



# DOHNE

# Solutions

## The importance of fat in a wool growing enterprise.

The breeders of woolled sheep in Australia are learning the importance of genetic fat in their flocks.

Fat is proving to be a significant profit driver due to its effects on reproductive ability, as well as the ability to turn off prime lambs from pastures without the need to feedlot.

Stored fat plays a crucial role in buffering a ewe from losing too much body weight when feeding her lambs. Fat is stored energy, and it also provides some insulation from cold. Adequate genetic fat assists with the ability of the ewe to regain body condition after weaning. This means that the ewe can conceive again in a timely cycle. It is possible to re-mate ewes with great success even while they are lactating, especially under ideal nutritional conditions. Dohnes are non-seasonal breeders.

The practical application of this technique is that it allows the breeder to bring forward lambing in subsequent years. Spring lambing ewes can be brought forward to winter or even autumn this way.

Cost effective lamb production is a delicate balance between gross returns and input costs. As we breed more feed efficient sheep using the genetic tools and measurements available to us, we find that our rams sire lambs that are capable of fattening in the paddock, rather than requiring finishing time in an expensive feedlot situation.

This is how to maximise profit.

At Glen Holme, we breed for performance rather than feed for appearance. Our clients experience growth rates and condition in their lambs that enable paddock finishing.

This is bred into our flock through heavy selection pressure. This is done under less than ideal feed availability. Over a series of generations, the best performers can express their growth rates and feed conversion efficiency. We select the best from the best, time after time, generation after generation. We select our sale rams from these high performing sires.

Fat and muscle scanning of our lambs at the Post Weaning stage gives good data on the higher performing sires by measuring their progeny.

For additional information on these topics please refer to the results of the 2016 drop in the MLP trial at Balmoral in Victoria or alternatively contact us at Glen Holme.

