



Market Information Services

SHEEP ASSESSMENT MANUAL



January 2017



Contents

SECTION 1 – ASSESSMENT LANGUAGE 1

1.1 Stock Categories	1
1.2 Carcase weight and live weight.....	2
1.3 Fat Score	2
1.4 Skin value	4
1.5 Sales prefixes	5
1.6 Age.....	5
1.7 Frame size.....	5
1.8 Shear season	6
1.9 Joining.....	6

SECTION 2 – ASSESSMENTS 7

SECTION 3 – MARKET REPORT COMMENTS 8

3.1 General commentary guidelines.....	8
--	---

SECTION 4 – QUALITY MANAGEMENT 11

APPENDIX 1 – AUS-MEAT LANGUAGE12

APPENDIX 2 – MLA's assessment sheet16

APPENDIX 3 – UNIT OF COMPETENCY17

List of Figures

Figure 1: Reference point used for assessing fat cover on sheep and lambs.....	3
Figure 2: Location of the GR site.....	3
Figure 3: The five fat scores	3
Figure 4: MLA's Market Information weekly skin report.....	4
Figure 5: Frame size	6
Figure 6: Fat class.....	12
Figure 7: Dressing percentage matrix	15
Figure 8: Sheep assessment sheet	16

List of Tables

Table 1: MLA stock classifications.....	1
Table 2: Stock categories applicable to MLA sheep store market reports	1
Table 3: Fat score table.....	2
Table 4: Sales prefixes.....	5
Table 5: MLA competency level.....	7
Table 6: List of abbreviations; grammatical corrections and other related structural suggestions	10
Table 7: Basic categories.....	13
Table 8: Definition of a permanent incisor	13
Table 9: Alternative categories	14
Table 10: Elements and performance criteria	18
Table 11: Required skills and knowledge	18
Table 12: Evidence guide.....	19



MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

Market Information
Meat & Livestock Australia
Ph: 02 9463 9372
Fax: 02 9463 9220
Email: marketinfo@mla.com.au

www.mla.com.au/prices-markets

Published by Meat & Livestock Australia Limited
ABN 39 081 678 364
January 2017
© Meat & Livestock Australia Limited 2017
ISSN 1837-4690

MLA makes no representation as to the accuracy of any information or advice contained in this document and excludes all liability, whether in contract, tort (including negligence or breach of statutory duty) or otherwise as a result of reliance by any person on such information or advice. Reproduction in whole or part of this publication is prohibited without prior consent and acknowledgement of Meat & Livestock Australia.

All use of MLA publications, reports and information is subject to MLA's Market Report and Information Terms of Use. Please read our terms of use carefully and ensure you are familiar with its content – [click here for MLA's terms of use](#).



SECTION 1

ASSESSMENT LANGUAGE

Sheep and lambs are sold in drafted consignments or pen lots. When assessing lambs MLA considers several factors including age, breed, sex, carcase weight, fat score and finally overall quality and condition.

1.1 Stock Categories

Table 1 depicts the factors used to determine age and sex of sheep and lambs, known as stock categories. More information can be found in Appendix 1.

Table 1: MLA stock classifications

Stock category	Description
Young lamb	Male and female lambs with no 'ram like' characteristics. Generally, unshorn with no permanent teeth, normally up to 5 months of age
Lamb	Male and female lambs with no 'ram like' characteristics. Generally weaned, shorn with no permanent teeth and normally older than 5 months
Hogget	Castrated male or female sheep with no 'ram like' characteristics and up to two permanent teeth
Ewe	Female with more than two permanent teeth
Wether	Castrated male sheep with no 'ram like' characteristics and with more than two permanent teeth.
Ram	Ram and castrated male sheep with 'ram like' characteristics.
Ram Lambs	Uncastrated male lamb or entire male lamb

Source: AUSmeat

Table 2: Stock categories applicable to MLA sheep store market reports

Stock category	Description
Crossbred lambs	Male and female lambs with no 'ram like' characteristics. Generally weaned, shorn with no permanent teeth and normally older than 5 months. No Merino characteristics
Crossbred ewes	Female with more than two permanent teeth. No Merino characteristics
Crossbred ewes and lambs	Female with more than two permanent teeth with a lamb at foot. No Merino characteristics
Crossbred wethers	Castrated male sheep with no 'ram like' characteristics and with more than two permanent teeth
Merino ewes	Merino ewes, female, with more than two permanent teeth
Merino lambs	Merino lambs, male or female, with no 'ram like' characteristics. Generally weaned, shorn with no permanent teeth and normally older than 5 months
Merino ewes with more than two permanent teeth	Merino ewes, female, with more than two permanent teeth with a lamb at foot
Merino wethers	Merino male sheep with no 'ram like' characteristics and with more than two permanent teeth
Merino mixed sex – sheep or lambs	Merino ewes or lambs
Rams (Meat)	Meat breed rams and castrated male sheep with 'ram like' characteristics
Rams (Merino)	Merino rams and castrated male sheep with 'ram like' characteristics

Source: AUSmeat

1.2 Carcase weight and live weight

In saleyards, Livestock Market Officers (LMOs) assess sheep and lambs based on their approximate carcase weight. This conversion can be made by looking at their overall live weight of the stock in the saleyards and apply a dressing percentage to them to help convert them into carcase weight, see Appendix 1, Dressing Percentage Matrix. Carcase weight can be estimated by using the following formula:

Estimated carcase weight = liveweight x dressing percentage

When calculating carcase weight it is important to understand the factors affecting dressing percentage, such as:

- Fatness
- Time off feed
- Skin weight
- Sex
- Breed
- Weaned/unweaned
- Carcase trim
- Seasonal and feed conditions

Sheep are sold in dollars per head while those sold direct are usually sold on a carcase weight price per kilogram basis. The formula for converting stock into price per kilogram carcase weight is below (¢/kg cwt):

Carcase price (¢/kg cwt) = \$/head value – skin value / carcase weight

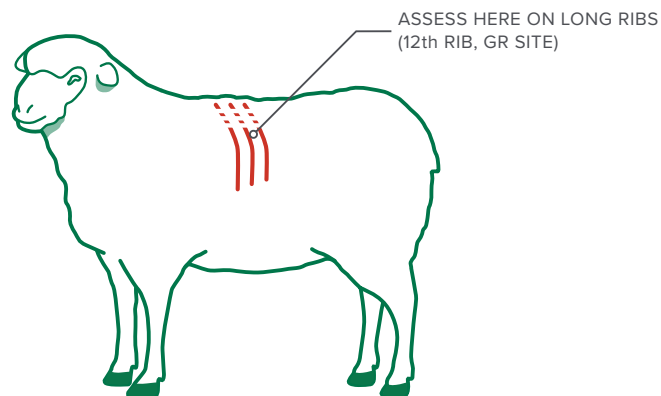
1.3 Fat Score

Fat score is the fat measurement on the carcase, based on the actual soft tissue depth at the Girth Rib (GR) site. The GR site is 110mm from the midline over the 12th rib as shown in figure 2. Fat scores range from 1 (lean) to 5 (fattest) outlined in Appendix 1, Figure 6. Each fat score represents a 5mm band width. As a general rule, at the same weight, ewe lambs will be fatter than wether lambs which will in turn be fatter than ram or cryptorchid lambs. The fat scores are shown in table 3.

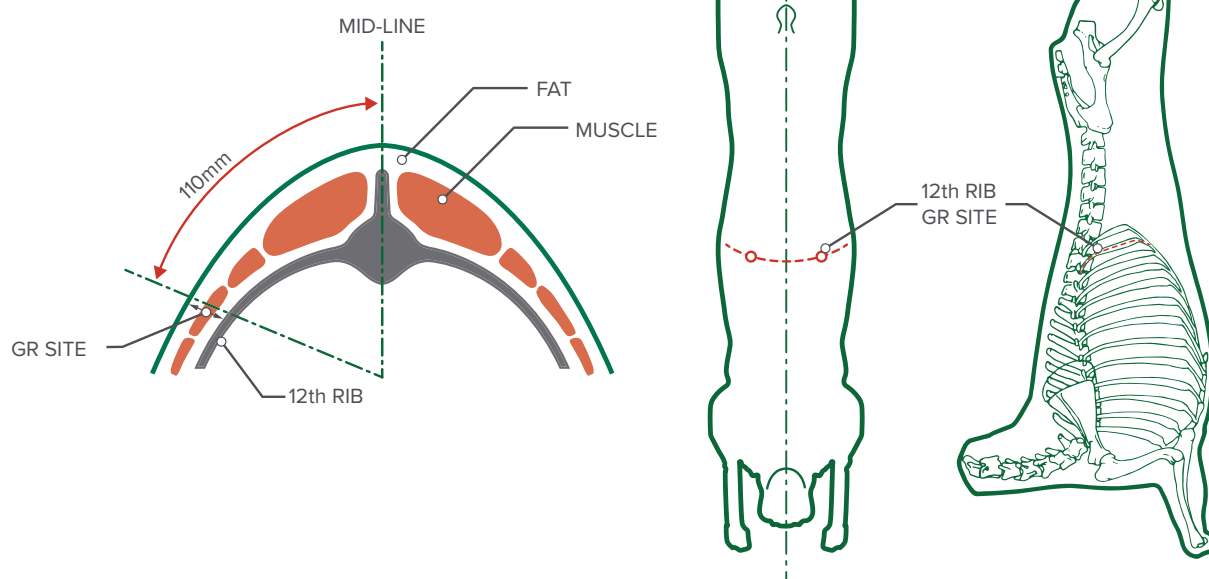
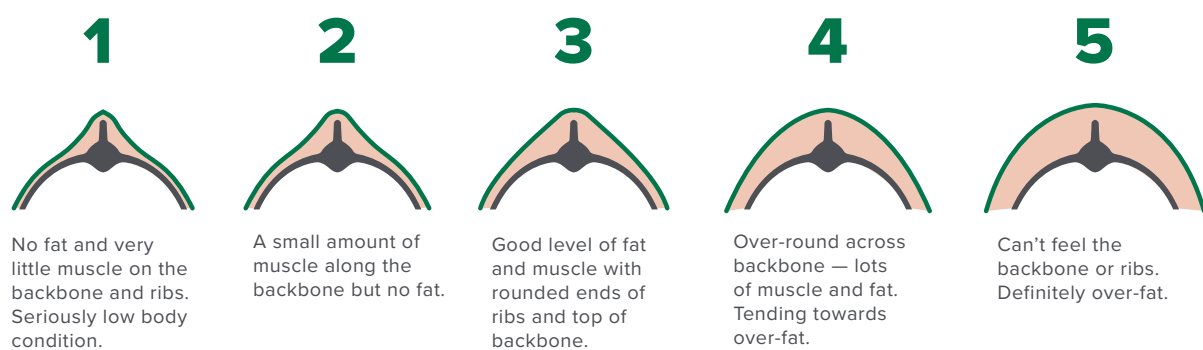
Table 3: Fat score table

Score	GR tissue depth	Assessment over the long ribs
1	Up to 5mm	Individual ribs are easily felt. Cannot feel any tissue over the ribs
2	Over 5mm up to 10mm	Individual ribs are easily felt, however some tissue is present
3	Over 10mm up to 15mm	Individual ribs can still be felt. Can feel more tissue over the ribs
4	Over 15mm up to 20mm	Can only just feel ribs. There is fluid movement of tissue
5	Over 20mm+	Ribs cannot be felt. Tissue movement is very fluid

Source: AUSmeat

Figure 1: Reference point used for assessing fat cover on sheep and lambs**Figure 2: Location of the GR site**

There are two GR sites one on either side of the carcass. Either may be used. Each is located 110mm from the mid-line of the carcass along the lateral surface of the 12th rib.

**Figure 3: The five fat scores**

Source: Department of Agriculture

1.4 Skin value


Estimation of the skin value is an important factor when assessing sheep and lambs. Skins can vary greatly in value depending on supply and quality, consequently impacting on the carcass weight price. Heavy seed and burr content and indiscriminate crutching can lead to discounts of up to 50% on skin value.

The value of the skin on the live animal is assessed against current market values issued in a weekly report prepared by MLA's Market Information, based on what skin traders are trading for the week. You are required to subscribe to this report and discuss skin values with buyers at the saleyards on what values are to gain full comprehension of how skin values are fluctuating.

An example of the weekly skin report is provided below. It is a national report collected from different skin processing facilities. The price in the report is the price the skin processing facility pays the abattoir for raw skins. Raw skins being, straight off the lamb/sheep backs without any further processing. These prices are categorised into lamb, Merino sheep and crossbred sheep, by skin length. The weight of the animal the skin has come off also comes into play as does the level of vegetable matter, or VM.

For example; a new season lamb (weighing 20-24kg) skin, with heavy VM, ranges in price from 500c-600c/skin (\$5-\$6/skin). See figure 4.

Figure 4: MLA's Market Information weekly skin report



Skin report - sheep and lamb

Market information provided by MLA's National Livestock Reporting Service

National

report date 15 Jul 2016

The skin market eased further this week, with variations reportedly dependent on skin length and density. Overseas buyer demand remains weak.

Type		Free of VM		16.1-20 kg Heavy VM		Free of VM		20.1-24 kg Heavy VM		Free of VM		24.1 and Over kg Heavy VM	
		Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
Lamb	3" & Over	600	600	400	400	700	800	500	600	900	900	600	700
	2"-3"	700	700	500	500	600	900	400	700	900	1000	700	800
	1"-2"	300	600	200	400	500	800	200	600	600	900	600	700
	0.5"-1"	200	200			200	500	100	300	300	600	100	400
	0.25"-0.5"					100	200			100	100		
	New Season	500	500	300	300	800	1000	500	600	900	900	700	700
Merino Sheep	3" & Over	1500	1500	1300	1300	1900	2200	1000	1700	2100	2400	1900	2100
	2.5"-3"	1400	1400	1200	1200	1800	2100	1600	1800	2000	2300	1800	2000
	2"-2.5"	1300	1300	1100	1100	1700	1900	1500	1700	1900	2000	900	1700
	1.5"-2"	700	700	500	500	1100	1200	900	950	1200	1300	1000	1100
	1"-1.5"	600	600	400	400	700	1000	400	800	800	1100	500	900
	0.5"-1"					400	400	100	200	500	600	200	400
X Bred Sheep	0.25"-0.5"					100	100			100	100		
	3" & Over					700	700	500	500	800	800	600	600
	2.5"-3"					600	600	400	400	700	700	500	500
	2"-2.5"					500	500	200	200	600	600	300	300
	1"-2"					300	300			400	400	100	100

All prices are expressed in c/skin

Disclaimer:

© MLA 2017. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without prior written permission of MLA. MLA makes no representations and to the extent permitted by law excludes all warranties in relation to the information contained in this publication. MLA is not liable to you or to any third party for any losses, costs or expenses, including any direct, indirect, incidental, consequential, special or exemplary damages or lost profit, resulting from any use or misuse of the information contained in this publication. Information contained in this publication has been obtained from a variety of third party sources which have not been verified by MLA.

© 2017 Meat and Livestock Australia Limited

Page: 1 of 1

1.5 Sales prefixes

Breed and market destination are also used to classify sheep and lambs. The pre-cursors shown in Table 4 are used to further define the market. The bulk of the lamb market consists of prime lambs (second cross lambs). These are bred from a First Cross ewe and British bred meat ram. These have no precursor on an MLA report.

Table 4: Sales prefixes

Sales Prefix abbreviation	Description
RS	Sheep or lambs purchased by restocker, either to be re-fattened or kept for future breeding
FD	Lambs purchased by lot feeders
MR	Merino sheep or lambs
RM	Merino sheep or lambs purchased by restockers
1X	First cross sheep or lambs, the result of a Merino crossed with a British meat breed
LE	Stock purchased by live exporters
DP	Dorper sheep or lambs
RL	Ram lambs
Processors (Grass)	Those sheep and lambs bought to slaughter

The following information applies to MLA sheep store market reporting

1.6 Age

Age of the store sheep and lambs must be imputed. They are as follows;

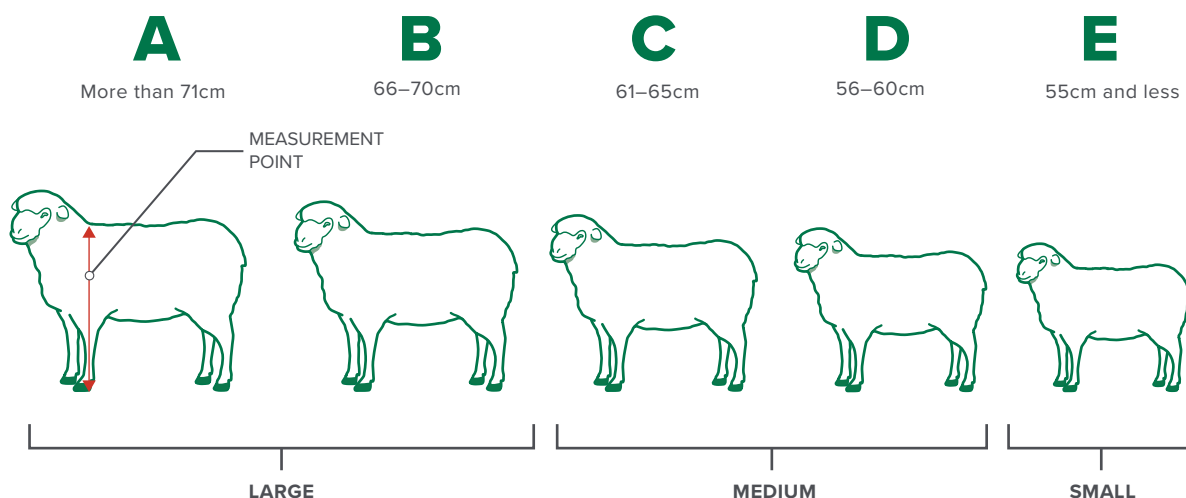
- Lambs
- 1 & 2 year olds
- 3 & 4 year olds
- 5, 6 & CFA – cast for age
- Mixed ages

1.7 Frame size

Frame size is used to assess stock at store markets. Instead of putting on a weight, a frame size is required. The frame is measured in terms of the height from the ground to the highest point of the withers (shoulder) in centimetres, less length of wool. MLA classifies store stock as small, medium and large.

Figure 4 shows the height relative to each frame score.

- Sizes A & B are Large
- Sizes C & D are Medium
- Size E is Small

Figure 5: Frame size

1.8 Shear season

Shear season is donated by the season of the year that the sheep and lambs were shorn. Were no information is offered a N/A is applied. They are as follows;

- Off shears
- Summer
- Autumn
- Winter
- Spring
- Full wool
- Un shorn
- N/A

1.9 Joining

Joining is applied in a store market for the majority of ewes and sometimes lambs. Were no information is offered a N/A is applied. They are as follows;

- NSM – Non-Station-Mated
- De-pastured (Meat)
- De-pastured (Merino)
- Scanned (Meat) – Scanned-In-Lamb
- Scanned (Merino) – Scanned-In-Lamb
- Stationed mated ewes
- N/A



SECTION 2

ASSESSMENTS

Under the evidence guide in Appendix 3, table 12, you are required to undertake a minimum of three forms of training to demonstrate competency.

Three forms of evidence are required and this means three different kinds – not three pieces of the same kind. These include:

- 1. Seasonal work place assessments.** 70% of the selected stock must be accurately assessed to maintain competency. Appendix 2.
- 2. Annual abattoir assessment training day.** 70% of the selected stock must be accurately assessed to maintain competency. Appendix 2.
- 3. Question and answer assessment** – A series of multiple choice and question answer scenarios provided through MLA's "The FEEDlot".

All these components are required to be fulfilled annually in order to maintain your accreditation.

As outlined in Appendix 3, table 10, Performance Criteria, Point 3, Accuracy Standards, is a summary of the competency level expected.

Table 5: MLA competency level

Trait	Maximum Accuracy Variation	Explanation of competency
Carcase weight	Within (+/-) 1.6kg	Estimate must be within 1.6kg (+/-) of actual carcase weight. 70% of the animals assessed must be within this range
Fat Score	Within 1 (+/-) score of fat score	Estimate must be within 1 score (+/-) if the actual fat score. 70% of the animals assessed must be within this range



SECTION 3

MARKET REPORT COMMENTS

This guideline outlines the requirements for cattle comments for all physical market reports.

MLA is a national service, therefore the quality, content and language must be standardised without losing the independence or individualistic nature of each market.

Market reports are written and then disseminated to a variety of clients including producers, agents and corporate clients such as Rural Press. Therefore, the structure and content of the comments is important to ensure the true picture from each market is communicated. In the majority of instances MLA's reports are displayed in the commentary format only and therefore it is essential that they ensure all elements of the market are accurately described.

3.1 General commentary guidelines

Introduction

The first paragraph should be an overview of the market. The purpose of this section is to provide the reader of the report with an indication of what has actually happened at the market. The following should be included in this paragraph as a bare minimum. Remember to use a short, sharp sentence structure.

- Yarding (supply) – greater and less and why?
- What impacted on the market? (Explain its relevance and consequences to the day's market)
- Buyer competition
 - Were all the regular buyers in attendance?
 - Stronger or weaker (why?)
 - Where did the sheep go?
- Yarding break up
 - E.g. the yarding consisted of good quality lambs while mutton numbers were down
- What was quality like?
- Overall actual price movements (up/down)

Body

For sheep segregate the body of the commentary into:

1. Light to heavy weight lambs
2. Mutton

Using the following as a guide:

- Quote price trends as X¢ dearer or X¢ cheaper and provide a reason. Provide reason behind price movements relevant to own market.
- Express prices as a range and/or average, unless the top price is a feature of the market
- When quoting prices and weights, use the MLA standard weight range.
- Quote the relevant indicator grades, unless it is a feature of the sale.
- There should be a correlation between the comments and data.
- Do not use subjective language when explaining a variation in price
- The number of lambs (or new season lambs) and sheep penned should be quoted if the break-up is available if not provide an estimate as a number or percentage.
- Don't overload your commentary with price – you need to find a balanced.
- Remember to use a short, sharp sentence structure.
- Try not to repeat the same word too many times.
- Important for comments to flow from light to heavy weights.
- Separate young lambs and old lambs in separate paragraphs when necessary.

Words to avoid:

- **Fresh** young lambs
- **Fully firm**
- **Wooly ewes** – either longer wool or full wool
- **Suckers** – either new season or young lambs, choose one and keep it consistent throughout report.

Grammar and abbreviations

Table 6 is a list of abbreviations; grammatical corrections and other related structural suggestions that you should adopt in order to maintain a consistent high standard of market commentary

Table 6: List of abbreviations; grammatical corrections and other related structural suggestions

	Example	Rule
Quoting sheep and lamb prices	New season lambs were \$3 to \$4 dearer, to average \$40/head.	\$.../head is used once at the end of a sentence where a price, or change in price has been quoted. The Dollar sign needs to be in front of every price.
Quoting carcase weight	lwt or cwt following a quoted price	Only use the abbreviations in the report when there is a change in the price quoted. For example, if the prices being quoted have changed from \$/head to c/kg cwt it would be then necessary to use the abbreviation.
Quoting weight categories	Light, trade and heavy lambs or light, medium and heavy for sheep	You can quote specific weight ranges if necessary.
Quality	Well-finished, well-conditioned	Quality is described subjectively and must be followed by fat score – with exception where quality is described in the opening paragraph to provide an overall picture of the market on that particular day.
Quoting fat scores	The 3 and 4 score lambs	Provide reason for variation in prices with emphasis on muscle and fat scores. Classification of muscle and fat score should be quoted throughout the commentaries alongside any price quotations.
Write in past tense	500 young lambs were offered	Keep your 'tense' consistent throughout the market report.
Capital letter for sheep breeds	Merino lambs/Dorper	For every breed included in your market report, a capital should be used.
Round up/down prices	360¢/kg, or \$185/head	If market report states 360.2¢/kg, round down to 360¢/kg cwt, if it states 360.6¢, round up to 361¢/kg cwt.



SECTION 4

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

A Quality Management System (QMS) is a set of policies, processes and procedures required for the planning and execution of a business.

MLA's Market Information Service (MIS) has been certified through SAI Global for its QMS since the 28th August 2006. In that time, the QMS has continued to provide direction and control, highlighted areas of concern and created areas of improvement within the organisation.

The QMS is currently certified to the AS/NZS ISO 9001:2008 standards. The main benefit to having a QMS and being certified is to help maintain the quality and integrity of the data that we provide to levy payers. It has also been developed and implemented to ensure that all customer and stakeholder requirements are satisfied.

Quality problems arising in various areas are to be identified and solved with timeliness, professionalism, efficiency and cost effectiveness. We focus our resources, both technical and human, towards the prevention of quality deficiencies to satisfy organisational goals.

The successful operation of the system relies upon the co-operation and involvement of personnel at all levels. Our commitment to quality will ensure the continued success of our service and the satisfaction of clients and other key stakeholders.

Some of the purposes of the QMS are:

- Requirements, feedback and opportunities are addressed and documented within the management system at the appropriate location and that they are addressed
- Ensure all staff using the QMS are trained and provided with an induction to the system
- Produce records and provide evidence that system requirements have been met
- Continually measure, monitor and analyse any changes that need to be made to ensure the quality and integrity of the data
- Execute an internal and external audit annually
- Log any opportunities that will help improve the QMS
- The five tick standards mark helps us to let customers know that we are certified with the market leading certification body in Australia



Quality
ISO 9001





APPENDIX 1

AUS-MEAT LANGUAGE

Figure 6: Fat class



CLASS 1



GR
Up to 5mm



CLASS 2



GR
Over 5mm
up to 10mm



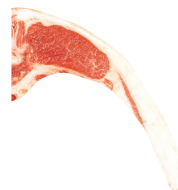
CLASS 3



GR
Over 10mm
up to 15mm



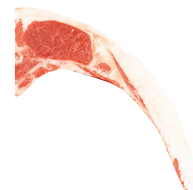
CLASS 4



GR
Over 15mm
up to 20mm



CLASS 5



GR
Over 20mm

Source: AUSmeat

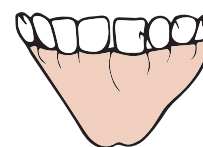
Table 7: Basic categories**LAMB 'L'****Female, castrate or entire male ovine that:**

- Has no permanent incisor teeth

*Up to 12 months

- Milk Fed Lamb (symbol 'MF') Lamb that has not been weaned
- Grain Fed Lamb (symbol 'GF'). Refer Australian Meat Industry Information for specification and feed details

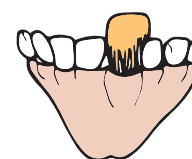
*Younger than 8 weeks

**MUTTON 'M'****Female, castrate or entire male ovine that:**

- In male shows no SCC
- Has at least 1 permanent incisor tooth

*Over 10 months

- OVINE Optional alternative generic description for Mutton. Refer Australian Meat Industry Information for conditions of use
- MANUFACTURING BONELESS. Lamb and Ram may be backed in the same carton as Mutton and described as Mutton
- PRIMAL CUTS. Bone in or Boneless Lamb and Mutton primal cuts may be mixed in their same pack but the category used can only be the basic category Mutton – 'M'

**RAM 'R'****Entire or castrate male ovine that:**

- Shows SSC
- Has at least 1 permanent incisor tooth

*Over 10 months



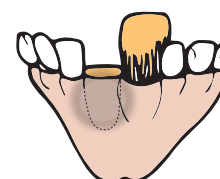
Source: AUSmeat

SSC = Secondary Sexual Characteristics

* Chronological age as shown is approximation only

Table 8: Definition of a permanent incisor**A permanent incisor is defined as:**

- A new incisor that has broken (erupted) through the gum surface
- Permanent incisors are used to determine age in animals

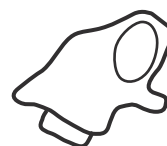


Source: AUSmeat

Table 9: Alternative categories**Young Lamb 'YL'****Female or castrate male ovine that:**

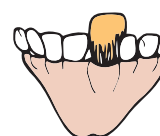
- Has no permanent incisor teeth
- Has no evidence of eruption of permanent incisor teeth

*Up to 5 months only

**Hogget 'YGE' or Yearling mutton****Female or castrate male ovine that:**

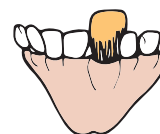
- Has 1 but no more than 2 permanent incisor teeth
 - In males shows no SSC
-
- Grain Fed Hogget (symbol 'GF'). Refer Australian Meat Industry Information for specification and feed details

*10 to 18 months

**Ewe Mutton 'E'****Female ovine that:**

- Has evidence of eruption of 1 or more permanent incisor teeth

*Over 10 months

**Weather Mutton 'W'****Female or castrate male ovine that:**

- Has 1 or more permanent incisor teeth
- Shows no SSC

*Over 10 months



Source: AUSmeat

SSC = Secondary Sexual Characteristics

* Chronological age as shown is approximation only

NSW Department of Primary Industries dressing percentage matrix

Figure 7: Dressing percentage matrix

LIVEWEIGHT TO HOT STANDARD CARCASS WEIGHT CONVERSION																			
LIVEWEIGHT	37%	38%	39%	40%	41%	42%	43%	44%	45%	46%	47%	48%	49%	50%	51%	52%	53%	54%	55%
34.0	12.6	12.9	13.3	13.6	13.9	14.3	14.6	15.0	15.3	15.6	16.0	16.3	16.7	17.0	17.3	17.7	18.0	18.4	18.7
35.0	13.0	13.3	13.7	14.0	14.4	14.7	15.0	15.4	15.8	16.1	16.5	16.8	17.2	17.5	17.9	18.2	18.6	18.9	19.2
36.0	13.3	13.7	14.0	14.4	14.8	15.1	15.5	15.8	16.2	16.6	16.9	17.3	17.6	18.0	18.4	18.7	19.1	19.4	19.7
37.0	13.7	14.1	14.4	14.8	15.2	15.5	15.9	16.3	16.7	17.0	17.4	17.8	18.1	18.5	18.9	19.2	19.6	20.0	20.3
38.0	14.1	14.4	14.8	15.2	15.6	16.0	16.4	16.8	17.1	17.5	17.9	18.2	18.6	19.0	19.4	19.8	20.1	20.5	20.8
39.0	14.4	14.8	15.2	15.6	16.0	16.4	16.8	17.2	17.6	17.9	18.3	18.7	19.1	19.5	19.9	20.3	20.7	21.1	21.4
40.0	14.8	15.2	15.6	16.0	16.4	16.8	17.2	17.6	18.0	18.4	18.8	19.2	19.6	20.0	20.4	20.8	21.2	21.6	21.9
41.0	15.2	15.6	16.0	16.4	16.8	17.2	17.6	18.0	18.5	18.9	19.3	19.7	20.1	20.5	20.9	21.3	21.7	22.1	22.4
42.0	15.5	16.0	16.4	16.8	17.2	17.6	18.1	18.5	18.9	19.3	19.7	20.2	20.6	21.0	21.4	21.8	22.2	22.6	22.9
43.0	15.9	16.3	16.8	17.2	17.6	18.1	18.5	18.9	19.4	19.8	20.2	20.7	21.1	21.5	21.9	22.4	22.8	23.2	23.5
44.0	16.3	16.7	17.2	17.6	18.0	18.5	18.9	19.4	19.8	20.2	20.7	21.1	21.6	22.0	22.4	22.9	23.3	23.8	24.1
45.0	16.7	17.1	17.6	18.0	18.5	18.9	19.4	19.8	20.3	20.7	21.2	21.6	22.1	22.5	23.0	23.4	23.9	24.4	24.8
46.0	17.0	17.5	17.9	18.4	18.9	19.3	19.8	20.2	20.7	21.1	21.6	22.1	22.6	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.4	24.9	25.4
47.0	17.4	17.9	18.3	18.8	19.3	19.7	20.2	20.7	21.2	21.6	22.1	22.6	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.4	25.9
48.0	17.8	18.2	18.7	19.2	19.7	20.2	20.6	21.1	21.6	22.1	22.6	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5
49.0	18.1	18.6	19.1	19.6	20.1	20.6	21.1	21.6	22.1	22.6	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5	27.0
50.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5	27.0	27.5
51.0	18.9	19.4	19.9	20.4	20.9	21.4	21.9	22.4	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5	27.0	27.5	28.0
52.0	19.2	19.8	20.3	20.8	21.3	21.8	22.4	22.9	23.4	23.9	24.4	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5	27.0	27.5	28.0	28.5
53.0	19.6	20.1	20.7	21.2	21.7	22.3	22.8	23.3	23.9	24.4	24.9	25.4	26.0	26.5	27.0	27.5	28.0	28.5	29.0
54.0	20.0	20.5	21.1	21.6	22.1	22.7	23.2	23.8	24.3	24.8	25.4	25.9	26.5	27.0	27.5	28.1	28.6	29.1	29.6
55.0	20.4	20.9	21.5	22.0	22.6	23.1	23.7	24.2	24.8	25.3	25.9	26.4	27.0	27.5	28.1	28.6	29.2	29.7	30.2
56.0	20.7	21.3	21.8	22.4	23.0	23.5	24.1	24.6	25.2	25.8	26.3	26.9	27.4	28.0	28.6	29.1	29.7	30.2	30.8
57.0	21.1	21.7	22.2	22.8	23.4	23.9	24.5	25.1	25.7	26.2	26.8	27.4	27.9	28.5	29.1	29.6	30.2	30.8	31.3
58.0	21.5	22.0	22.6	23.2	23.8	24.4	24.9	25.5	26.1	26.7	27.3	27.8	28.4	29.0	29.6	30.2	30.7	31.3	31.9
59.0	21.8	22.4	23.0	23.6	24.2	24.8	25.4	26.0	26.6	27.1	27.7	28.3	28.9	29.5	30.1	30.7	31.3	31.9	32.4
60.0	22.2	22.8	23.4	24.0	24.6	25.2	25.8	26.4	27.0	27.6	28.2	28.8	29.4	30.0	30.6	31.2	31.8	32.4	32.9
61.0	22.6	23.2	23.8	24.4	25.0	25.6	26.2	26.8	27.4	28.0	28.6	29.2	29.8	30.4	31.0	31.6	32.2	32.8	33.4
62.0	22.9	23.6	24.2	24.8	25.4	26.0	26.7	27.3	27.9	28.5	29.1	29.8	30.4	31.0	31.6	32.2	32.8	33.4	34.0
63.0	23.3	23.9	24.6	25.2	25.8	26.5	27.1	27.7	28.4	29.0	29.6	30.2	30.9	31.5	32.1	32.8	33.4	34.0	34.6
64.0	23.7	24.3	25.0	25.6	26.2	26.9	27.5	28.2	28.8	29.4	30.1	30.7	31.4	32.0	32.6	33.3	33.9	34.6	35.1
65.0	24.1	24.7	25.4	26.0	26.7	27.3	28.0	28.6	29.3	29.9	30.6	31.2	31.9	32.5	33.2	33.8	34.5	35.1	35.7

DRESSING PERCENTAGE

GUIDELINES for

2nd Cross Lambs (DxBL/M)

2-3 hours off feed

50 mm of wool

Weaned

FAT SCORE

1 41%

2 43%

3 45%

4 47%

5 49%

TIME/OFF FEED

0 - 3 hours

4 - 5 hours

6 - 8 hours

9 - 12 hours

13-24 hours

SKINWEIGHT

75mm skin just too wet to shear holds 0.2-0.5kg water.

Thoroughly saturated 1.5 - 2.0 kgs of water

BREED

BL/Merino, Bond and Merino lambs will generally dress 1.5% -3.5% less than 2nd X

Prepared by Bernard Munro, NSW Agriculture

11/05/2001

Source: Department of Agriculture

MLA's Sheep assessment sheet

Figure 8: Sheep assessment sheet

[illegible]



APPENDIX 3

UNIT OF COMPETENCY

Under the evidence guide (see table 12), you are required to undertake a minimum of three forms of training to demonstrate competency.

Unit descriptor

This unit covers the functions required by those enlisted to assess livestock using methods and procedures and defines the standard required to: provide accurate assessments of sheep including weight, breed, fat and skin type; identify livestock and minimise undue stress and risk to livestock, handlers and assessors.

Application of unit

This unit applies to workers in the livestock industry who operate within enterprise guidelines. For example: stock and station agents, Auctions Plus assessors, abattoir assessors and buyers and MLA.

Licensing and regulatory information

N/A

Pre-requisites

N/A

Range statement

This statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole.

Livestock may include sheep.

Use of AUS-meat language and descriptors.

Unit sector

Livestock

Table 10: Elements and performance criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
1. Training requirements sheep	1.1 Hazards in the assessment environments are recognised and any concerns reported. Comply with third party WHS requirements. 1.2 Identify stock categories, breed, sex, weight and fat score, in relation to AUS-meat standards 1.3 Handle livestock with care when assessing for fat score and weight 1.4 Suitable personal protective equipment is selected and used in relation to WHS requirements.
2. Attaining accreditation	2.1 Must attend and pass the sheep training conducted by MLA 2.2 Address and observe the assessment of weight and fat score 2.3 Accurately assess stock to the standards set out in the accuracy standards 2.4 Consistently assess stock to the accuracy standards
3. Accuracy standards	3.1 Sheep carcase estimates must be within 1.6kg (+/-) of actual carcase weight. 70% of the animals assessed must be within this range 3.2 Estimate must be within 1 score (+/-) of the actual fat score. 70% of the animals assessed must be within this range
4. Maintaining accreditation	4.1 After accreditation is received maintaining this is required by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasonal work place assessments. 70% of the selected stock must be accurately assessed to maintain competency. • Annual abattoir assessment training day. 70% of the selected stock must be accurately assessed to maintain competency. • Question and answer assessment. • Acquire results and determine further action with training coordinator

Table 11: Required skills and knowledge

This table describes the skills and knowledge required for this unit

Required skills

- Identify hazards and follow safe work practices
- Recognise livestock abnormalities
- Read and comprehend oral and written information and instructions, write fundamental statements and maintain livestock assessment and reporting records
- Assess and calculate livestock numbers
- Current drivers license
- Apply contingencies in adverse weather conditions. Eg: raining, which makes assessment difficult
- Use oral communication skills/language competence to fulfil the job role specified by the organisation including questioning, active listening, asking for clarification when necessary and seeking advice from supervisor
- Use numeracy skills to estimate, calculate and record routine assessments and workplace practices
- Use interpersonal skills to relate to people from a range of backgrounds and abilities
- Develop constructive relationships with key livestock sales personnel

Required knowledge

- Livestock breeds, sex and age can be identified
- Conduct training within saleyard and abattoir environments
- Livestock classification or scoring system
- AUS-meat standards
- Assess for quality

Table 12: Evidence guide

The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the assessment guidelines for the training package.

Overview of assessment

Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit	<p>The evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit must be relevant to workplace operations and satisfy holistically all of the requirements of the performance criteria and required skills and knowledge and include achievement of the following. A minimum of three forms of evidence are required to demonstrate competency.</p> <p>Three forms of evidence means three different kinds – not three pieces of the same kind.</p> <p>All assessments must be conducted against AUS-meat industry standards and regulations as well as MLA's guidelines.</p>
Context of and specific resources for assessment	<p>Competency requires the application of work practices under work conditions. Selection and use of resources for some sites of assessment may differ due to regional and enterprise circumstances.</p> <p>Competency must be identified and sustained over time.</p>
Context and specific resources for assessment	<p>Real saleyard environment</p> <p>Real abattoir environment</p>