

AuctionsPlus weekly sheep and lamb summary – w/e 12 March 2021

The number of sheep and lambs offered exclusively on AuctionsPlus this week jumped 15%, to 96,643 head, with most of the increase attributable to a surge in crossbred and Merino wether lambs, with 20,052 head and 19,454 head offered, respectively. Prices were again varied, along with clearance rates, especially for joined ewes.

The large jump in crossbred and Merino wether lambs had prices back slightly for both categories, with crossbred lambs averaging \$161 for the week – down \$9/head on last week. Similarly, Merino wether lambs slipped \$4, to average \$139/head, with the 19,454 head offered registering an 80% clearance rate. An indicative result from Tuesday National Lamb sale had 143 Merino store wether lambs, May-June 2020 drop and shorn in late February, averaging 33.1kg liveweight, sell for \$122/head – or an estimated 368.6c/kg liveweight.

First cross ewe lambs averaged \$7 dearer this week, at \$242/head, despite the clearance rate falling to only 37%, compared to 57% in the previous week. Interestingly, clearance rates were also lower this week for SM Merino ewes and SIL first cross ewes, at 21% and 26%, respectively. However, higher average prices for both ewe categories up \$34 and \$8/head, indicates that sellers were holding firm on reserve levels, while the buyers that did secure a sale were pushed higher on average than last week.

The highest clearance rate for the week was for NSM Merino hogget ewes, at 94% for the 2,346 head offered – with the average price for the week jumping \$23, to \$244/head. An indicative result out of SA this week saw 241 SIL Poll Merino ewe hoggets average \$328/head, equating to 480.9c/kg liveweight. The line from Saddleworth, SA were 22-23 months old, averaged 68.2kg liveweight and were shorn in August 2020.

The first ten days of autumn has seen some much-needed falls through several regions, most notably through very dry regions of WA, according to the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. While compared to 2020 the 2021 autumn break may not be as desperately needed, the extent of the autumn break always serves as an excellent guide to the remainder of the year – especially with the current flock rebuilding intentions in full swing.

NOTE: Prices are as at 5pm Thursday, 11 March 2021.

(prices subject to change, as auction sales continue past 5pm Thursday)

For more categories, please go to:

National AuctionsPlus Store Report - Sheep and Lamb

[Sheep Averages 09/03/2021](#)

Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average	Change
\$/head							actual €/kg lwt			
Lambs										
Crossbreds	20,052	90	250	161	-9	79%	346	556	429	-44
Merino wethers	19,454	111	200	139	-4	80%	254	500	393	-7
first cross ewe	5,616	169	305	242	7	37%	404	761	587	3
Merino ewe	4,080	116	240	193	11	55%	391	543	460	-45
Shedding breeds	3,233	164	-	270	9	87%	372	987	654	-3
Composite/other breeds	5,435	164	323	206	9	48%	412	626	488	-29
Sheep										
Merino wethers	1,565	137	150	145	-6	50%	277	319	297	13
Joined Ewes										
SIL Merino ewes	16,158	183	329	259	0	62%	316	540	417	-12
SM Merino ewes	3,593	250	260	255	34	21%	421	475	448	67
SIL first cross ewe	3,063	279	411	330	8	26%	375	544	436	-46
SM first cross ewe	1,015	171	350	228	-32	71%	314	611	421	108
Non Station Mated (NSM)										
Merino hogget ewes	2,346	189	300	244	23	94%	367	616	483	58
Merino ewes	5,707	150	286	217	14	70%	237	585	385	25
first cross ewe	264	185	201	193	-30	85%	283	363	323	-211
composite/other breeds	3,771	180	285	223	-205	43%	279	443	337	-278
shedding breed ewes	1,291	165	404	264	-34	91%	270	503	404	-115

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