

Merino Matters



Are ewe pregnant?

Q & A for pregnancy scanning

There are three options for scanning:

Wet and Dry the most commonly used type of scanning in WA to date and is separating the dry ewes from the pregnant ewes.

Multiple foetus identification is separating the twin and even the triplet bearing ewes from the single bearing ewes and the dry ewes. It is becoming more popular.

Foetal aging is aging the foetus and putting the pregnant ewes into groups of similar lambing times. This service allows mobs to be put into two, three week lambing mobs, over a period of a five week mating.

Things to know:

Best time to scan is after 45 days from when the rams come out of the ewes. Pregnancy scanning can be done earlier than 45 days of the age of the foetus though the accuracy can be affected.

For identifying multiple foetuses and the age of the foetus the foetus does not want to be any younger than 45 days or older than 100 days.

Wet and dry scanning can be done up to lambing but preferable to be done two weeks prior to lambing for animal health reasons.

Ewes can be scanned at any wool length.

Ewes need to be empty for scanning as it allows for higher accuracy as the rumen sits in front of the uterus.

Ewes can stay on water at all times if required.

Helpful Hints:

Once identified multiple foetuses in ewes try to

- Lamb in mobs as close to 100 ewes per mob
- Identify twin ewe lambs as these will be required to be classed separately to your single ewe lambs
- Ensure feed requirements are met as twin bearing ewes need a lot more feed for both lambs to survive
- Use paddocks with the best shelter and fox control.

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