

## AuctionsPlus weekly sheep & lambs summary – w/e 19 March 2021

It was another large offering of sheep and lambs exclusively offered on AuctionsPlus this week, with total supplies rising 11%, to 107,418 head. After last week's 15% increase in offerings, the flow of stock into the market over the past two weeks has had a notable impact on prices, especially for the joined ewe lines.

Merino wether lambs continue to meet steady demand, with the clearance rate in previous weeks being consistently above other categories. The 17,152 head offered this week resulted in an 85% clearance rate, with prices slipping \$2, averaging \$137/head. An indicative result for this week was 250 Merino wether lambs out of Benalla, Victoria, which were July-August 2020 drop, unshorn and averaging 39.6kg, sold for \$150/head.

Crossbred lambs sold to mixed demand this week, with a 21% drop in the total numbers offered, at 15,788 head. The contraction in supply only had a marginal impact on the weekly average, edging \$3 higher, at \$164/head – with a 69% clearance rate.

In a mixed market, 8,850 first cross ewe lambs averaged \$18 higher, at \$260/head, while Merino ewe lambs slipped \$5, to \$188/head – with a weekly clearance rate of 57% and 41%, respectively.

Joined ewe lines were softer this week, with prices back across the three main categories. For SIL Merino ewes, 61% of the 17,485 head were sold within the official sale time, with the average price back \$4, at \$255/head. An indicative sale for the week saw 275 SIL Merino ewes out of Stawell, Victoria, averaging 63.3kg live and shorn in February, sell for \$265/head.

Comparatively, SM Merino ewes decreased \$56, to average \$199/head, while SIL first cross ewes decreased \$30, to \$300/head. The relatively low clearance rate for both categories, at 40% and 49%, respectively, continued to point to a stand-off between sellers expectations and buyers enthusiasm. In recent weeks, clearance rates have slowly increased in the days following the Tuesday auctions, as expectations and enthusiasm converge.

While the widespread falls through central and northern NSW this week may have come too late to impact this week's offerings, next week's listings will be very closely watched, given the extensive and heavy falls forecast. If the falls forecast deliver, the on-farm desire to retain and rebuild will be refreshed – balanced against the ever-present need for cash flow and income.

### NOTE: Prices are as at 5pm Thursday, 18 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 16/03/2021](#)

Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average \$/head	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average actual €/kg lwt	Change
<b>Lambs</b>										
Crossbreds	15,788	120	201	164	3	69%	353	648	452	23
Merino wethers	17,152	90	163	137	-2	85%	312	504	377	-16
first cross ewe	8,850	150	350	260	18	57%	370	677	532	-55
Merino ewe	3,562	150	221	188	-5	41%	373	754	466	5
Shedding breeds	3,407	148	513	279	9	67%	355	1174	652	-2
Composite/other breeds	7,682	106	179	151	-55	58%	207	547	459	-28
<b>Sheep</b>										
Merino wethers	4,284	106	159	140	-6	62%	264	322	289	-8
<b>Joined Ewes</b>										
SIL Merino ewes	17,485	190	321	255	-4	61%	272	541	387	-30
SM Merino ewes	5,411	178	240	199	-56	40%	355	471	411	-37
SIL first cross ewe	6,145	220	360	300	-30	49%	313	595	438	2
SM first cross ewe	376	225	305	265	37	72%	268	507	388	-33
<b>Non Station Mated (NSM)</b>										
Merino hogget ewes	2,608	168	351	244	0	62%	371	579	455	-29
Merino ewes	6,232	144	292	201	-16	56%	256	485	356	-30
first cross ewe	816	265	320	289	96	64%	337	510	431	107
composite/other breeds	4,588	166	500	302	79	41%	291	569	432	95
shedding breed ewes	3,032	130	431	246	-18	85%	209	668	451	47

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