

Weekly Sheep & Lamb Comments - Week ending Friday 25th March 2022

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By AuctionsPlus

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A total of 87,272 sheep and lambs were offered through AuctionsPlus this week, down 20% on the previous week and the second consecutive weekly drop in overall listings. Following the immediate conclusion of regular commercial sheep and lamb sales on Tuesday, clearance rates were some of the lowest registered for 2022. However, extensive post sale negotiations in the days following the auction boosted clearance rates significantly across joined ewe and lamb categories. The signs of a “seasonal standoff” are strengthening, with a large volume of sales following the auction indicative of disparity between initial buyer and seller price points. The updated sale results at the end of the week provided a clearer sense of where the market prices lie, with many vendors reducing their reserves to lock in a sale.

Selective buying remained prominent across both joined and unjoined ewe categories. However, several categories made considerable gains on last week, which highlighted the comparative resilient sentiment of restockers, particularly those sourcing quality lines of breeding ewes.

Lambs accounted for 44% of the total offering this week, with a total of 38,250 head offered across the six categories, with prices for three categories averaging higher week-on-week.

Crossbred lambs totalled 9,919 head and averaged \$154/head – up \$3 for the week. Following the close of Tuesdays' lamb auction, clearance rates were only at 30% for the category. However post sale negotiations boosted clearances to 61% by Thursday afternoon.

Merino wether lambs recorded the largest offering across the lamb categories this week, accounting for 15% of total listings, at 13,350 head. Prices for the category ranged between \$104-\$157/head, to average \$126/head - back \$8. A similar result was evident with clearance rates for wether lambs, increasing from 30% on Tuesday, to 70% in the following 48 hours, as the overall average price slipped slightly by the end of the week. An indicative line consisting of 860 lambs weighing 40.7kg liveweight from Thallon Queensland, returned \$130/head.

Merino ewe lambs registered the highest clearance across all sheep and lamb categories this week, hitting 86%. The offering of 2,054 head, up slightly from last week, saw prices kick \$30 higher, to average \$183/head.

First cross ewe lambs had a total of 7,430 head listed online this week, which returned a 55% clearance rate - up from 29% on Tuesday. Prices for the category ranged between \$169-\$287/head, to average \$224/head for the week - up \$3.

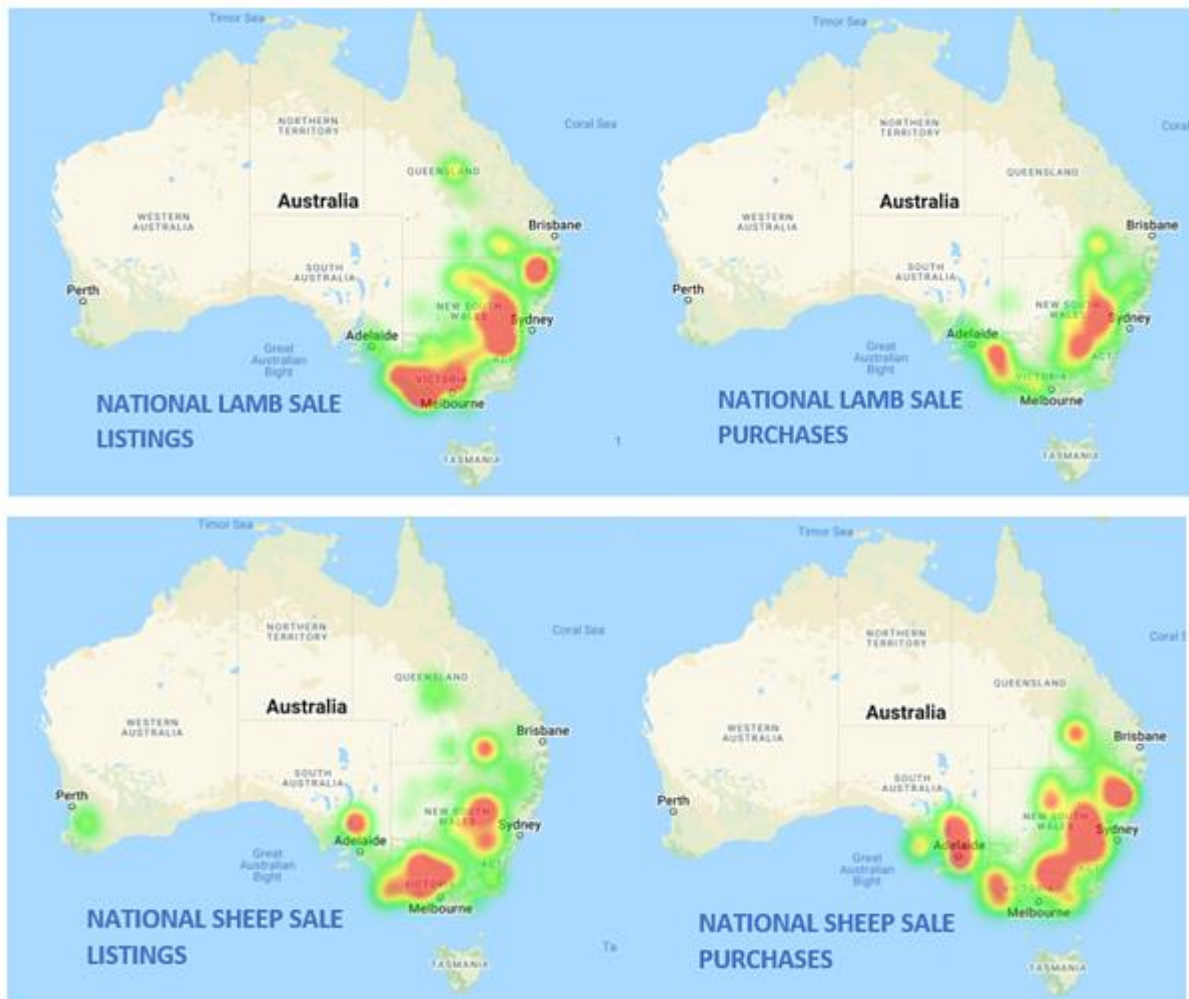
Joined ewe listings accounted for 30% of the total catalogue this week with 26,804 head offered online.

SIL Merino ewes had the largest offering with 12,934 head listed. Demand improved on last week, with the category reaching a clearance of 66% - up from 47% at the immediate closure of Tuesdays auctions. Prices ranged broadly in line with quality this week, selling between \$121-\$332/head, to average \$232/head - back \$4 on last week. Topping the category was 600 two-year-old ewes weighing 63kg liveweight, split across three even lines hailing from Nyngan, NSW.

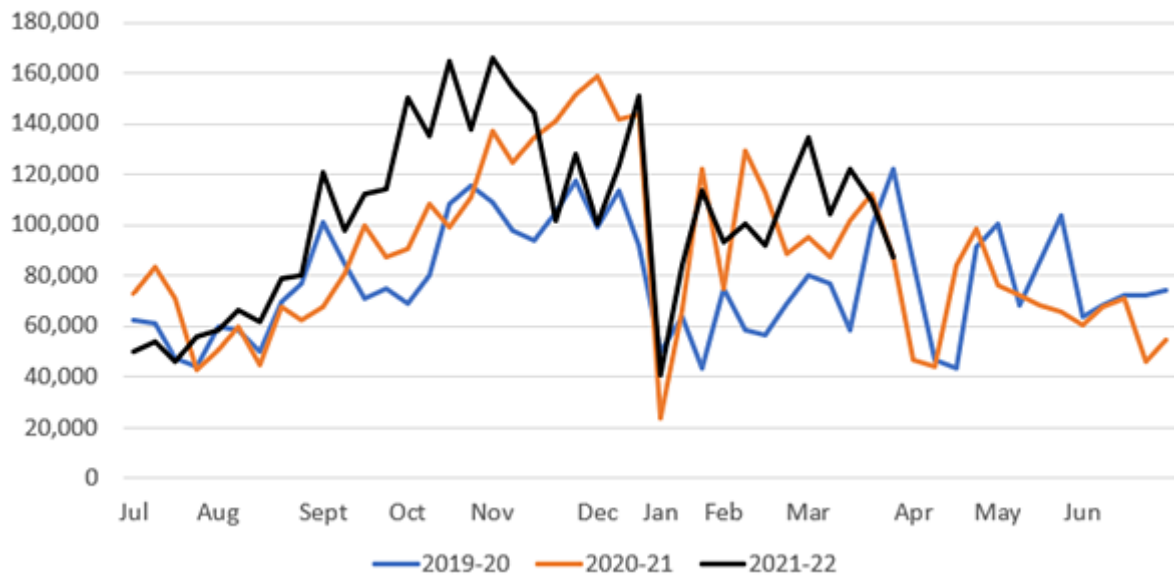
SIL first cross ewes averaged higher for the week, at \$278/head - up \$23. Clearance rates for the category also rose significantly throughout the week - up from only 11% post sale on Tuesday, to 53% by late Thursday for the 3,322

head offered. Station Mated shedding breed ewes returned the highest clearance across the joined ewe categories, at 78%, with the category averaging \$11 higher on last week, at \$288/head. A highlight for the category included a line of 169 16-19-month-old ewe hoggets from Deniliquin NSW, which weighed 77kg and returned \$372/head.

NOTE: Prices as at 5pm, Thursday 24th March 2022



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



Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average	Change
			\$/head					actual c/kg lwt		
Lambs										
<i>Crossbreds</i>	9,919	125	177	154	3	61%	320	489	394	-14
<i>Merino Wethers</i>	13,350	104	157	126	-8	70%	314	397	336	-26
<i>First X Ewes</i>	7,430	169	287	224	3	55%	381	628	482	-16
<i>Merino Ewes</i>	2,054	170	201	183	30	86%	456	526	493	66
<i>Shedding Breeds</i>	1,481	115	342	231	-37	60%	361	1,031	655	2
<i>Composite/Other Breeds</i>	4,116	126	171	146	-30	76%	382	422	406	-13
Sheep										
<i>Merino Wethers</i>	2,641	137	160	149	31	44%	252	305	277	38
Joined Ewes										
<i>SIL Merino Ewes</i>	12,934	121	332	232	-4	66%	235	527	382	-2
<i>SM Merino Ewes</i>	5,690	125	230	169	-3	11%	251	417	309	28
<i>SIL First X Ewes</i>	3,322	200	372	278	23	53%	267	528	379	0
<i>SIL Shedding Breed Ewes</i>	961	280	760	586	169	52%	508	1,159	868	152
<i>SM Shedding Breed Ewes</i>	2,396	230	400	288	11	78%	355	823	551	-50
<i>SIL Composite/Other Breed Ewes</i>	781	220	320	287	89	57%	360	510	460	161
Non Station Mated (NSM)										
<i>Merino Ewe Hoggets</i>	4,940	167	240	194	-11	33%	278	539	378	-49
<i>Merino Ewes</i>	10,801	120	245	158	-14	40%	192	451	286	-17
<i>Shedding Breed Ewes</i>	382	261	352	322	89	73%	461	506	481	88
<i>Composite/Other Breed Ewes</i>	565	196	196	196	-	10%	353	353	353	-