

Weekly Sheep & Lamb Comments - 8.10.21

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By AuctionsPlus

AuctionsPlus sheep and lamb offering declined 10% this week, to total 134,800 head. While a week-on-week reduction was expected, given the recent widespread rainfall and short trading week, listing still remained 25% above the corresponding week last year.

Offerings of new season lambs this week corresponded with overall listing numbers – also recording a 10% decline from last week. A small decline in supply was met with increased demand across all six categories, with prices up across the board.

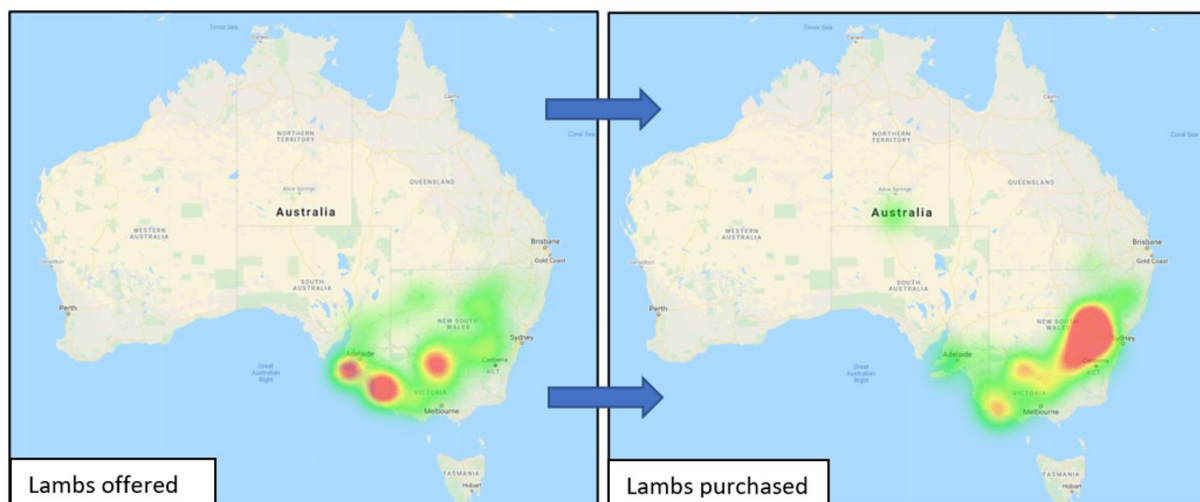


Figure 1: Heatmap of AuctionsPlus National Lamb Sale offering and purchase locations.

Crossbred lambs accounted for 28% of the total offering this week, with 37,536 head offered – up 13% from last week. The increased offering for the category was well supported, as clearance rates increased to 96%, while the category averaged \$8 higher, at \$172/head liveweight.

Merino wether lambs registered a considerable contraction in numbers this week - back 31% to total 28,620 head. The tighter offering for the category saw prices increase by \$5, to average \$143/head - while clearance rates increased considerably to 92%, as many buyers had renewed confidence following recent rainfall during the critical spring period.

Merino ewe lambs had a total of 2,131 head listed online this week. Prices held firm with the category averaging \$267/head – up \$1 from last week. A new record high for commercial Merino ewe lambs was set this week, with the top line of the category returning \$398/head liveweight. The line featured 89 future breeder ewe lambs of Mumblebone blood from Wuuluman, NSW. The ewe lambs aged 12-13 months weighed 54.2kg liveweight at assessment, with 2-3” wool and were purchased by a buyer from Trunkey Creek, Central West NSW.

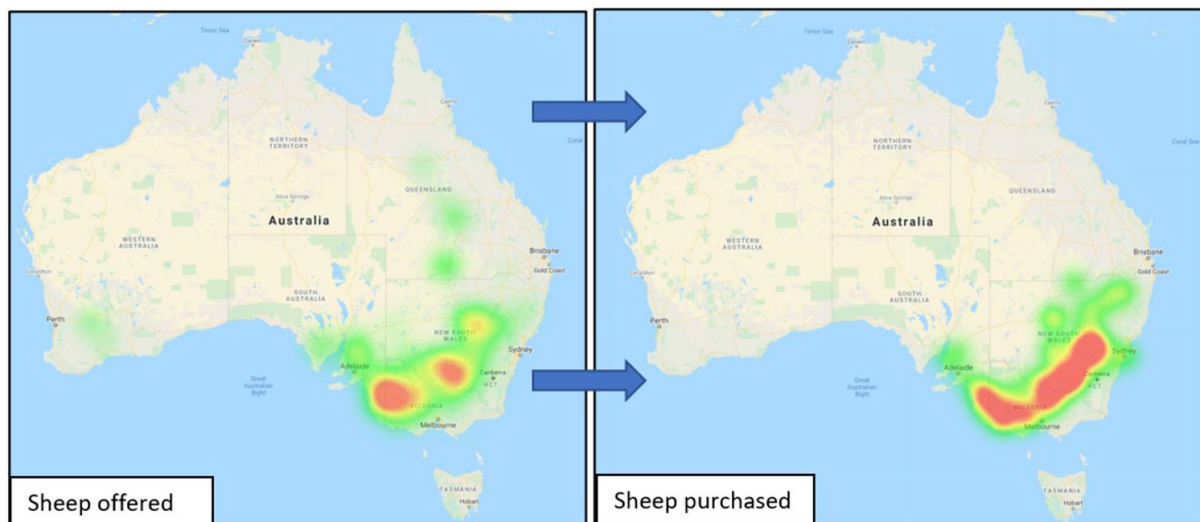


Figure 2: Heatmap of AuctionsPlus National Sheep Sale offering and purchase locations.

The joined ewe offering saw mixed results for both price and clearance rates across the various categories this week. SIL Merino ewe numbers increased by 75% from last week, with the category averaging \$299/head – up \$46. Despite higher returns this week, clearance rates dipped to 49%, indicative of demand for quality breeding lines by restockers.

SIL Composite/other breed ewes also saw a large increase in the offering this week, with 2,634 head catalogued - which registered a 100% clearance rate. Prices for the category declined significantly however, with the average back \$71 from last week, at \$268/head.

Non-station mated lines registered a drop in prices across all categories this week, with low clearance rates an indication of buyers sourcing quality through the offering. NSM Merino ewes accounted for 12% of the total offering this week, with 15,869 head listed - 20% higher than last week. The category sold \$49 easier than last week, to average \$179/head, with clearance rates back to 53%.

NOTE: Prices as at 5pm, Thursday 7th October, 2021

Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average	Change
				\$/head				actual	€/kg lwt	
Lambs										
Crossbreds	37,536	132	214	172	8	96%	375	739	498	18
Merino Wethers	28,620	95	204	143	5	92%	307	498	411	-5
First X Ewes	8,876	202	438	309	15	88%	478	984	738	48
Merino Ewes	2,131	170	398	267	1	73%	377	789	587	37
Shedding Breeds	3,298	142	620	301	11	83%	423	1,428	694	-48
Composite/Other Breeds	1,941	183	342	252	68	72%	413	792	612	118
Sheep										
Merino ewes and lambs	462	305	351	328	49	51%	482	532	507	-8
Ewes and lambs (Mixed)	421	527	527	527	187	80%	741	741	741	214
Merino Wethers	6,525	131	165	147	-5	75%	261	349	319	35
Joined Ewes										
SIL Merino Ewes	2,476	216	330	299	46	49%	306	536	473	54
SM Merino Ewes	544	200	250	225	-	23%	335	427	381	-
SIL Shedding Breed Ewes	376	325	380	345	51	100%	460	600	528	-24
SM Shedding Breed Ewes	2,520	251	604	409	113	70%	391	1,517	834	230
SIL Composite/Other Beewd Ewes	2,634	202	330	268	-71	100%	296	589	416	-251
SM Composite/Other Beewd Ewes	87	355	355	355	-	59%	403	403	403	-
Non Station Mated (NSM)										
Merino Ewe Hoggets	13,478	136	365	274	-15	40%	324	674	508	-32
Merino Ewes	15,869	110	266	179	-49	53%	221	397	298	-64
First X Ewes	691	200	271	235	-77	85%	240	392	324	-165
Composite/Other breed Ewes	3,570	165	313	243	-31	55%	252	608	427	23
Shedding Breed Ewes	1,026	170	225	196	-37	67%	250	414	324	-36