

AuctionsPlus weekly sheep & lamb summary – w/e Friday May 7, 2021

The online market for sheep and lambs was slightly softer this week, as some good rain through the south east reportedly refreshed buyer confidence, but also renewed seller expectations. Total sheep and lamb offerings exclusively through AuctionsPlus this week reached 72,020 head, which was down slightly on last week (72,964 head) – with a surge in crossbred lambs largely offset by a sharp fall in the number of Merino wethers and shedding lambs offered.

While patchy rain early in the week resulted in a slight rise in interest for the first cross ewe lamb portion of the market, the 24% increase in offerings was too much of a supply factor to offset. First cross ewe lambs finished the week \$34 lower on last week, averaging \$208/head – with the clearance rate hitting 64%, compared to last week's 58%.

For the two Merino lamb categories, overall numbers were back on the previous week, with ewe lamb numbers back 10%, at 5,027 head, while the wether portion of the market contracted 58%, at 6,354 head. Even with the reduced offerings, wether lambs decreased \$5 on last week, to average \$140/head, at a 62% clearance rate. An indicative line of 460 Merino wether lambs, Sept-Oct 2020 drop, averaging 43.4kg/head, out of Menindee, NSW, sold to \$161/head – equating to 847.4c/kg cwt.

Merino ewe lambs averaged \$9 lower, to average \$161/head – with the clearance rate only at 30% (previous week was 59%).

The joined ewe market was weaker this week, with average prices down for three of the four main categories – with the overall clearance rate falling on last week. With the overall supply of SIL Merino ewes jumping 19% on the previous week, with 12,325 head offered, prices averaged \$7 lower, at \$245/head, as restocker demand and the willingness to increase bids remained stagnant. Numbers for both SM Merino ewes (3,279 head) and SIL first cross ewes (4,296 head) were steady on last week, with the SIL first cross ewes averaging \$24 lower on last week, at \$285/head. In contrast to the other joined ewe categories, SM Merino ewes averaged \$44 up on last week at \$240/head.

The unpredictable NSM Merino ewe market kicked higher this week, defying the impact of a 48% rise in offering, at 5,486 head. With a 79% clearance rate, the NSM Merino ewes averaged \$48 higher, at \$188/head.

NOTE: Prices as at 5pm Thursday, 6th May 2021.

For more categories, please go to:

[Sheep Averages 04/05/2021](#)

Classification	Offered	\$/head					actual €/kg lwt			
		Low	High	Average	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average	Change
Lambs										
<i>Crossbreds</i>	13,452	130	195	166	0	82%	343	732	431	31
<i>Merino wethers</i>	6,354	113	161	140	-5	62%	319	427	357	-16
<i>first cross ewe</i>	7,885	139	277	208	-34	64%	424	670	558	51
<i>Merino ewe</i>	5,027	140	197	161	-9	30%	342	500	435	-20
<i>Shedding breeds</i>	217	190	262	226	-16	29%	432	521	476	-106
<i>Composite/other breeds</i>	4,693	148	271	203	18	61%	376	620	482	-1
Sheep										
Merino Ewes and Lambs	641	180	315	271	-5	85%	283	754	488	2
Merino Wethers	2,730	119	182	150	-20	56%	223	350	286	-64
Joined Ewes										
SIL Merino ewes	12,325	181	320	245	-7	38%	275	556	385	-23
SM Merino ewes	3,279	220	250	240	44	34%	294	384	354	-21
SIL first cross ewe	4,296	230	350	285	-24	31%	346	541	428	-48
SM first cross ewes	657	160	160	160	-141	9%	256	256	256	-197
Non Station Mated (NSM)										
<i>Merino hogget ewes</i>	590	150	236	193	-13	38%	301	400	350	-41
Merino ewes	5,486	152	252	188	48	79%	234	422	341	81
composite/other breeds	1,851	180	180	180	-85	13%	423	423	423	2
<i>shedding breed ewes</i>	988	295	417	354	-89	100%	549	975	688	-153

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