Individual animal management in pastoral operations

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Saltbush Livestock

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Introduction

- Big bodied SA merinos lots of 24 micron wool. Traditional pastoral merino wool practices.
- Maximising production through fencing and waters.
- Comparing genetics. Bloodline selection.
- Clip care/ OFDA testing. Fleece weighing.
- Wet and drying, managing fertility.
- Fine wool ram breeding in pastoral country.

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Stud / Data management/Lamb Plan

- Collecting data in stud. Paper to Electronic.
- Cost of collecting data. Tags, Scanner, time.
- Managing data. Subscriptions. Stock Book.
- Getting return for the information.

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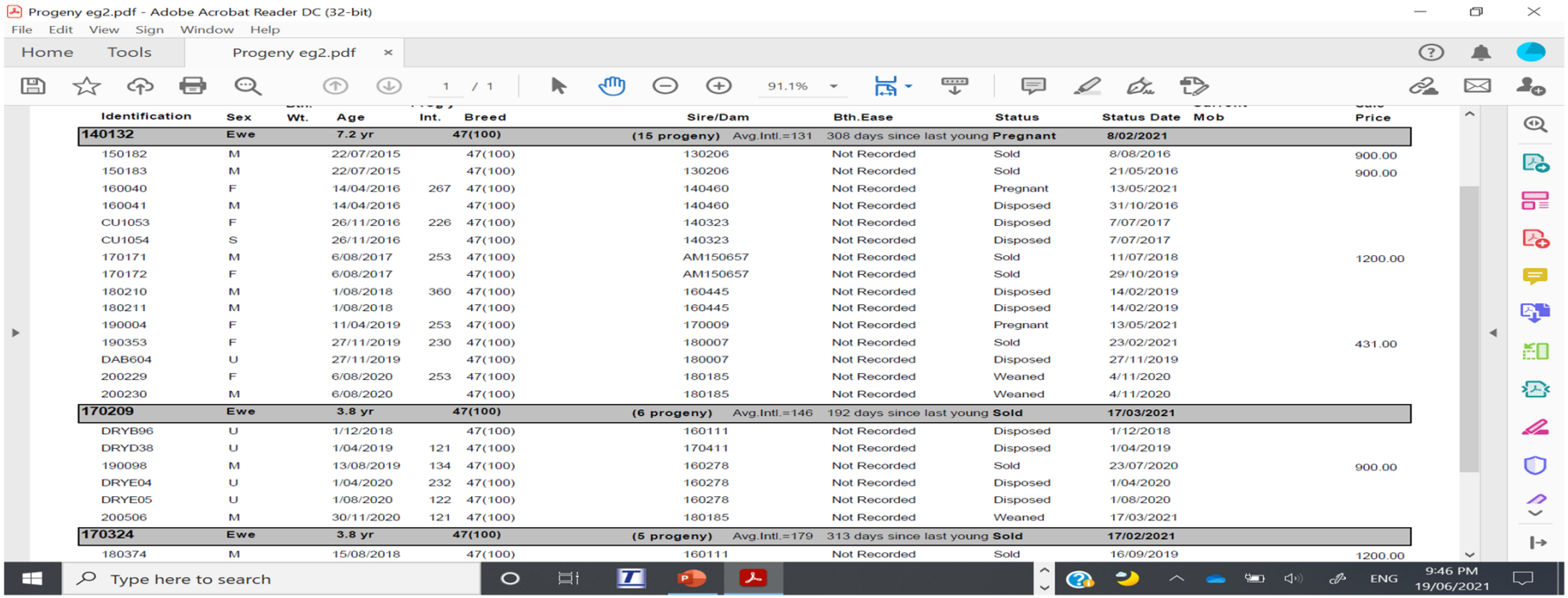
Benefits of IAM



Identification	Sex	Bth. Wt.	Age	Prog'y Int.	Breed	Sire/Dam	Bth.Ease	Status	Status Date	Current Mob	Sale Price
140132	**Ewe**		**7.2 yr**		**47(100)**	**(15 progeny)** Avg.Intl.=131	308 days since last young	**Pregnant**	**8/02/2021**		
150182	M		22/07/2015		47(100)	130206	Not Recorded	Sold	8/08/2016		900.00
150183	M		22/07/2015		47(100)	130206	Not Recorded	Sold	21/05/2016		900.00
160040	F		14/04/2016	267	47(100)	140460	Not Recorded	Pregnant	13/05/2021		
160041	M		14/04/2016		47(100)	140460	Not Recorded	Disposed	31/10/2016		
CU1053	F		26/11/2016	226	47(100)	140323	Not Recorded	Disposed	7/07/2017		
CU1054	S		26/11/2016		47(100)	140323	Not Recorded	Disposed	7/07/2017		
170171	M		6/08/2017	253	47(100)	AM150657	Not Recorded	Sold	11/07/2018		1200.00
170172	F		6/08/2017		47(100)	AM150657	Not Recorded	Sold	29/10/2019		
180210	M		1/08/2018	360	47(100)	160445	Not Recorded	Disposed	14/02/2019		
180211	M		1/08/2018		47(100)	160445	Not Recorded	Disposed	14/02/2019		
190004	F		11/04/2019	253	47(100)	170009	Not Recorded	Pregnant	13/05/2021		
190353	F		27/11/2019	230	47(100)	180007	Not Recorded	Sold	23/02/2021		431.00
DAB604	U		27/11/2019		47(100)	180007	Not Recorded	Disposed	27/11/2019		
200229	F		6/08/2020	253	47(100)	180185	Not Recorded	Weaned	4/11/2020		
200230	M		6/08/2020		47(100)	180185	Not Recorded	Weaned	4/11/2020		
170209	**Ewe**		**3.8 yr**		**47(100)**	**(6 progeny)** Avg.Intl.=146	192 days since last young	**Sold**	**17/03/2021**		
DRYB96	U		1/12/2018		47(100)	160111	Not Recorded	Disposed	1/12/2018		
DRYD38	U		1/04/2019	121	47(100)	170411	Not Recorded	Disposed	1/04/2019		
190098	M		13/08/2019	134	47(100)	160278	Not Recorded	Sold	23/07/2020		900.00
DRYE04	U		1/04/2020	232	47(100)	160278	Not Recorded	Disposed	1/04/2020		
DRYE05	U		1/08/2020	122	47(100)	160278	Not Recorded	Disposed	1/08/2020		
200506	M		30/11/2020	121	47(100)	180185	Not Recorded	Weaned	17/03/2021		
170324	**Ewe**		**3.8 yr**		**47(100)**	**(5 progeny)** Avg.Intl.=179	313 days since last young	**Sold**	**17/02/2021**		
180374	M		15/08/2018		47(100)	160111	Not Recorded	Sold	16/09/2019		1200.00

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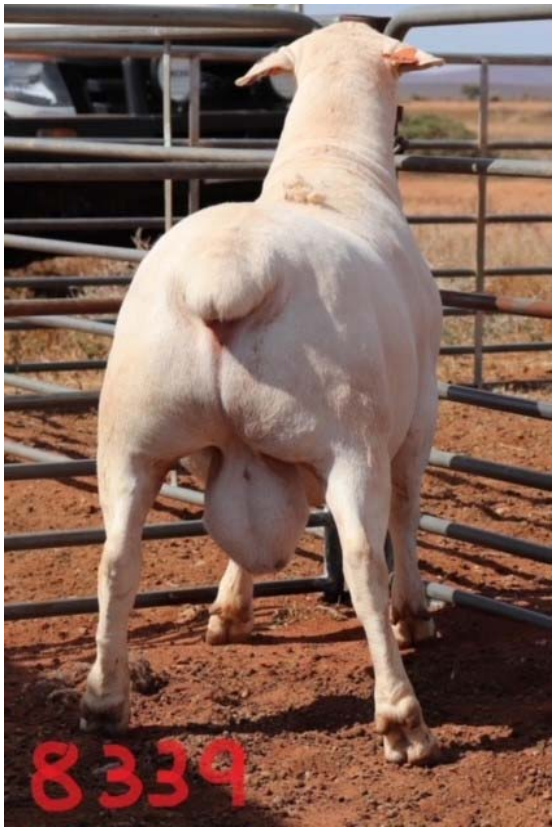
Stud Ram Sales



Animal ID	MWWT	WWT	PWT	PEMD	PFAT	NLW	TCP	MCP
SALTBUSH WD-180339 WWW	2.8 45%	6.4 65%	9.7 65%	2.7 68%	0.3 65%	5% 27%	144.9 37%	150.6 47%

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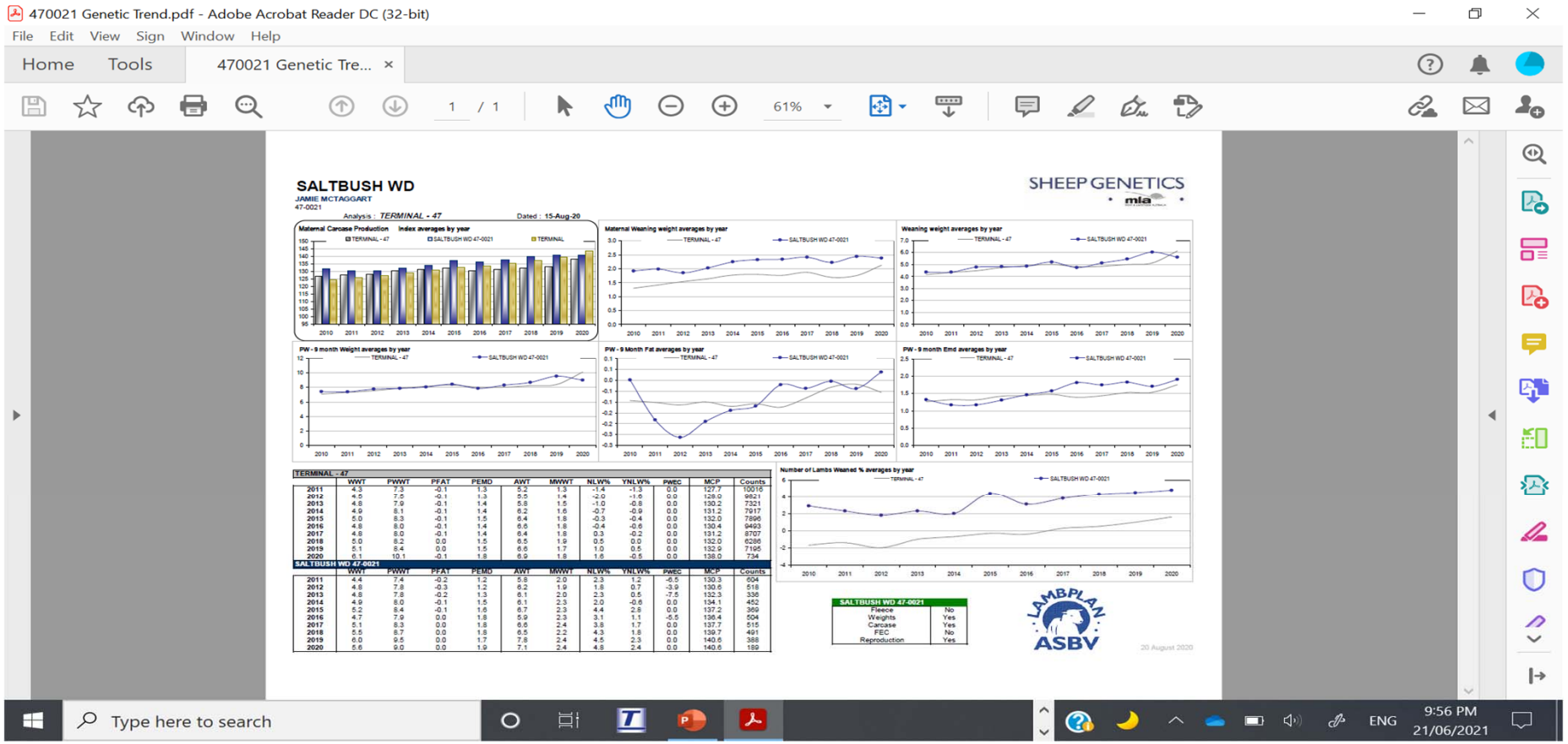

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Industry support

- Working with outback lakes group.
- Support for project comes as consultancy/ extension. Data management.
- We do on farm work.
- Purchasing tags and equipment to collect data not included.
- On farm infrastructure and yard modifications not included.

Mixed age continuous mated flock

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Lamb marking in commercial flocks.

- Lambs are marked with NLIS EID PIC tags at marking and allocated a birth month. (marking every 3 months).
- Off type and cull ewe lambs with standard tags in ewe ear. Counted as wethers in livestock records.
- Wethers marked with standard NLIS PIC tags.
- Every subsequent muster these ewe lambs are weighed and given LW and wet and dried.

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Tagging and scanning 2019 ewes

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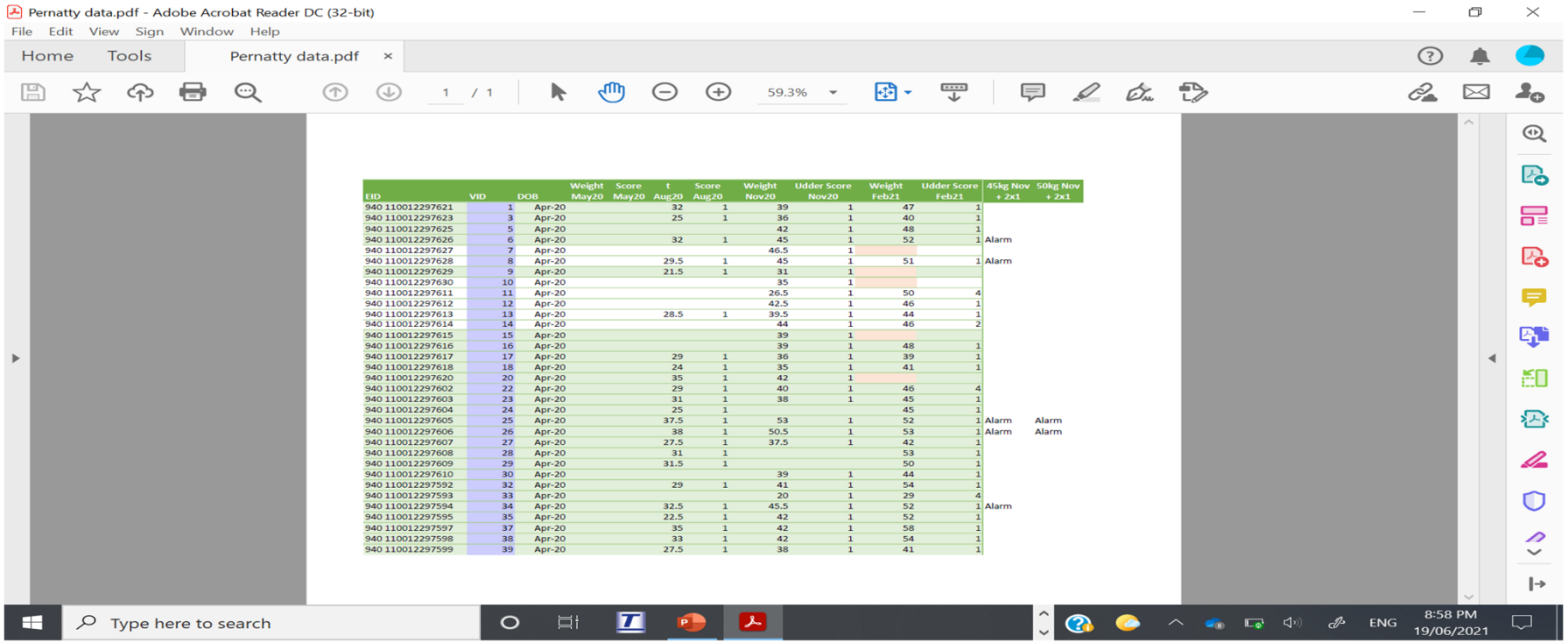
Ewe data recording sheet



EID	VID	DOB	Weight May20	Score May20	t Aug20	Score Aug20	Weight Nov20	Udder Score Nov20	Weight Feb21	Udder Score Feb21	45kg Nov + 2x1	50kg Nov + 2x1
940 110012297621	1	Apr-20			32	1	39	1	47	1		
940 110012297623	3	Apr-20			25	1	36	1	40	1		
940 110012297625	5	Apr-20					42	1	48	1		
940 110012297626	6	Apr-20			32	1	45	1	52	1	Alarm	
940 110012297627	7	Apr-20					46.5	1				
940 110012297628	8	Apr-20			29.5	1	45	1	51	1	Alarm	
940 110012297629	9	Apr-20			21.5	1	31	1				
940 110012297630	10	Apr-20					35	1				
940 110012297611	11	Apr-20					26.5	1	50	4		
940 110012297612	12	Apr-20					42.5	1	46	1		
940 110012297613	13	Apr-20			28.5	1	39.5	1	44	1		
940 110012297614	14	Apr-20					44	1	46	2		
940 110012297615	15	Apr-20					39	1				
940 110012297616	16	Apr-20					39	1	48	1		
940 110012297617	17	Apr-20			29	1	36	1	39	1		
940 110012297618	18	Apr-20			24	1	35	1	41	1		
940 110012297620	20	Apr-20			35	1	42	1				
940 110012297602	22	Apr-20			29	1	40	1	46	4		
940 110012297603	23	Apr-20			31	1	38	1	45	1		
940 110012297604	24	Apr-20			25	1			45	1		
940 110012297605	25	Apr-20			37.5	1	53	1	52	1	Alarm	Alarm
940 110012297606	26	Apr-20			38	1	50.5	1	53	1	Alarm	Alarm
940 110012297607	27	Apr-20			27.5	1	37.5	1	42	1		
940 110012297608	28	Apr-20			31	1			53	1		
940 110012297609	29	Apr-20			31.5	1			50	1		
940 110012297610	30	Apr-20					39	1	44	1		
940 110012297592	32	Apr-20			29	1	41	1	54	1		
940 110012297593	33	Apr-20					20	1	29	4		
940 110012297594	34	Apr-20			32.5	1	45.5	1	52	1	Alarm	
940 110012297595	35	Apr-20			22.5	1	42	1	52	1		
940 110012297597	37	Apr-20			35	1	42	1	58	1		
940 110012297598	38	Apr-20			33	1	42	1	54	1		
940 110012297599	39	Apr-20			27.5	1	38	1	41	1		

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Managing data

- **2019 ewes**
  - **Alert 1 (Light & dry)**: <45kg in Aug20 and <Score 3 in Aug, Nov & Feb ⇒ **14** animals (22 are covered by Alert 2)
  - **Alert 2 (Dry)**: >=45kg in Nov20 and <Score 3 in Aug, Nov & Feb ⇒ **158** animals
- **2020 ewes**
- **Alert 3 (Purple old)**: March–May 2020 drop and >=50kg in Feb and Score 1 in Feb ⇒ **196** animals
- **Alert 4 (Purple young)**: July 2020 drop & <=40kg in Feb ⇒ **308** animals.
- 1498 Purple tag ewes marked as part of this assessment. 1413 more purple tags marked since.
- Managing data. Age v LW v Fertility

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Don’t second guess your data

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Where we would like to be.

- What do we want to achieve? Identify the most productive animals in our flock and breed from them.
- Ability to increase selection pressure by increasing productivity.
- At 75% lambing and keeping ewes for 6 years we need to retain 49% of ewe lambs.
- At 120% lambing and keeping ewes for 6 years we need to retain 28 % of ewe lambs.
- At 180% lambing and keeping ewes for 6 years we need to retain 19 % of ewe lambs.

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Looking forward

- Put together a significant data base of information on fertility, growth rates etc. Not sure what the possibilities are from this yet.
- Getting better at collecting information.
- DNA testing. This may also be a possibility in the future as the cost for this type of thing are getting more accessible.
- Genomics. Meat eating quality etc. Have gone from not in my time to just around the corner.
- Healthy and happy animals and the country they live in. Reduce pressure on the system by taking away the guess work.

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Take home messages

- Potential is huge. And there is always more and more on the horizon.
- Information is ~~power~~ a pain in the back side. The more information you have the more decisions you make so if you don't like to make decisions steer clear of information.
- You can't get carried away with data collection. You are still handling livestock and they come first.

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Take home messages

- Be committed to the plan. There is a lot of day-to-day stuff to do before there is any benefit. Gets hard at times but if you take short cuts, it will have a negative effect on the quality of your results going forward.

- Data is real. Set your parameters and don't let your emotions override the facts.

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