

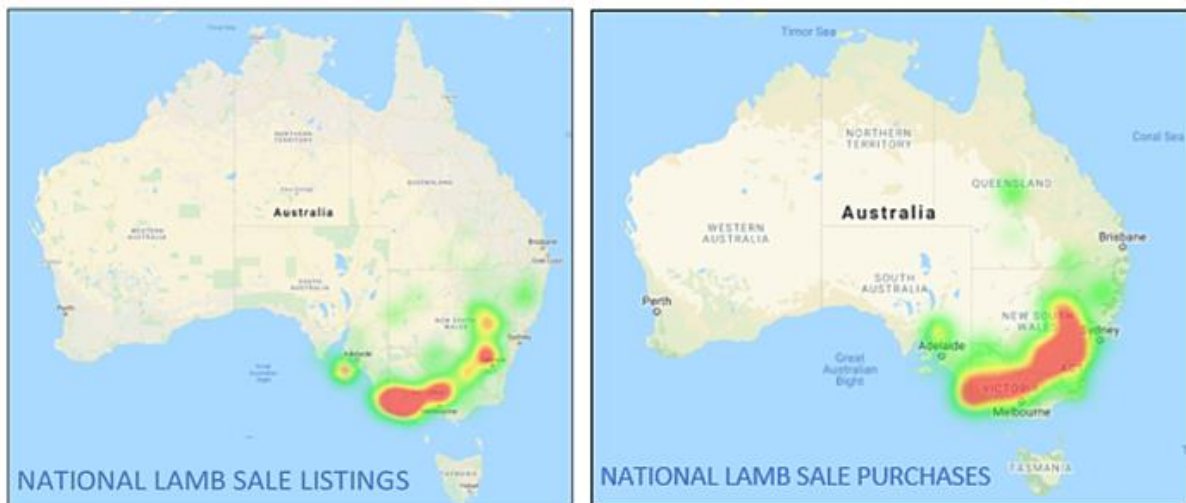
Weekly Sheep & Lamb Comments - 17.12.21

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By AuctionsPlus

The final AuctionsPlus commercial sheep and lamb sales for 2021 registered a 22% jump in weekly listings, as a pre-Christmas flush had 151,122 head offered. Compared to the final week of 2020, listings were 5% higher - the result of widespread rainfall and wet paddocks causing a delay of lamb offerings for many producers in previous weeks.



Southwest Victoria listed 45,018 head this week, accounting for 30% of the total catalogue, while the NSW Central West and Western NSW regions listed 12,872 and 11,788 head, respectively. Following a colder and wetter than normal spring across southern areas of NSW and Victoria, it has taken longer than usual to add weight to lambs. With the traditional “spring flush” much later in 2021, the sustained large lamb offerings are likely to continue into the first few trading weeks of 2022.

The largest December offering of new season lambs hit the market this week, with a total of 103,893 head catalogued across the six categories. While overall demand remained robust, prices across all categories declined for the first time in several months.

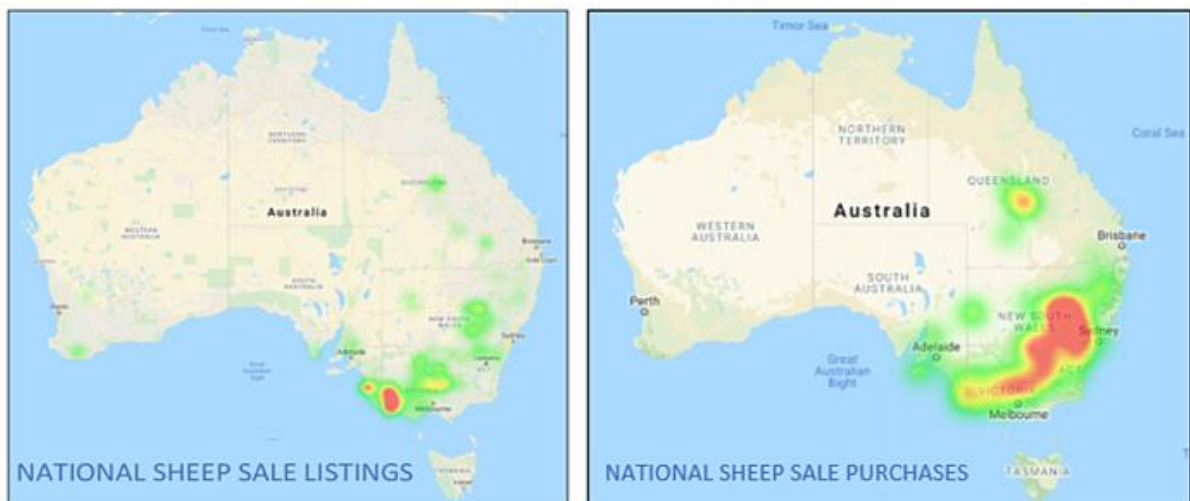
Crossbred lambs accounted for 28% of the offering, with 41,593 head offered. The category returned an 85% clearance rate with prices averaging \$154/head - down \$5 from last week.

Merino wether lambs had a total of 26,697 head listed this week – up 65% from last week. Despite an increased volume in the category this week, clearance rates increased to 92%, while prices remained robust to average \$135/head - \$1 cheaper from last week.

Ewe lamb categories recorded significant price declines this week, with first cross ewes back \$63, to average \$214/head, while Merino ewes declined \$58, to average \$176/head. Demand for ewe lambs in both categories increased however, with a larger offering of first cross ewes returning a 70% clearance and Merino ewes recording the highest clearance rate across all lamb categories at 94%.

Composite/other breed lambs recorded the largest rise in numbers offered this week - with a total of 25,125 head listed online – up 129% from last week. Prices for the category stretched between \$100-\$247, to average \$161/head - back \$7 on last week, with clearance rates rising to 76%.

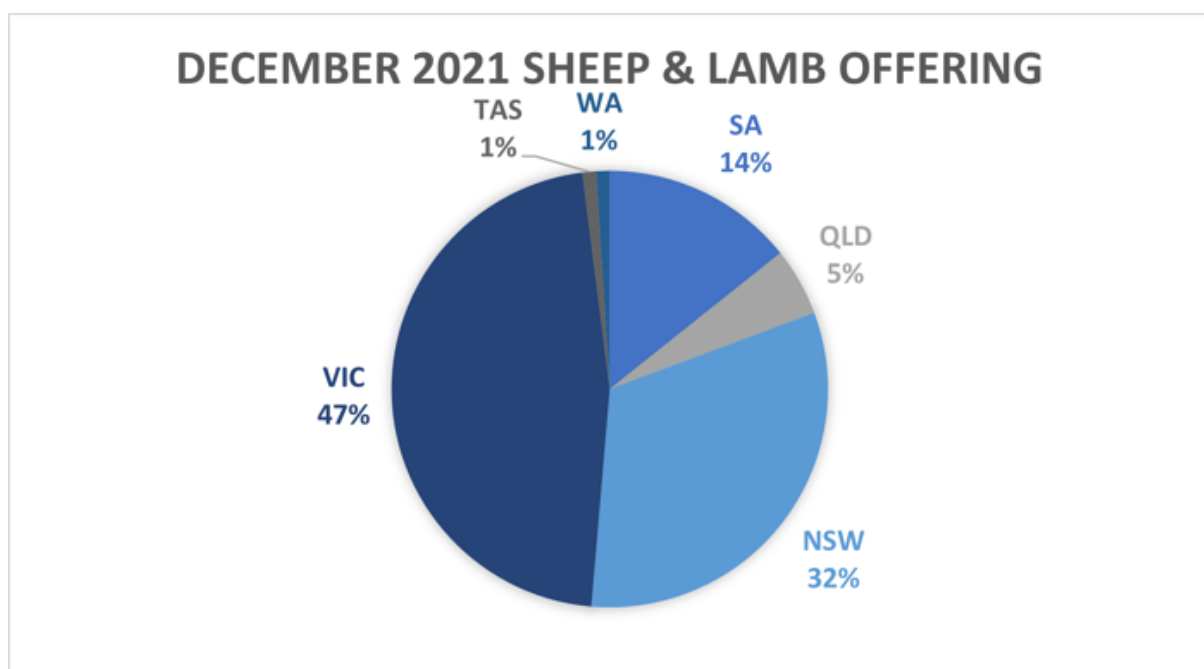
Joined ewes continued to remain scarce in the final week of 2021. Station mated Merino ewes had an increased offering this week, with 3,098 head listed online. Prices for the category ranged from \$231-282, to average \$259/head - up \$49 from last week with a 75% clearance rate recorded.



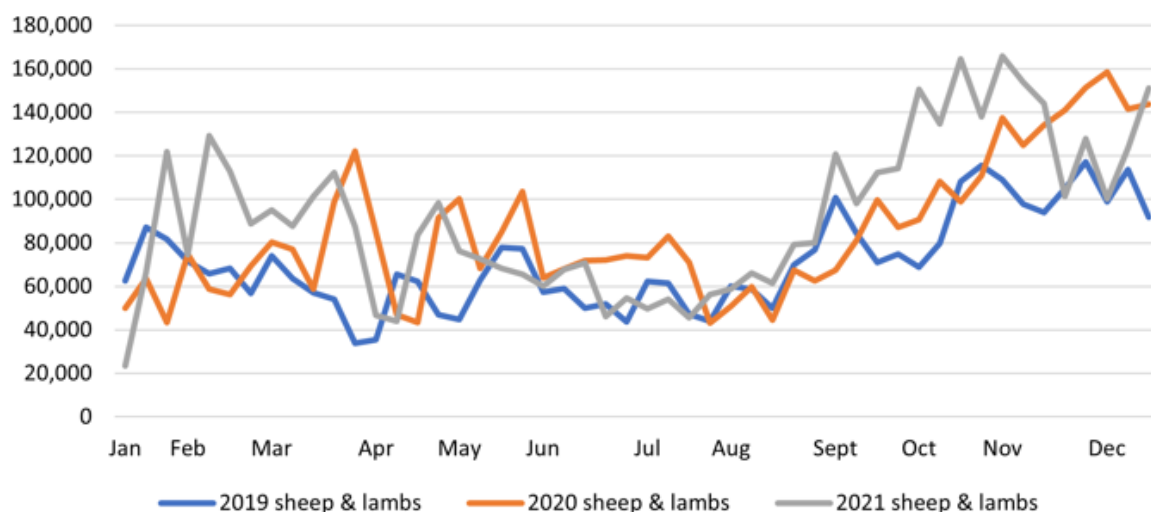
Non-Station mated ewes and hoggets had similar numbers listed online this week. NSM Merino ewes had a total of 14,011 head offered, making up 9% of the catalogue. For the second consecutive week the category registered lower prices, back \$29 this week, to average \$186/head – with the clearance rate also dropping from 95% last week to 69%.

Merino ewe hoggets accounted for 5% of the offering this week, with prices for the category ranging between \$166 to \$320, to average \$242/head - back \$32 on last week.

NOTE: Prices as at 5pm, Thursday 16th December, 2021



AuctionsPlus weekly commercial sheep and lamb offerings (no. head)



Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average \$/head	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average actual c/kg lwt	Change
Lambs										
Crossbreds	41,593	95	190	154	-5	85%	373	765	451	0
Merino Wethers	26,697	103	195	135	-1	92%	359	512	414	-13
First X Ewes	6,716	120	320	214	-63	70%	379	685	543	-112
Merino Ewes	2,295	136	227	176	-58	94%	441	586	537	-79
Shedding Breeds	1,467	142	673	329	-115	86%	442	1,393	808	-445
Composite/Other Breeds	25,125	100	247	161	-7	76%	309	544	446	-19
Sheep										
Merino Ewes & Lambs	2,649	260	291	275	-13	22%	386	610	498	-8
Ewes & Lambs (Mixed)	319	350	860	675	324	31%	695	1,189	1,006	336
Joined Ewes & Lambs (Mixed)	1,394	295	360	318	-	91%	448	841	607	-
Merino Wethers	2,086	140	178	158	18	64%	253	345	291	-13
Joined Ewes										
SIL Merino Ewes	628	235	282	258	-2	69%	357	387	372	-76
SM Merino Ewes	3,098	231	282	259	49	75%	266	527	417	-54
SM First X Ewes	350	206	350	289	-	71%	382	857	686	-
SM Shedding Breed Ewes	4,205	198	625	362	118	98%	358	1,246	794	244
SIL Composite/Other Breed Ewes	122	325	325	325	26	100%	412	412	412	-27
SM Composite/Other Breed Ewes	143	230	230	230	-	70%	400	400	400	-
Non Station Mated (NSM)										
Merino Ewe Hoggets	7,380	166	320	242	-32	75%	332	630	466	-66
Merino Ewes	14,011	110	259	186	-29	69%	236	458	319	-42
First X Ewes	8,246	156	390	292	21	34%	323	635	486	49
Shedding Breed Ewes	191	323	520	373	55	48%	537	718	603	-37
Composite/Other Breed Ewes	945	215	236	224	-26	56%	284	508	380	-18