

Weekly Sheep & Lamb Comments - Week ending Friday 11th Feb 2022

PUBLISHED TUE, 8 FEBRUARY 2022

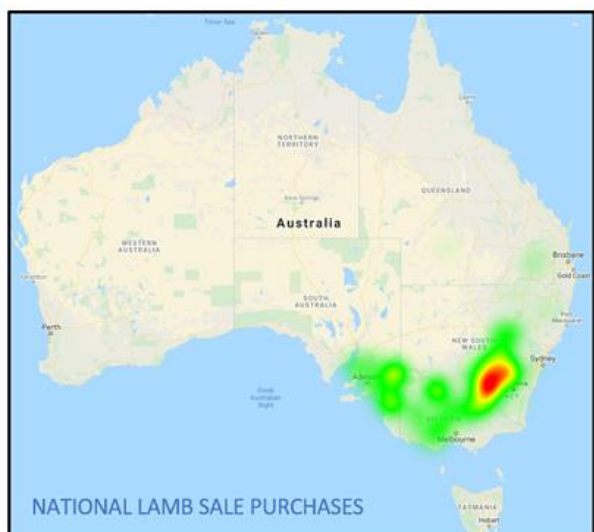
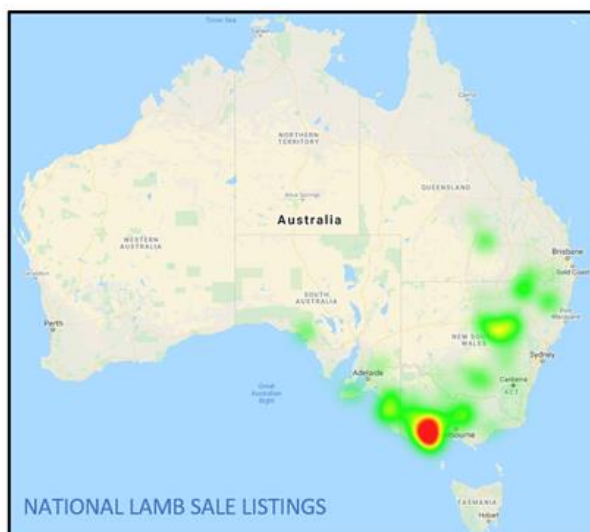


By AuctionsPlus

**Originally published Tuesday 8th February 2022 - Updated Friday 11th February 2022*

This week's results for AuctionsPlus commercial sheep and lamb sales were mixed, with an 8% decline in overall offerings, at 91,887 head, largely due to a smaller offering of Merino wether lambs and SIL Merino ewes. With the recent run of dry days, with another fine and hot week forecast, conditions for finishing lambs have finally improved, with feed supplies ample across most regions heading into the final three weeks of summer.

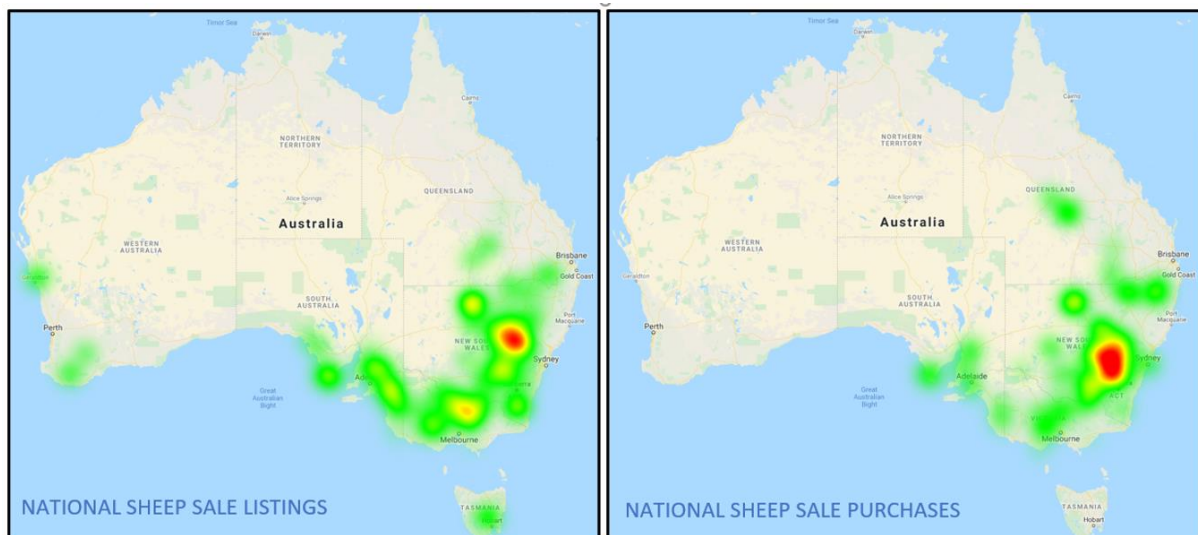
Crossbred lambs made up 23% of all sheep and lambs offered this week, with the 21,217 head selling to a very healthy 88% clearance rate. The average price for the category edged \$3 higher on last week, to \$159/head, with the low to high range considerably tighter than in previous weeks, ranging from \$125 through to \$189/head.



Prices for both shedding and Composite/other lamb categories contracted again this week, with shedding lambs easing another \$10 on last week's large decline, to finish the week at \$274/head. Of note in recent weeks has been a decline in the clearance rate for shedding lambs, which was at 57% for the 3,198 head offered this week – compared to clearance rates reaching above 85% in the final sales of 2021. Composite/other lambs averaged \$16 lower this week, at \$160/head, with an 88% clearance rate for the 6,752 head offered.

A smaller offering of Merino wether lambs helped the average price edge higher, averaging \$142/head – up \$9 on the previous week. First cross ewe lambs registered the largest decline for the six lamb categories this week, dropping \$18 on last week, to average \$223/head, with a subdued 59% clearance rate for the 9,020 head offered.

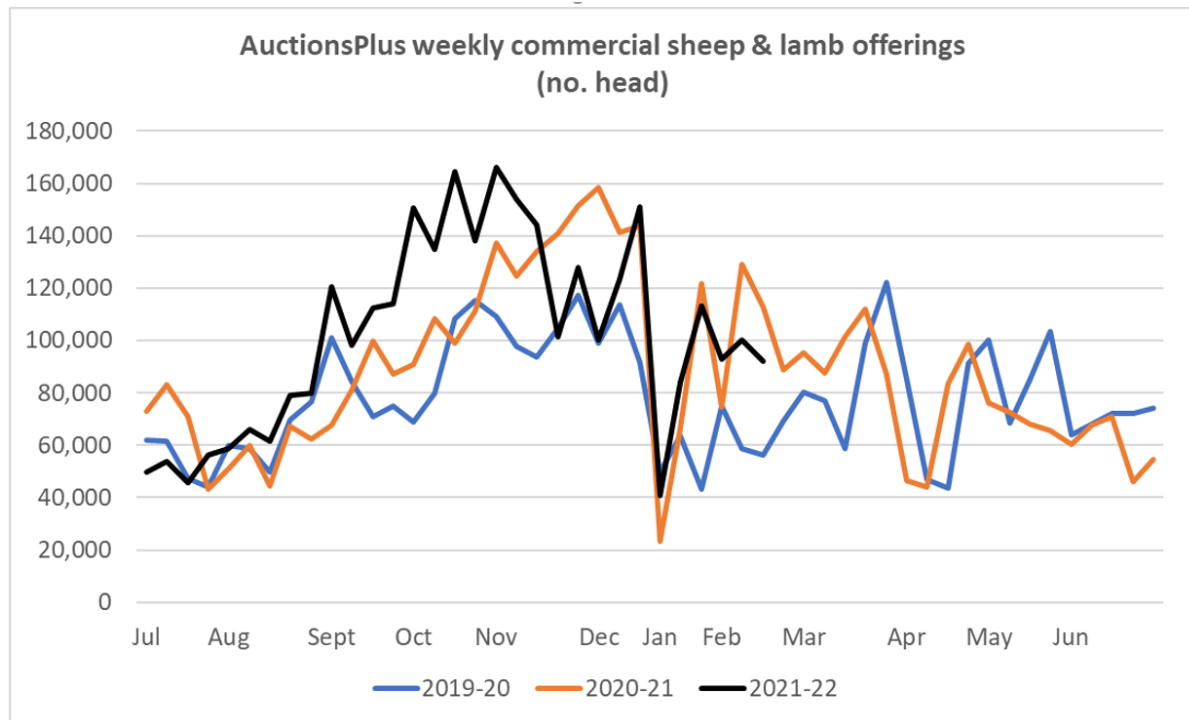
Matching the patchy lamb results, weekly averages across the joined ewe lines were also mixed this week. As the largest category, SIL Merino ewes averaged \$10 lower on last week, at \$264/head, with a 56% clearance rate for the 7,298 head offered. Similarly, SIL first cross ewes dropped \$89 on last week, to average \$267/head, albeit, with a higher clearance rate.



In contrast to the SIL lines, both SM Merino ewes and SM shedding breed ewes finished higher this week, averaging \$243 and \$323/head, respectively.

NSM Merino ewes jumped \$47 higher this week, to average \$267/head – with a healthy 84% clearance rate for the 6,444 head offered. In contrast, NSM Merino ewe hoggets dropped \$13 on last week, at \$252/head, with the distance between vendors and sellers remaining wide, with only a 38% clearance rate for the 4,151 head offered.

NOTE: Prices as at 5pm, Thursday 10th February 2022



Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average	Change
				\$/head				actual	€/kg lwt	
Lambs										
Crossbreds	21,217	125	189	159	3	88%	370	614	443	6
Merino Wethers	11,192	122	169	142	9	80%	320	488	391	-10
First X Ewes	9,020	169	345	223	-18	59%	399	552	495	-70
Merino Ewes	1,376	150	280	193	48	82%	498	564	537	103
Shedding Breeds	3,198	176	507	274	-10	57%	427	1,338	681	-59
Composite/Other Breeds	6,752	135	215	160	-16	88%	371	548	447	-22
Sheep										
Merino Ewes & Lambs	224	299	299	299	25	100%	383	383	383	-124
Ewes & Lambs (Mixed)	860	266	266	266	-	6%	457	457	457	-
Merino Wethers	2,827	119	156	135	-17	56%	255	322	282	-28
Joined Ewes										
SIL Merino Ewes	7,298	166	365	264	-10	56%	300	562	406	-48
SM Merino Ewes	2,369	190	276	243	31	71%	317	528	427	23
SIL First X Ewes	1,504	230	308	267	-89	66%	313	438	360	-178
SM First X Ewes	261	241	241	241	-	20%	318	318	318	-
SIL Shedding Breed Ewes	831	220	850	471	-236	95%	316	1,185	627	-356
SM Shedding Breed Ewes	3,492	190	462	323	23	67%	392	963	640	-22
SIL Composite/Other Breed Ewes	114	200	250	225	-41	100%	292	294	293	-80
SM Composite/Other Breed Ewes	574	190	260	213	-12	12%	337	495	390	-1
SM Shedding Breed Ewes & Lambs	164	235	282	259	73	100%	351	407	379	-37
Non Station Mated (NSM)										
Merino Ewe Hoggets	4,151	147	295	252	-13	38%	362	611	483	-19
Merino Ewes	6,444	110	362	267	47	84%	238	617	465	72
First X Ewes	2,558	192	290	253	18	15%	268	487	387	8
Shedding Breed Ewes	304	453	461	457	184	45%	592	603	597	142
Composite/Other Breed Ewes	2,557	205	313	259	104	54%	313	659	465	243