STOCK CONTAINMENT

WHY CONTAINMENT FEED?

- Conserve ground cover
- Maintain ewe condition
- Reduced time, labour, diesel
- Hit feed on offer targets for lambing/calving
- Can use pens for other purposes

SITE SELECTION AND PEN SETUP

- Slope – 2 to 4%
- Soil type – firm when wet, avoid erosion
- Location to other facilities – existing silos, water, hay storage, yards
- Shade/shelter – 0.4m^2 per ewe, 2m^2 per cow
  - Shade needs to run north to south across pen – sun moves throughout day – can dry pens
- Adequate space – next slide

PEN SIZE: MOB SIZE / STOCK DENSITY = AREA REQUIRED

5 – 10m² / ewe
9 – 25m² / cattle

Ideal mob size
250-300 (sheep)
50-200 (cattle)

Larger pens aren't always better as there is less faecal matter and urine to hold the surface of the pen together.
Larger mobs may also mean more shy feeders and you can often get a larger tail in the mob.

Weaner cattle – 9-10m², dry cows 15-25m²
Weaner cattle 50-100m²
Cows, yearling cattle 100-200m²

Condition score targets might be harder to meet if you get a large variation in the mob.

MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

SFS Southern Farming Systems

ADDITIONAL LOCATION FACTORS

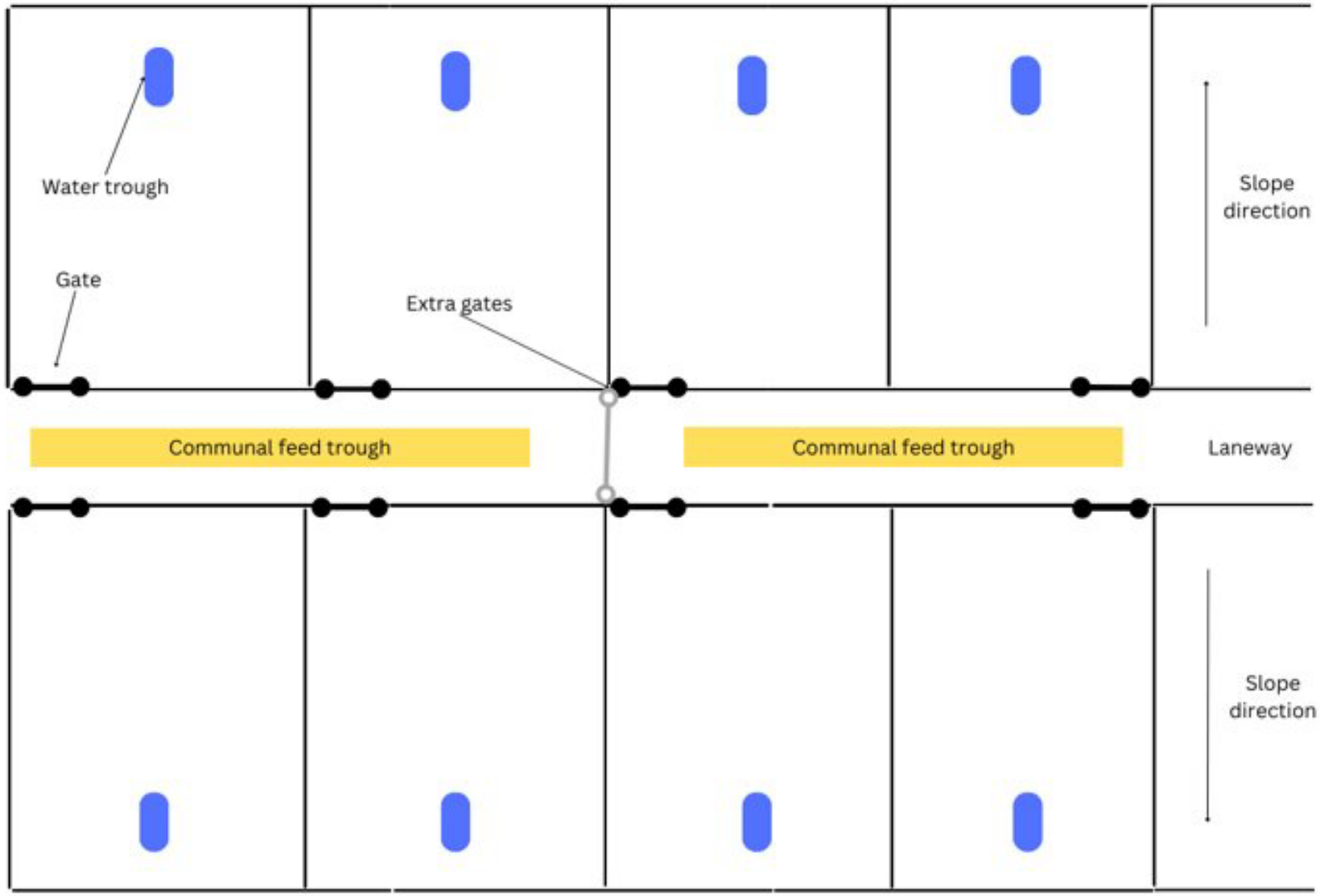
- Away from main roads (preferable)
- No planning permit required for drought feeding
  - Permit required for feed lots!
- Distance to your house and neighbours
  - Don’t want to be downwind with a strong northerly in the summer
  - Legally needs to be 200m away from neighbours
- Pens are at least 200m away from waterways – ensure run off doesn’t enter
- Enough pens for different classes of stock – including shy feeders
- Guarding trees if they’re in pens
- Ensure troughing is at the bottom slope of the pen – so water doesn’t sit in pens

FEEDING SETUPS

COMMUNAL TROUGH

- Low cost
- Can be labour intensive
- Easy way to feed – can use basic feed cart
- Need plenty of space per animal
  - 30 to 40cm per ewe (Single-sided)
  - 55 to 60cm per cow

Barossa Improved Grazing Group
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVhriwemUmY&t=2s



Pros

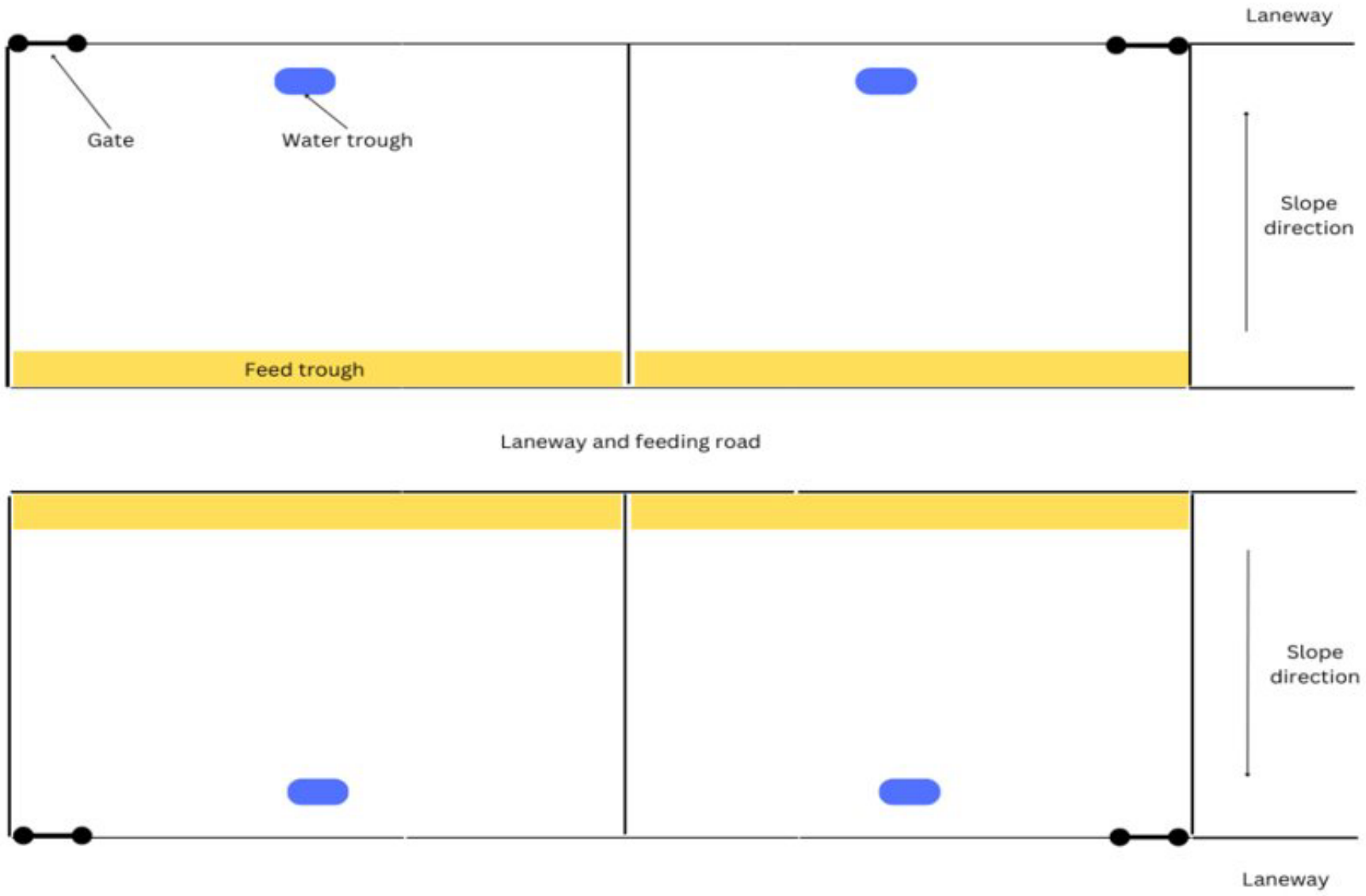
- Less infrastructure cost as multiple mobs can share trough.
- Ease of feeding while ewes are in separate pen.
- Controlled quantity of grain / pellet.
- Can feed roughage in pen while ewes are eating.
- Double sided access reduces trough space required, reduces cost.
- Eliminate risk of stock deaths from being run over by vehicles.

Cons

- Considerable labour requirement to let ewes in and out.
- Increased feed out time as pens are fed individually and staggered depending on eating time.
- Requires someone to feed daily or every second day.

FEED TROUGH IN FENCELINE

- Quick to feed
- Need large area per ewe/cow
- Can build trough to suit feed ration
- Same space as communal trough



Pros

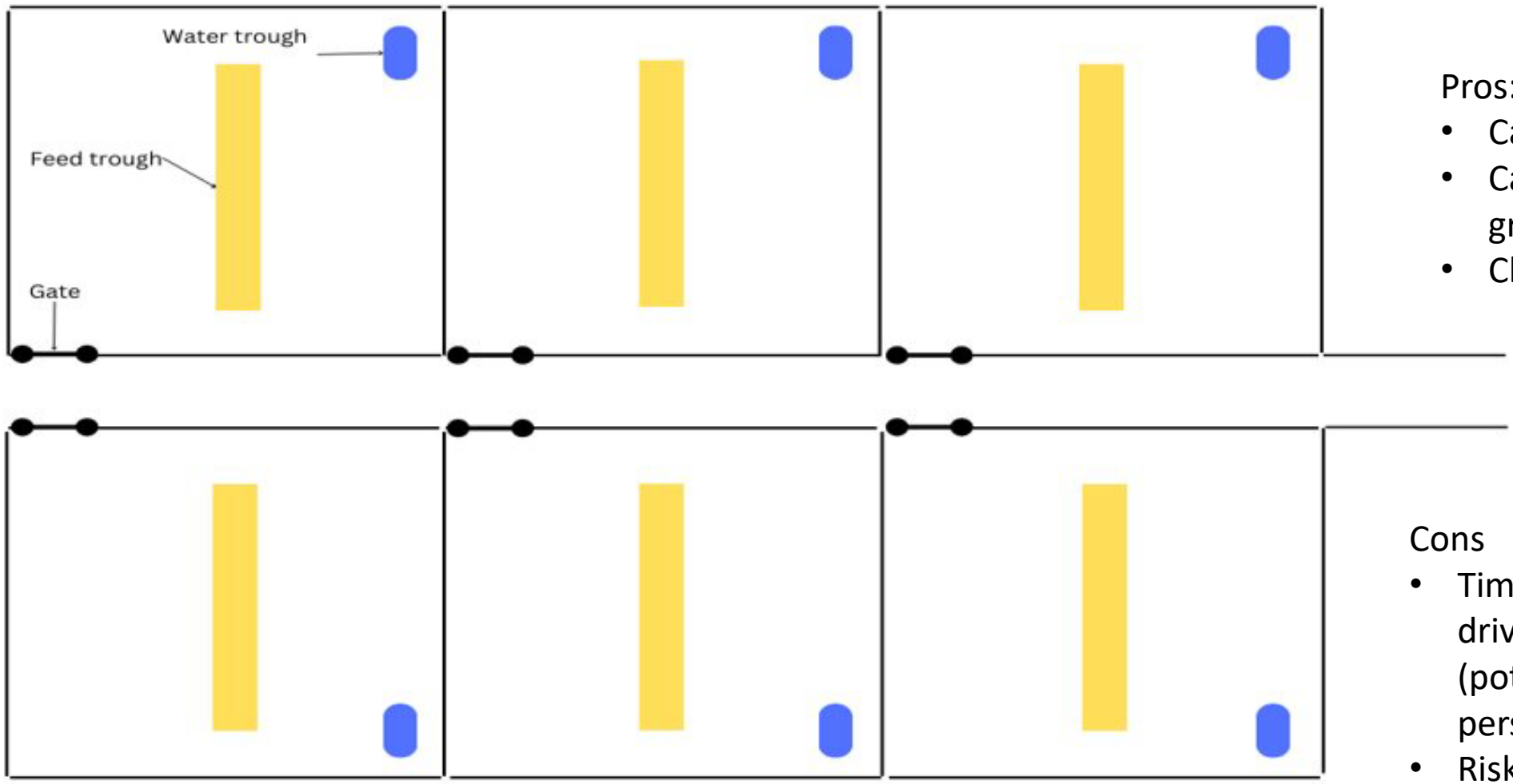
- Short feeding time as all pens can be fed in one hit.
- Controlled quantity of grain / pellet.
- Eliminate risk of stock deaths from being run over by vehicles.

Cons

- Large fence line required for ewes to all line up single-sided unless feeding equipment allows trough to be back from fence line (double-sided access).
- Decent feed out infrastructure required to feed over or through a fence line.

FEED TROUGH IN PEN

- Double-sided access (can halve the length of troughing)
- Reduces cost of troughing
- More labour intensive



Pros:

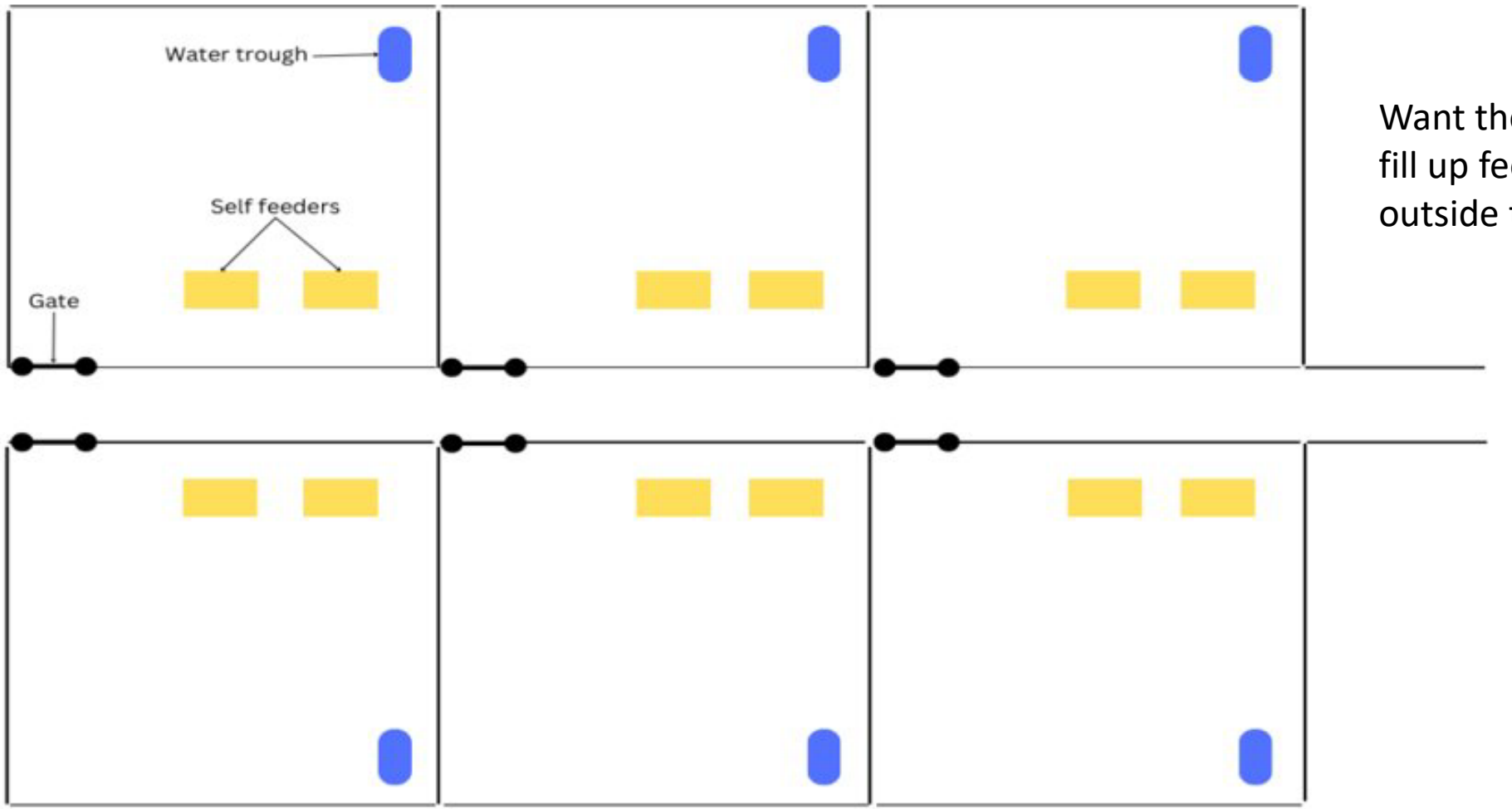
- Can control ration
- Can use simple grain cart
- Cheap

Cons

- Time consuming driving into pen (potentially a two person job)
- Risk of running over hungry stock

SELF FEEDERS

- Multi-use
- Train sheep to self-feed
- Adequate no. per mob
- Monitor carefully
- More risk for shy feeders



Want the ability to fill up feeders from outside the pen

AUTO FEEDERS

Shepherd Auto Feeders > 24m Shepherd Auto Feeder.

24m Shepherd Auto Feeder.

A$13,495.00

http://www.autofeeder.com.au/

The Shepherd S-Series Auto Feeder is a great option for feedlot and supplementary feeding systems. The Shepherd designer software provides a dynamic range feeding strategies that provides ultimate feed control and real time data.

The feeder comes complete with full roof and the option of mains power or solar powered models. The Shepherd designer Induction Software provides a seamless transition to high grain diets without attracting acidosis or other metabolic disorders. Options available include Remote Monitoring and Mobile App, Range of trough lengths, Solar Upgrade and full integrations into the Shepherd Automated Feedlot System.

Quantity

1

- Always get a Feedtest before buying in
- Request a recent one – quality can change with storage
- Pellets or grain mixes – quality can change with each mix
- This is the same for fodder made on farm

Under license from AVS

Feed Analysis Report

Attention:	Steve Cotton
Client:	Dynamic Ag C
Address:	PO Box 180 Hamilton VIC

The following sample was analys

Sample ID	
S24-0152913	Yc
	Sample Type Silage

Silage

Analysis of this sample conducted on 16-Dec-2024

Analysis Results

Determinant		Result Value
NIR Package (FT003)		
S24-0152913	Dry Matter	76.7 %
S24-0152913	Moisture	23.3 %
S24-0152913	Crude Protein	20.1 % of dry matter
S24-0152913	Acid Detergent Fibre	26.1 % of dry matter
S24-0152913	Neutral Detergent Fibre	47.5 % of dry matter
S24-0152913	Digestibility (DMD)	69.4 % of dry matter
S24-0152913	Digestibility (DOMD) (Calculated)	65.6 % of dry matter
S24-0152913	Est. Metabolisable Energy (Calculated)	10.5 MJ/kg DM
S24-0152913	Water Soluble Carbohydrates	8.7 % of dry matter
S24-0152913	Fat	4.6 % of dry matter
S24-0152913	Ash	10.2 % of dry matter

Under license from AVS

Feed Analysis Report

J2503-0182
06-Mar-2025
378640

lit Card
eb-2025
Mar-2025

0029071	*Your Reference*	*Feed Mix*	
	Sample Type	*Feed Mixed*	Pellets

Analysis of this sample conducted between 04-Mar-2025 and 06-Mar-2025

lysis Results

Determinant		*Result Value*
Package (FT003)		
S25-0029071	Dry Matter	91.8 %
S25-0029071	Moisture	8.2 %
S25-0029071	Crude Protein	16.4 % of dry matter
S25-0029071	Acid Detergent Fibre	9.4 % of dry matter
S25-0029071	Neutral Detergent Fibre	23.4 % of dry matter
S25-0029071	Digestibility (DMD)	85.0 % of dry matter
S25-0029071	Digestibility (DOMD) (Calculated)	83.8 % of dry matter
S25-0029071	Est. Metabolisable Energy (Calculated)	13.7 MJ/kg DM
S25-0029071	Fat	4.8 % of dry matter
S25-0029071	Ash	2.3 % of dry matter

https://www.mla.com.au/news-and-events/industry-news/archived/2016/what-do-silage-and-hay-test-figures-mean/

TIPS

- Keep feed off the ground to avoid wastage and spreading disease
  - Feed rings for hay
  - Grain/pellets into feeders or fed on conveyor belting
- Change diets gradually to allow the rumen to adjust
- Shy feeders to be moved out of the general mob ASAP

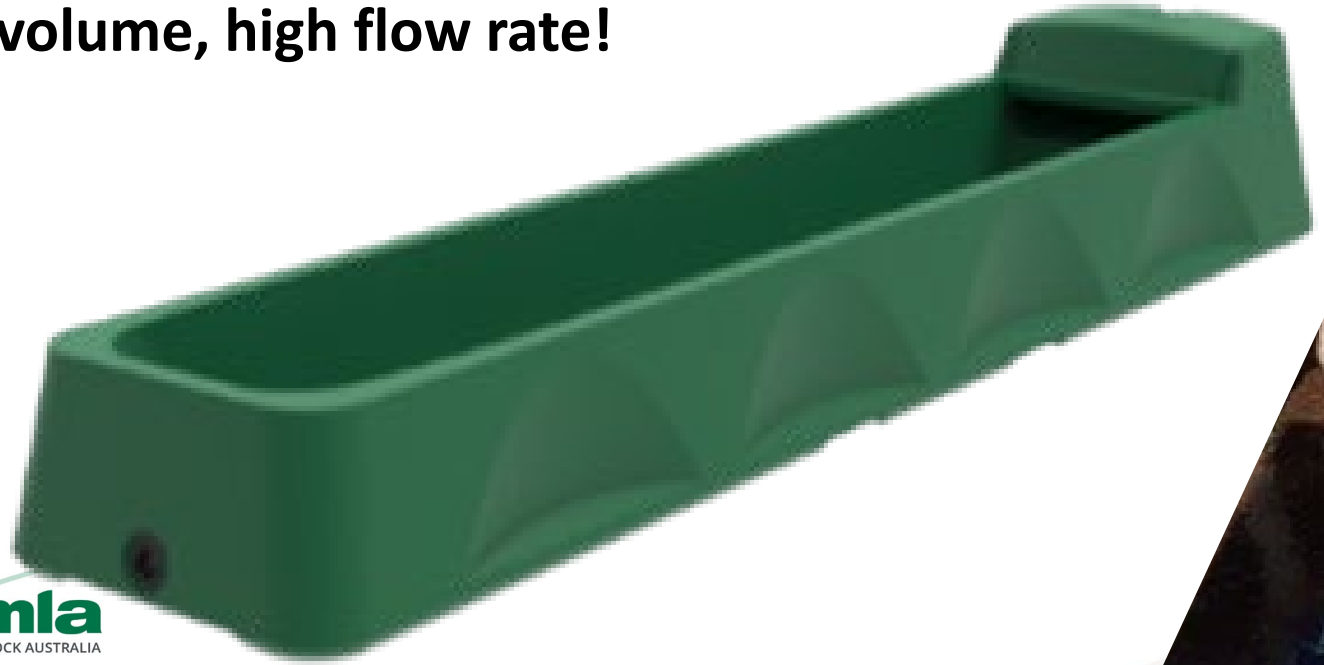
WATER

http://www.autofeeder.com.au/store/p17/Water_Troughs.html

The Shepherd Ag – Auto flushing trough

3m trough = $1100

Low volume, high flow rate!



www.croctroughpumps.com.au

MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

WATER REQUIREMENTS

- Work out average daily water requirements
- Header tanks advised as backup
  - Ideally have 3 days water in header tanks
- Plan for what happens if there's a water issue
  - Sacrifice paddocks
  - Call a vet for cattle that have gone without water
  - Avoid putting animals who have gone without water into paddocks with dams – potential drowning issue

Stock Type	Consumption per head per day (L)
Sheep – Weaners	*2 - 4*
Adult dry sheep *Pasture* *Saltbush*	 *2 - 6* *4 - 12*
Ewes with Lambs	*4 - 10*

Young cattle	**25-50**
Dry cattle (400kg)	**35-80**
Lactating cows	**40-100**

MONITORING IN CONTAINMENT

HEALTH ISSUES

- Acidosis ☆
- Prolapse
- Pinkeye ☆
- Pulpy kidney
- Campylobacter
- Metabolic disease
  - Pregnancy toxaemia
  - Hypocalcaemia
  - Hypomagnesemia

Photos from MSU Extension

General tips:

- Vaccinate and drench on entry and exit

FAECAL MONITORING

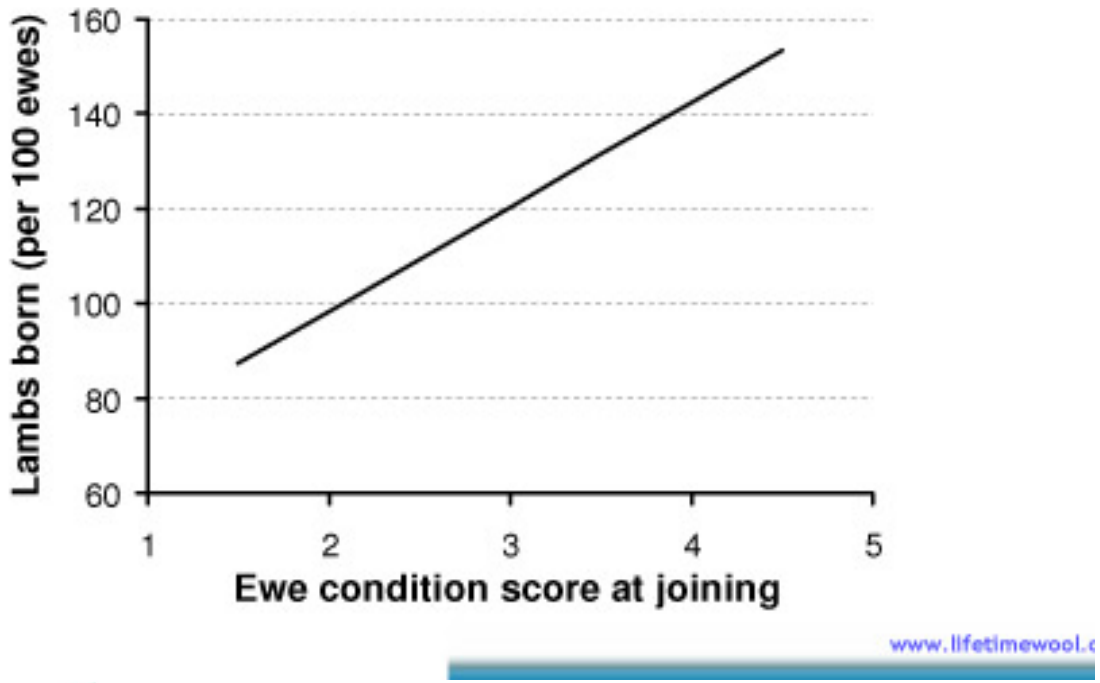
Commonly seen when a poor-quality diet low in protein and carbohydrates, high in low quality fibre.

Stacked 'pat', solid, intact and 'weetbix' consistency. Ideal target consistency when on a grain and roughage diet.

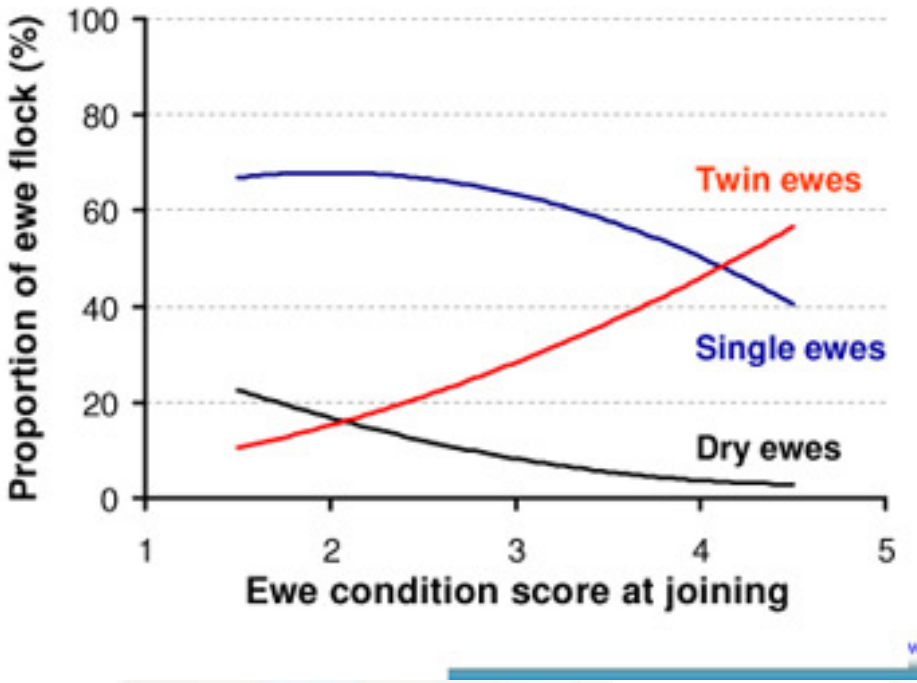
Grey, runny manure and evidence of gas bubbles or undigested starch (white patches) indicates rumen acidosis.

CONDITION SCORING - SHEEP

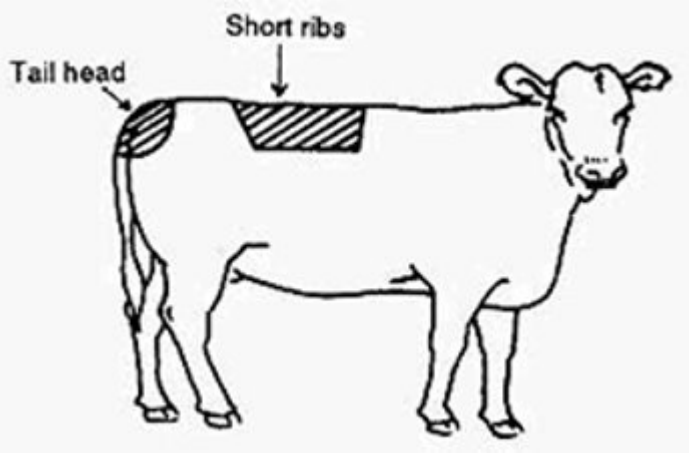
Ewe condition score at joining and number of lambs born

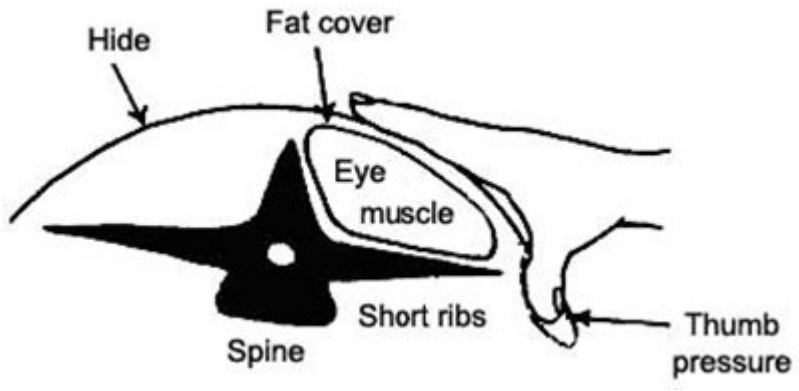


Ewe condition score at joining and pregnancy status



CONDITION SCORING - CATTLE





Target condition scores for cows:
No lower than 2.5 at calving for autumn calving
No lower than 2.5 at the start of mating for autumn calving
No lower than 2.0 at calving for spring calving cows

https://mbfp.mla.com.au/weaner-throughput/tool-52-condition-scoring-beef-cattle/

The scores are described as follows:

1. Emaciated.
2. The individual processes are sharp to the touch, no tail head fat. The hip, bones and ribs are prominent.
3. The individual processes can easily be felt, but feel rounded rather than sharp. There is some tissue cover around the tail head. Individual ribs are no longer visually obvious.
4. The short ribs can only be felt with firm thumb pressure. Areas either side of the tail head have fat cover which can be easily felt.
5. The processes cannot be felt and fat cover around the tail head is easily seen as slight mounds, soft to touch. Folds of fat are beginning to develop over ribs and thighs.
6. The bone structure of the animal is no longer noticeable and the tail head is almost completely buried in fatty tissue.

The score can be varied half a score depending upon the amount of tail head fat, for example if the short rib palpation (using the thumb) gives score 4 but the tail head is a typical 3, the score would then be 3.5.

MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

SFS Southern Farming Systems

RELEASING FROM CONTAINMENT

RELEASING - TOPIC AREAS

Considerations

- Is there enough feed?
- Will the feed last?
- Can I keep stock in containment if it becomes wet?
- Is there enough water in the paddock?
- What will be the effect on wool quality

Feed planning calculators available

Managing the process

- Before the release
- After the release
- Toxicities to watch for

What to do with containment areas after stock are released?

WHEN TO TRANSITION OUT OF CONTAINMENT

Perennial pastures have recovered: 2 ½ to 3 leaf stage

Groundcover levels have increased: >70% flats, 90% slopes

Enough high-quality feed on offer to meet livestock requirements

Dry sheep – minimum 500 kg DM/ha (1 cm of dense green pasture)
Late pregnancy ewes – minimum of 1000 kg DM/ha (twinning ewes must be higher)
Single ewes point of lambing 1200 and twins 1500 kg DM/ha. *Reference (AWI 2019)*
Dry cow – minimum 700 kg DM/ha
Late pregnancy cow (8-9 months) - 900 kg DM/ha
Lactating cow (calf 2 months) - 1100 kg DM/ha. *Reference (Prograze)*

Pregnant ewes close to lambing - consider distance and stress

Aim to reduce stress with moving (distance from pens and mustering quietly)
Move twinning ewes 2-4 weeks before lambing
With singles release can be closer to lambing (1 week)

MANAGEMENT BEFORE THE MOVE

Pulpy kidney

- Increased risk of pulpy kidney with moves from a low fibre or grain diet to a lush, rapidly growing pasture.
- Ideally use clostridium vaccination with 3 in 1 or 6 in 1 at least 10 days prior to release or now to build immunity.

Rumen adjustment

- Rumen microbes need to adjust back to fibre over a 2 week period.
  - Increase hay as a % of their diet and start to reduce
  - Avoid hungry stock going onto new feed or sudden changes in feed.
- Avoid gorging pasture by feeding their grain ration or offer high quality ad lib hay 24 to 48 hours before release.

Familiarise stock with licks

- If stock are moving onto lush pasture or a cereal (potential for calcium deficiency) then introduce stock to calcium supplements.

MANAGEMENT ON RELEASE

Gradual transition approach:

- Letting out late in the day so the stock have had their grain ration.
- Offer high quality ad lib hay prior to and after release.

Source: MLA

- Let stock in and out of pens onto pasture for short periods initially and buildup over time or
- Continue to feed some of the containment ration in the paddock as pasture unlikely to be enough.

RECAP: MAKING DECISIONS

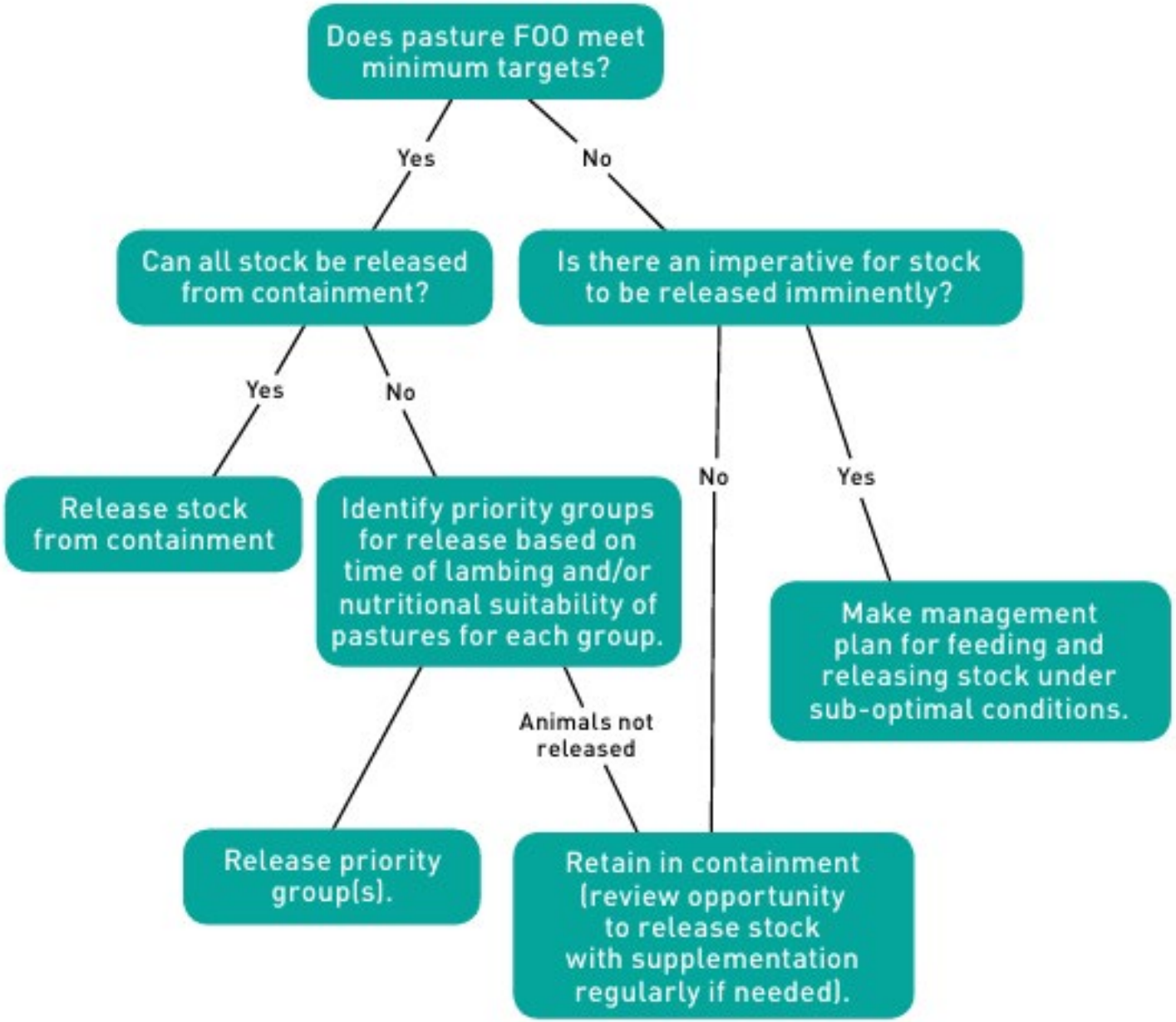


Figure 4 - Decision tree for key considerations of when to release stock from containment (source: Australian Wool Innovation).

MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

KEY MESSAGES - RELEASE

- Release sheep late in the day, after feeding, when they are not hungry.
- Minimise stress for pregnant ewes
  - Move 2-4 weeks before lambing for multiples, 1 week for singles
- Transition over a 2 week period and continue feeding the containment ration out in the paddock for at least a week
- Monitor closely for health issues & supervise on release.

RESOURCES

DEECA (AGRICULTURE VICTORIA) SUPPORT

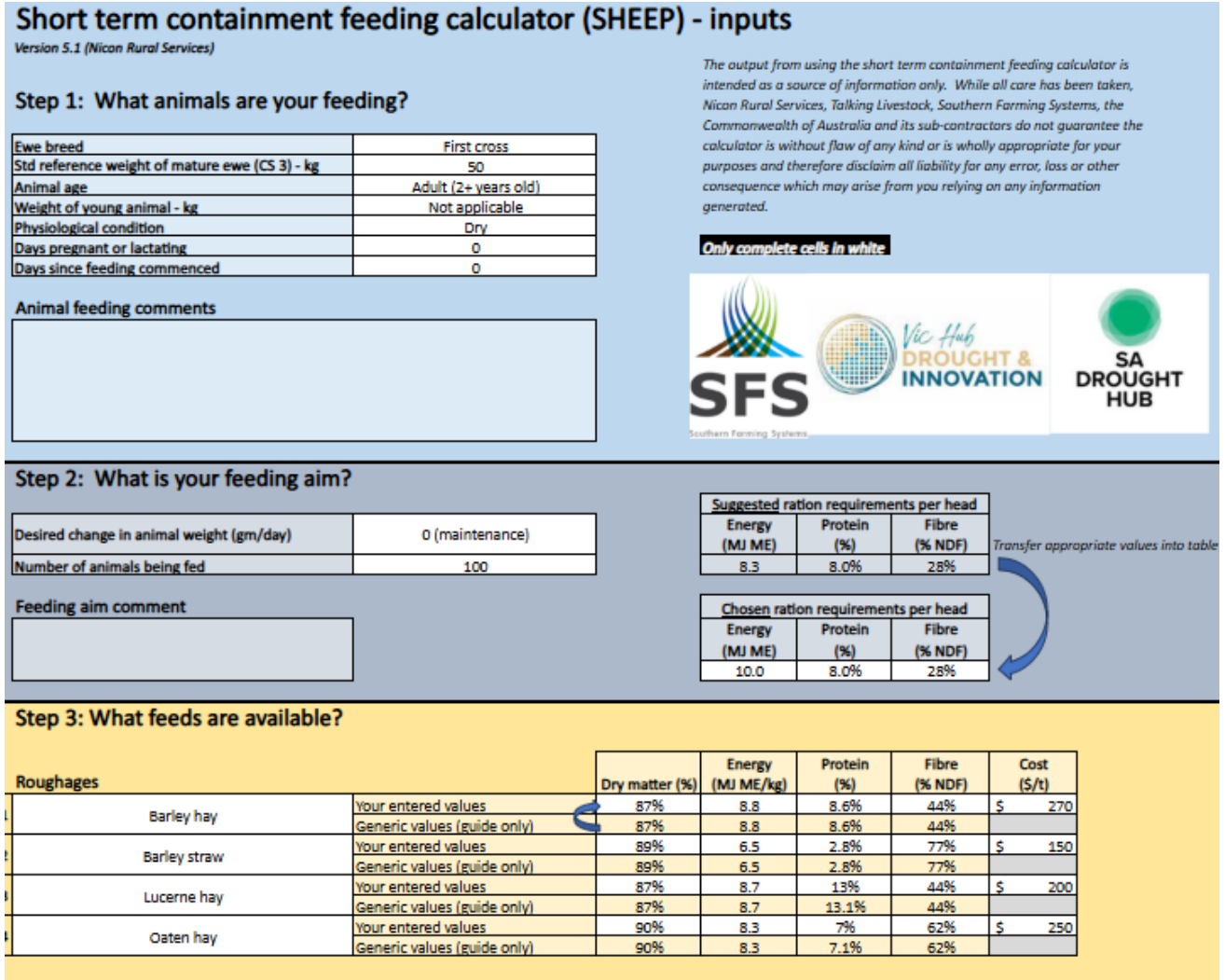
Drought-affected farmers in eligible LGAs can register for the one-on-one advisory program support

https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/dry-seasons-and-drought-support/south-west-drought-support-package

- Ararat
- City of Greater Geelong
- Colac Otway
- Corangamite
- Glenelg
- Golden Plains
- Moyne
- Pyrenees
- Southern Grampians
- Surf Coast
- Warrnambool
- West Wimmera (southern half – postcodes 3312, 3317, 3318 and 3319)

FEED RATION CALCULATOR

- Excel spreadsheet – one for sheep, one for cattle
- Developed by Cam Nicholson
- Help create a ration but also find you the least cost ration and work out the value of feeding vs selling the animal



Short term containment feeding calculator (SHEEP) - inputs

Version 5.1 (Nicon Rural Services)

The output from using the short term containment feeding calculator is intended as a source of information only. While all care has been taken, Nicon Rural Services, Talking Livestock, Southern Farming Systems, the Commonwealth of Australia and its sub-contractors do not guarantee the calculator is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your purposes and therefore disclaim all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information generated.

Only complete cells in white

Step 1: What animals are your feeding?

Ewe breed	First cross
Std reference weight of mature ewe (CS 3) - kg	50
Animal age	Adult (2+ years old)
Weight of young animal - kg	Not applicable
Physiological condition	Dry
Days pregnant or lactating	0
Days since feeding commenced	0

Animal feeding comments

Step 2: What is your feeding aim?

Desired change in animal weight (gm/day)	0 (maintenance)
Number of animals being fed	100

Feeding aim comment

Suggested ration requirements per head		
Energy (MJ ME)	Protein (%)	Fibre (% NDF)
8.3	8.0%	28%

Transfer appropriate values into table

Chosen ration requirements per head		
Energy (MJ ME)	Protein (%)	Fibre (% NDF)
10.0	8.0%	28%

Step 3: What feeds are available?

Roughages		Dry matter (%)	Energy (MJ ME/kg)	Protein (%)	Fibre (% NDF)	Cost ($/t)
Barley hay	Your entered values	87%	8.8	8.6%	44%	$ 270
	Generic values (guide only)	87%	8.8	8.6%	44%	
Barley straw	Your entered values	89%	6.5	2.8%	77%	$ 150
	Generic values (guide only)	89%	6.5	2.8%	77%	
Lucerne hay	Your entered values	87%	8.7	13%	44%	$ 200
	Generic values (guide only)	87%	8.7	13.1%	44%	
Oaten hay	Your entered values	90%	8.3	7%	62%	$ 250
	Generic values (guide only)	90%	8.3	7.1%	62%	

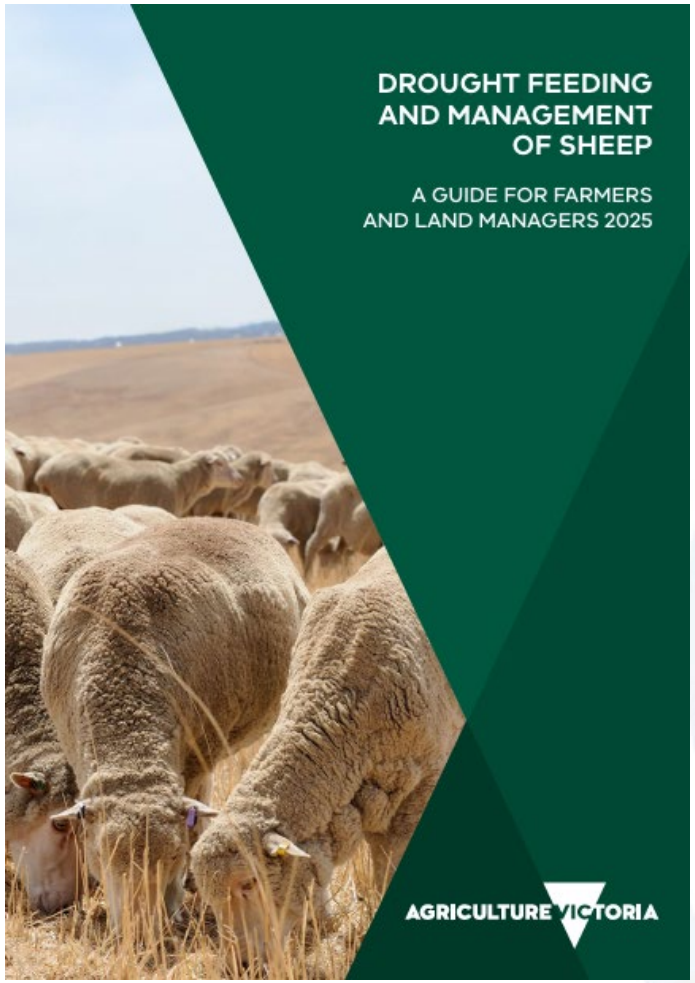
1:1 SUPPORT FROM SFS

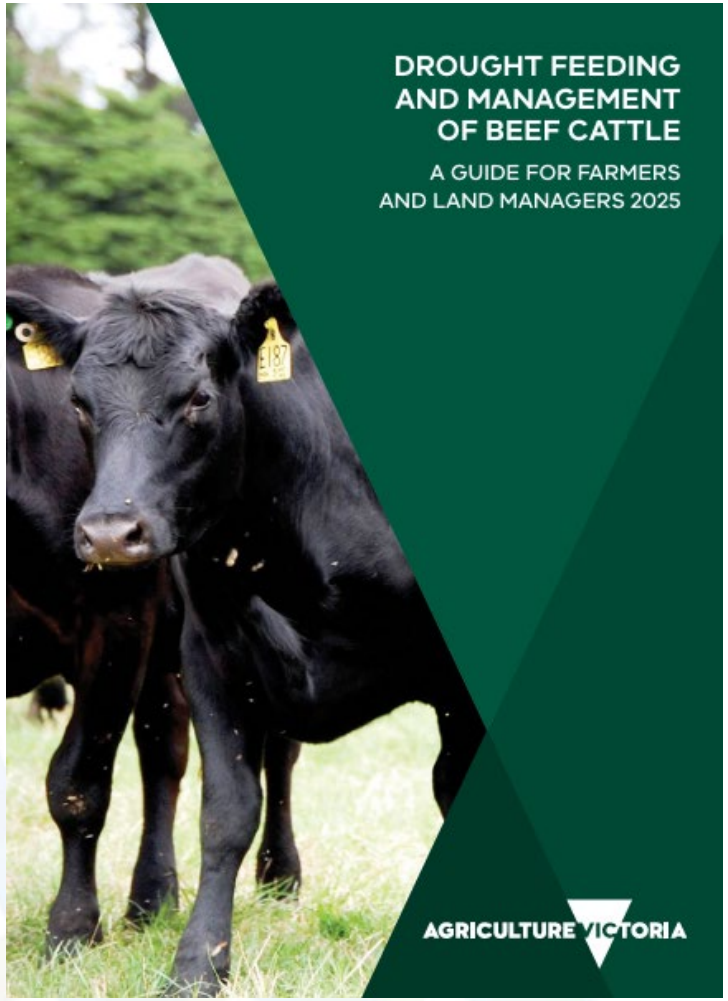
- Funding from Meat & Livestock Australia project ‘Innovative Mixed Farming’
- Support 20 producers each year to implement practices learnt in workshops

https://sfs.org.au/resource/containment-for-livestock-references-extension-resources

DROUGHT FEEDING GUIDE – AG VIC

- Topics:
  - Preparing for drought
  - Setting targets
  - What to feed
    - How much and how often
  - Water
  - Stock containment
  - Animal diseases & drought
  - Feed value of feedstuffs





https://www.feedinglivestock.vic.gov.au/sheep-resources/sheep-drought-feeding-book/

https://www.feedinglivestock.vic.gov.au/beef-resources/beef-cattle-drought-feeding-book/

MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

30 YEARS 1995-2025 SFS Southern Farming Systems

UPCOMING EVENTS

With Cam Nicholson!

This event is being delivered by Southern Farming Systems on behalf of Agriculture Victoria as part of the Victorian Government's statewide Drought Support Package.

30 YEARS 1995-2025 SFS Southern Farming Systems

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA