

AuctionsPlus Weekly Sheep & Lamb summary – w/e Friday 14th May, 2021

The national online market for sheep and lambs was largely stronger this week, assisted by a 9% decline in throughput – totaling 65,246 head. Some patchy, but welcome falls early in the week, along with the first real cold snap of the year through southern regions all influenced actions within the market, with both first cross ewe lambs and merino ewe lambs dearer on last week.

One of the features for this week's sale was a return to some very high clearance rates for the larger lamb categories, with reports indicating that sellers were keen to lock in deals and offload numbers heading into the second half of Autumn. Merino wether lambs registered a 93% clearance rate for the 12,396 head offered, while crossbreds (5,832 head) and shedding lines (1,176 head) recorded clearance rates of 95% and 94%, respectively. In respect to prices, shedding lines finished the week up \$13/head, at \$239, while Merino wether lambs were up \$1 on last week, at \$141, while crossbreds were steady at \$166/head.

In contrast to the above categories, the clearance rate for future breeder ewe lambs was significantly lower, at 41% for first cross ewe lambs and 65% for Merino ewe lambs. With prices up coincidentally \$36/head for both categories, it appears that sellers are happy to set higher reserve levels, with the seasonal conditions enabling flexibility to carry ewe lambs through if required. Merino ewe lambs finished the week averaging \$197, with first cross ewe lambs at \$244/head.

Matching the increased return for ewe lambs was a stronger market for SIL ewes, with both main categories registering higher prices for the week – but again at mixed clearance rates. With 13,262 SIL Merino ewes offered for the week, the average price jumped \$17, to \$262/head – with the clearance rate hitting 70%. For a slightly larger offering of SIL first cross ewes compared to last week, at 4,944 head, the average price reached \$338 – up \$53/head on last week, with a clearance rate at 53%.

Weekly averages for NSM ewe lines were mixed this week, with the 3,190 head of NSM Merino ewes down \$14 on last week, at \$174/head – even with a 92% clearance rate. Despite having similar clearance rates for the week at 76% and 74%, respectively, the composite/other ewe category increased \$72/head on last week, to \$252/head, while shedding breed ewes fell \$77, to average \$277/head.

NOTE: Prices as at 5pm Thursday, 13th May 2021.

For more categories, please go to:

[Sheep Averages 11/05/2021](#)

Classification	Offered	\$/head					actual €/kg lwt			
		Low	High	Average	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average	Change
Lambs										
Crossbreds	5,832	129	202	166	0	95%	346	654	428	-3
Merino wethers	12,396	105	177	141	1	93%	330	419	373	16
first cross ewe	4,529	205	265	244	36	41%	570	795	665	107
Merino ewe	5,919	170	242	197	36	65%	346	624	447	12
Shedding breeds	1,176	114	408	239	13	94%	297	1340	641	165
Composite/other breeds	789	166	197	179	-24	87%	426	451	436	-46
Sheep										
Merino Ewes and Lambs	976	228	298	265	-6	46%	341	447	407	-81
Merino Wethers	1,471	136	136	136	-14	19%	282	282	282	-4
Joined Ewes										
SIL Merino ewes	13,262	151	371	262	17	70%	282	732	450	65
SM Merino ewes	1,773	190	192	191	-49	42%	251	343	297	-57
SIL first cross ewe	4,944	240	415	338	53	53%	281	775	485	57
SM first cross ewes	651	300	300	300	140	3%	526	526	526	270
Non Station Mated (NSM)										
Merino hogget ewes	695	265	265	265	72	60%	530	530	530	180
Merino ewes	3,190	91	222	174	-14	92%	243	392	323	-18
first cross ewe	53	170	170	170	-	100%	288	288	288	-
composite/other breeds	4,988	182	350	252	72	76%	295	502	404	-19
shedding breed ewes	2,461	200	357	277	-77	74%	341	671	514	-174

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