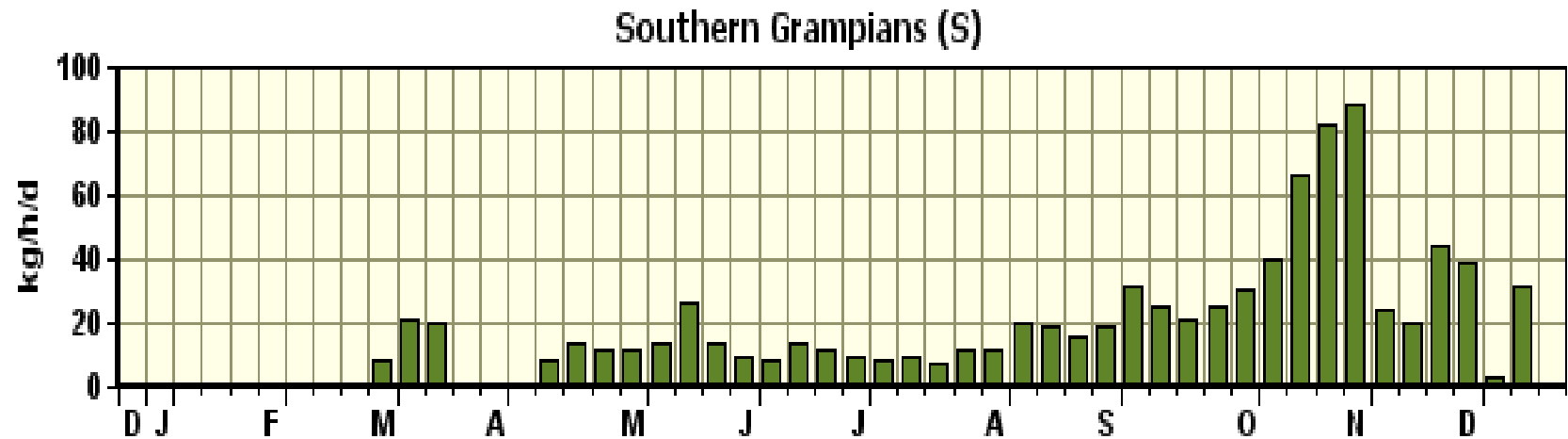
The Sheep System

- Time of Lambing is the single biggest sheep system decision to make.
- Match it to your environment and your farm system.

In a Mixed Farm System

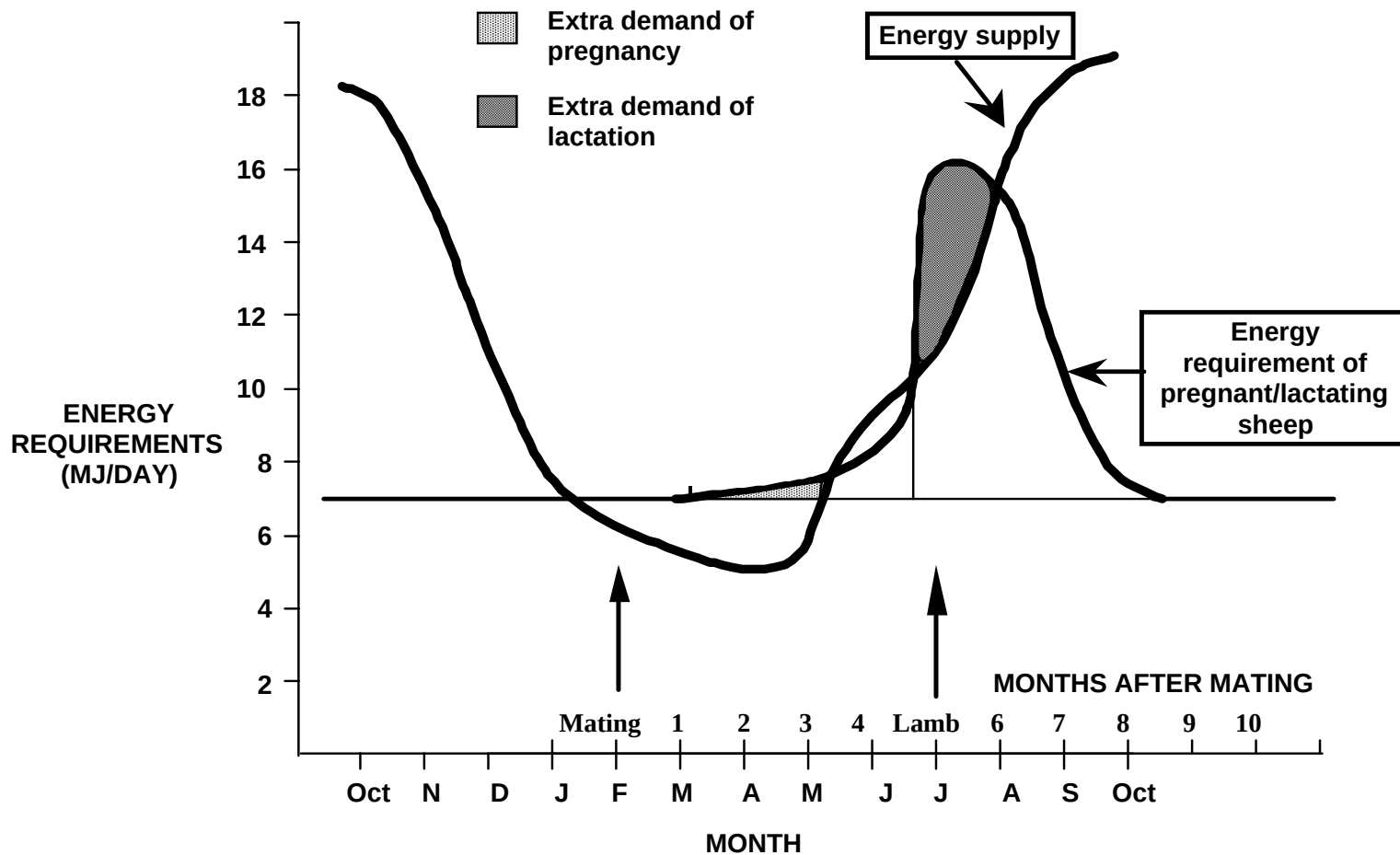
- Seeding and Harvest tasks take Priority.
- We don't want ewes lambing at seeding.
- We need to keep lambs growing at harvest

Environment is King

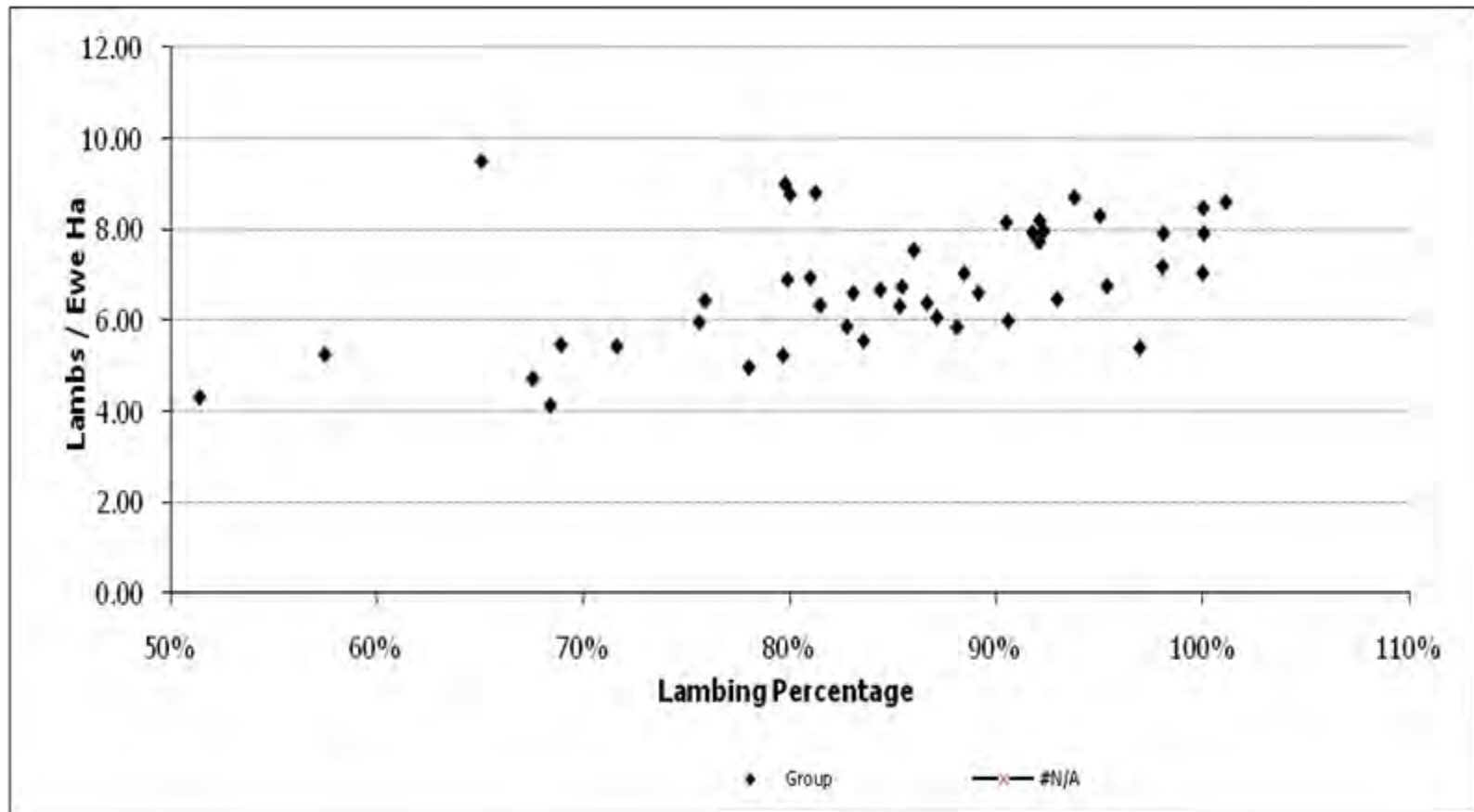


Environment is king

Energy requirements and supply for July/August Lambing ewes



Benchmark your System



Management Techniques

- Time is money....
- “Work expands so as to fill the *time* available for its completion.”

Prof C N Parkinson (1955)

Your Business

- Cost Yourself ?

Full time unit = \$45k, and runs 6000 dse

Cost Structure

<u>Item</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>(\$ / DSE)</u>
Sheep Costs	7.37	
Fertiliser	3.28	
Feed	3.75	
Pasture	0.10	
<u>Total Costs</u>	<u>14.61</u>	

		<u>DSE Managed</u>	
<u>Days Worked</u>	<u>6000</u>	<u>8000</u>	<u>10000</u>
100	\$3.41	\$2.56	\$2.04
160	\$5.45	\$4.09	\$3.27
220	\$7.50	\$5.63	\$4.50

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Management Techniques (Free!)

- Multi tasking each muster
 - Crutching, Mules, fly treatments and drenching.
 - Does your system allow this?
 - The less time spent mustering the better.
- Run ewes in age groups
 - Less drafting, less mustering

Management Techniques (Free!)

- Fodder Crops
 - Improved lamb management, less work, spin off for ewes
- Large Mobs
 - Less to check, less to feed, less critical points to go wrong, less to muster!
- Feeding
 - Choice of feed (lupins vs. others), feeders (Lick, scale), frequency

Large capacity



Large capacity



Management Techniques (Some Cost)

- Lots of water
 - No water, no sheep
- Good fences
 - Less Mustering, Bio-security
- Lane ways
 - Faster more efficient muster

Management Techniques (Do your sums)

- Update Existing Infrastructure
 - Yards
 - Shed
- New Tools
 - Auto Draft
 - Remote Sensing



Shelter for the team













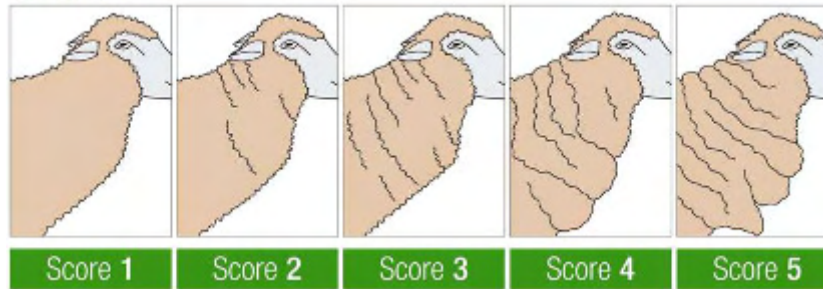


The Livestock

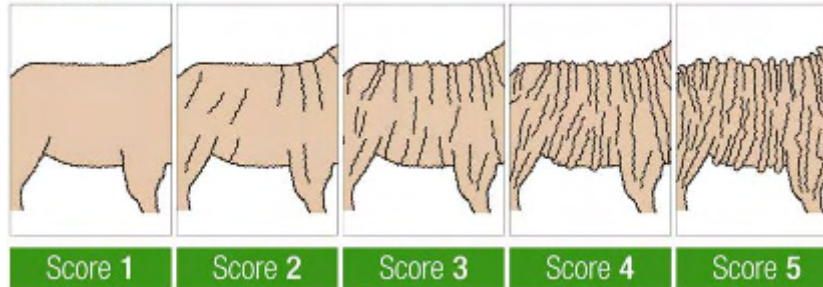
- Genetics is the free kick
- Our objective is ease of care:
 - plain bodied to reduce problems and reduce time
 - no lambing problems (no assisted lambing and cull dry sheep)

Plain Bodied Sheep

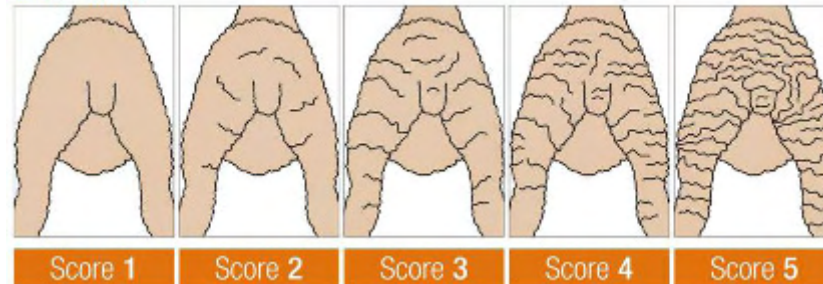
Neck wrinkle



Body wrinkle

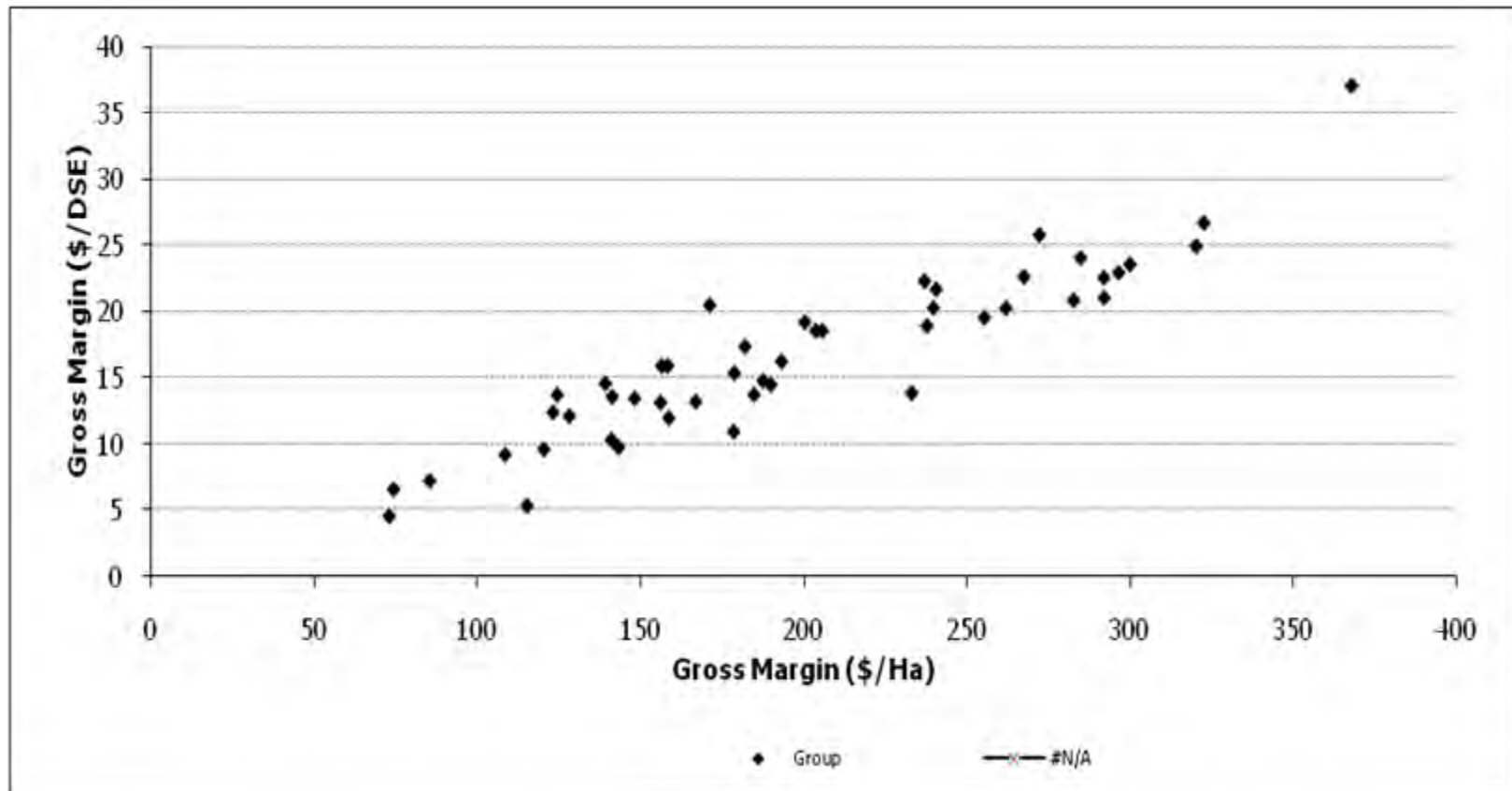


Breech Wrinkle





Benchmark Your Business



Sheep can be Profitable and Enjoyable

But it may well require investment

- In the System
- In the way you manage them
- In the livestock objective