



## AuctionsPlus weekly Sheep and Lamb summary – w/e 19 February 2021

Lamb and sheep numbers offered exclusively on AuctionsPlus declined 18% this week, to 96,723 head. While the large offerings of the previous two weeks were unable to be sustained, prices were generally higher across most categories on a \$/head basis this week, despite clearance rates again varying across the categories.

Across the lamb categories, first cross and Merino ewe lambs jumped \$20/head and \$26/head, from the previous week, averaging \$250/head and \$209/head, respectively. The comparatively low clearance rate for both categories, at 57% and 51%, respectively, continues to show the value that many of the vendors are attributing to potential future breeders, unwilling to reduce reserve levels to meet buyers. Interestingly, while first cross ewe lamb numbers were back 21% on the previous week, at 8,532 head, the number of merino ewe lambs jumped 79%, to 4,941 head.

In comparison, the clearance rate for Merino wether lambs this week hit 95%, for the 11,484 head offered. With a weekly auction high of \$175/head, the average jumped \$9/head on the previous week, to \$149/head – or around 400c/kg lwt. With the excellent season in full swing across key regions of southern Australia, the offered supply of Merino ewes with lambs at foot continues to be critically tight – especially when compared to late 2019 and early 2020. Flock rebuilding intentions, combined with very little pressure to sell, continues to see extremely tight offerings, with only one line of 155 head sold this week – averaging \$89/head higher, at \$363/head. In this instance, it is the absence of supply, or what is not being recorded, that tells the best story of what is occurring in the market.

Interestingly, there was an additional 10,000 head of scanned-in-lamb Merino ewes offered this week, at just over 26,000 head. Again, while prices jumped \$15/head, to average \$270/head – the clearance rate was only 54%, as many vendors continue to sit patiently, awaiting buyers to lift offers. Nearly 10,000 head of non-station mated Merino ewes were offered this week, with an average clearance rate of 68%. Prices for the week average up slightly, at \$229/head, with a market high of \$367/head.

**Note: all prices reported below are as at the close of reporting of 5pm, Thursday 18th February.**

For more categories, please go to:

[National AuctionsPlus Store Report - Sheep](#)  
[Sheep Averages 16/02/2021](#)

Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average \$/head	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average actual €/kg lwt	Change
<b>Lambs</b>										
<i>crossbreds</i>	4,807	137	301	175	12	100%	386	844	466	40
<i>Merino wethers</i>	11,484	117	175	149	9	95%	347	469	400	-1
<i>first cross ewe</i>	8,532	167	371	250	20	57%	393	752	503	-29
<i>Merino ewe</i>	4,941	166	267	209	26	51%	398	719	503	52
<i>shedding breeds</i>	7,255	102	553	295	56	90%	393	1035	635	101
<i>multi purpose lambs</i>	-									
<i>composite/other breeds</i>	7,872	149	300	194	3	79%	384	743	500	-40
<b>Sheep</b>										
<i>Merino ewes - lambs at foot</i>	155	363	363	363	89	100%	690	690	690	139
<i>Merino wethers</i>	4,359	129	171	150	-6	37%	235	366	293	-28
<b>Scanned in lamb (SIL)</b>										
<i>Merino ewes</i>	26,028	143	392	270	15	54%	256	764	456	45
<i>first cross ewe</i>	3,635	211	410	314	9	63%	302	641	457	20
<b>Non Station Mated (NSM)</b>										
<i>Merino hogget ewes</i>	1,931	140	303	256	35	78%	363	637	491	51
<i>Merino ewes</i>	9,977	148	367	229	1	68%	296	745	456	46
<i>first cross ewe</i>	765	280	295	288	58	47%	475	557	516	111
<i>composite/other breeds</i>	2,414	150	350	293	17	45%	331	572	429	-51

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