

AWSA Satellite Flock 2023 Report Aug 2023

The AWSA Satellite Flock 2023 is progressing smoothly. Ewes were preg scanned on the 23rd of March 2023. Lambing took place in early June and lambs were marked on the 11th of July. The following table summarizes the results.



“Twin” ewes at Lamb marking

Preg scanning 23/3/23	Dry ewes	Singles	Twins	Total expected lambs
325 ewes (25 per sire)	88	89	148	385
Lamb Marking 11/7/23		Group 1 (Singles)	Group 2 (Twins)	Total
Wet Ewes		77	130	
Dry Ewes		12	13	
Dead Ewes		-	5	
Total Ewes		89	148	237 ewes
Ram Lambs		48	99	
Ewe Lambs		33	108	
Total Lambs		81	207	288 lambs

The ewes were lambed under commercial conditions without any interference. They were in excellent condition at marking.



Twin Lambs at Lamb Marking

Information recorded at marking was, group (twins or singles to determine birth type), sex of the lamb, tag number and TSU number. The lambs were double tagged with an EID and visual tag with the same tag number on both tags. TSUs were taken for sire parentage and a genomic test.

The 288 TSUs have been sent to Neogen for genomic and parentage tests to determine the sire. A weaning weight will be taken in late August, weights and fat and muscle scans in September and a pre slaughter weight taken probably in October. The lambs are booked in at GMP Gundagai.

Following slaughter of all lambs in October, the carcasses will be measured and analysed by the Meat Science team from the University of New England. All data on the live animals and carcass and eating quality measurements will be submitted to Sheep Genetics.

An analysis will be undertaken on the changes to the sire ASBVs and accuracies and a final report on the project will be completed early in 2024.

Thanks to those who helped at lamb marking including the Donnan family, Andrew, Joel, Trent and Denita, the Pipkorn family, David, Michelle and Jordy and Steve and Debbie Milne.



Collecting and Recording data at Lamb marking



The Lamb Marking team (photo taken by Jordy Pipkorn)

Debbie Milne
Project Manager
17/8/23