

Weekly Sheep & Lamb Comments - Week ending Friday 18th March 2022

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By AuctionsPlus

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Sheep and lambs offered through AuctionsPlus commercial sales this week contracted 10% on last week, at 109,382 head. Cautious buying activity through the joined sheep lines contributed to a subdued 57% clearance rate for the week and lower average prices through all categories. Overall market sentiment through the lamb lines continues to be mixed, with post-auction negotiations continuing to encourage the buyers, as vendors lowered initial reserves to lock in sales.

Comprising of 17% of this week's offering, Merino wether lambs averaged \$134, up \$7/head on last week. Of the 18,848 head offered, the clearance rate following two days of negotiations jumped to 78%, after finishing at the immediate closure of the sale was 40%. A large line of 1,030 Merino wether lambs from Winton Queensland, returned \$150/head. The Apr/May '21 drop unshorn lambs weighed an average of 47.7kg lwt.

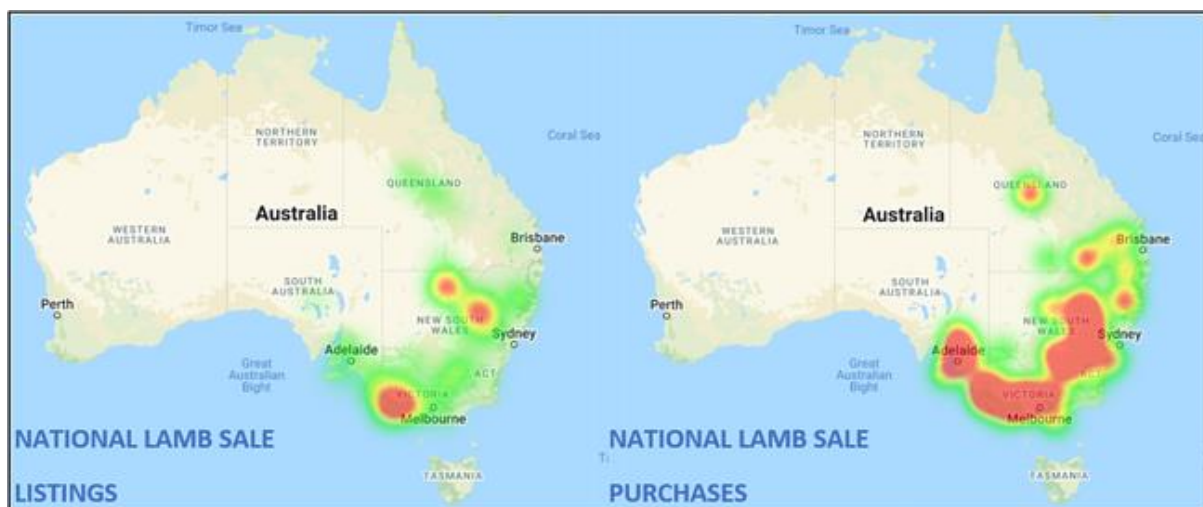
Crossbred lambs also recorded higher prices and a lower clearance rate on last week, at \$151/head – up \$6, with a final 48% clearance rate for the 9,034 head offered. Merino ewe lambs averaged \$153/head, down \$5 on last week, despite a comparatively high 83% clearance rate for the 1,983 head offered.

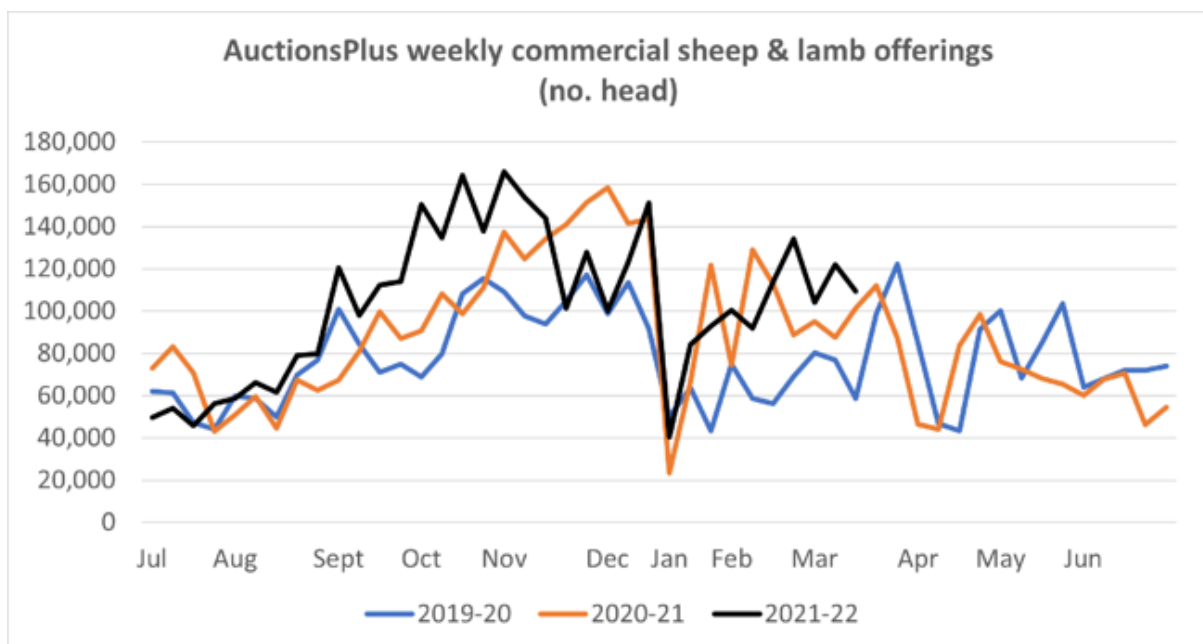
Composite/other breed lambs were the strongest performers in the lamb category for the week. With strong buyer competition for the 5,634 head offered, an 82% clearance rate was registered, with prices averaging \$176/head – up \$16 on last week. From Coleraine Victoria, a line of 865 Jul' 21 drop Composite mixed sex store lambs weighing 33kg lwt, returned \$147/head. Shedding lambs contracted \$105 for the week, averaging \$268/head. Following last week's trend, clearance for the breed was also subdued, sitting at 37% for the 4,758 head immediately after the sale – rising to 67% in the following two days.

Across the proven joined ewe lines, SIL Merino ewes followed a similar demand trend to last week, finishing at a 50% clearance rate for the 15,709 head offered. SIL Merino ewe prices averaged \$236/head, \$8 lower than last week. SIL first cross ewes saw a softer immediate finish to the sale averaging \$255/head – down \$34. SIL Shedding breed ewes achieved the strongest clearance rate, highlighting the continued demand for shedding sheep, returning a 94% clearance for the 2,096 head offered, paired with a \$417/head average – down \$31.

From Tullamore, NSW a line of 195, 19-20-month-old NSM Merino ewes weighing 64kg returned \$323/head. The ewes are January shorn with 17.5-micron wool.

NOTE: Prices as at 5pm, Thursday 17th March 2022





Weekly State Sheep and Lamb Listings



Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average \$/head	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average actual c/kg lwt	Change
Lambs										
Crossbreds	9,034	100	170	151	6	48%	354	521	408	7
Merino Wethers	18,848	105	169	134	7	78%	313	455	362	18
First X Ewes	5,799	140	286	221	-2	29%	393	588	498	-28
Merino Ewes	1,983	123	225	153	-5	83%	341	516	427	-40
Shedding Breeds	4,758	133	470	268	-105	67%	368	1,191	653	-124
Composite/Other Breeds	5,643	136	258	176	16	82%	311	467	419	-23
Sheep										
Shedding Breed Ewes & Lambs	423	382	382	118	-45	90%	194	259	239	-97
Merino Wethers	2,415	113	131	382	-	49%	615	615	615	-
Joined Ewes										
SIL Merino Ewes	15,709	163	315	236	-8	50%	262	545	384	-14
SM Merino Ewes	3,229	115	245	172	-32	29%	189	391	281	-88
SIL First X Ewes	7,429	170	354	255	-34	50%	235	561	379	-17
SM First X Ewes	676	238	238	238	-27	45%	355	378	367	-94
SIL Shedding Breed Ewes	2,096	186	645	417	-31	94%	276	1,188	716	-14
SM Shedding Breed Ewes	6,904	105	380	277	-65	89%	186	747	601	61
SIL Composite/Other Breed Ewes	1,149	145	366	198	-297	92%	227	503	299	-340
SM Composite/Other Breed Ewes	1,577	215	215	215	-9	5%	317	317	317	-86
SM Shedding Breed Ewes & Lambs	391	248	248	248	-83	66%	459	459	459	-40
Non Station Mated (NSM)										
Merino Ewe Hoggets	4,915	136	323	205	-18	49%	308	516	427	-5
Merino Ewes	10,761	120	273	172	-27	37%	236	406	303	-62
First X Ewes	901	210	258	234	-35	47%	276	431	354	-99
Shedding Breed Ewes	824	213	254	233	16	83%	367	421	393	36
Composite/Other Breed Ewes	910	200	285	234	-28	48%	218	367	315	-137