

AuctionsPlus sheep and lamb weekly summary – w/e April 30, 2021

The online market for sheep and lambs was largely softer this week, despite a contraction in supplies, with offerings back 19% on the previous week, to 72,964 head. The very dry April appears to have crimped some of the buyer enthusiasm, with the clearance rates for ewe lambs and breeding lines patchy, especially for NSM merino ewes.

However, as has been the case in previous weeks, many transactions are expected to be finalised post the 5pm Thursday cut-off for this summary – as the dance between bids and offers continues. This is especially expected to be the case for the NSM Merino category, which had lots of interest and registered bidders this week, but only a 15% initial clearance rate, from the 3,697 head offered. With the first substantial rain since late March forecast for next week, restocker demand may rebound next week, with confidence also boosted by this week's favorable three-month rainfall outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology.

Across the main lamb categories this week, the largest offerings were for Merino wether lambs, with an 84% clearance rate for the 14,843 head offered. Merino wether lambs edged \$1 higher on last week, to \$145/head. The only other lamb category to increase was for crossbred lambs, up \$8, to average \$166/head – with a 70% clearance rate for the 4,894 head offered.

First cross ewe lambs declined \$8 this week, to average \$242/head, while Merino ewe lambs and shedding breeds declined \$29 and \$79 on last week, to average \$170 and \$242/head, respectively.

For the sheep categories, prices were mostly cheaper, with all the joined ewe prices averaging lower on the previous week. SIL Merino ewes averaged \$6 cheaper, at \$252/head, with a 67% clearance rate for the 10,384 head offered. Like the NSM Merino ewe category, the clearance rate for SIL first cross ewes was well back on the previous week, at only 26% for the 4,079 head presented – averaging \$2 lower for the week, at \$309/head.

SM Merino ewes averaged \$25 cheaper, at \$196/head, with a 48% clearance rate for the 3,279 head offered. An indicative line of 268 SM Merino ewes, out of Central West NSW, averaging 62kg liveweight and 5-6-years-old sold to \$204/head – equating to 741.8c/kg dressed.

NOTE: Prices as at 5pm Thursday 29th April, 2021.

For more categories, please go to:

[Sheep Averages 27/04/2021](#)

Classification	Offered	\$/head					actual €/kg lwt			
		Low	High	Average	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average	Change
Lambs										
Crossbreds	4,894	146	197	166	8	70%	329	437	400	-38
Merino wethers	14,843	125	169	145	1	84%	319	442	373	-3
first cross ewe	6,368	130	353	242	-8	58%	364	645	507	-48
Merino ewe	5,556	127	225	170	-29	59%	366	533	455	-61
Shedding breeds	3,839	143	392.5	242	-79	91%	397	977	582	-169
Composite/other breeds	6,621	115	260	185	11	74%	372	663	483	56
Sheep										
Merino Ewes and Lambs	419	250	301	276	-7	100%	480	493	486	-29
Merino Wethers	719	170	170	170	24	30%	350	350	350	21
Joined Ewes										
SIL Merino ewes	10,384	205	315	252	-6	67%	290	552	408	-27
SM Merino ewes	3,279	154	260	196	-25	48%	306	520	375	35
SIL first cross ewe	4,079	180	395	309	-2	26%	248	637	476	-28
SM first cross ewes	87	301	301	301	-33	100%	453	453	453	-264
Non Station Mated (NSM)										
Merino hogget ewes	1,274	180	239	206	26	51%	342	452	391	32
Merino ewes	3,697	135	145	140	-61	15%	256	264	260	-144
first cross ewe	293	320	320	320	66	41%	385	385	385	-29
composite/other breeds	3,265	215	310	265	-1	88%	292	601	421	8
shedding breed ewes	2,693	230	649	443	168	96%	562	981	841	359

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