

## Increasing lamb survival

### Enhanced Producer Demonstration Site

**Demonstration goal:** To provide producers with a greater understanding of factors that affect and impact on the survival of lambs during gestation, birth and post-birth. This project will focus on recommended practices regarding the condition of ewes at lambing, mob size, the use of shelter in lambing paddocks and minimising disturbance and demonstrate their impact on lamb survival.

**Site location:** South-west Victoria

**Producer group:** Western Plains BestWool/BestLamb Group

**Group coordinator:** Andrew Kennedy

**Agriculture Victoria coordinator:** Cathy Mulligan

**Duration:** 2018–2021



*Condition scoring ewes for the demonstration*



*Paddock prior to mob size demonstration*

#### What are we aiming to achieve and why?

Lamb mortalities represent a major source of reproductive loss across Australia. In 2016, the Western Plains BWBL group experienced a challenging lambing year, mainly due to weather, and experienced higher losses of foetuses than usual. This event was the precursor to the demonstration.

Although many group members follow best lambing practice, there are several management strategies that the group wished to investigate to potentially improve lamb survival and marking rates.

This project aims to demonstrate lamb survival increases by implementing various management practices that are achievable and accepted by sheep producers.

The aim is to lift lamb survival rates by 5–7% through the influence of paddock size, mob size, stocking rate, ewe condition, shelter and disturbance at lambing.

### Method

Four demonstration sites are operated on different properties each year.

These are:

**Demonstration 1:** The impact of ewe condition on lamb survival

**Demonstration 2:** The impact of stocking rate and mob size on lamb survival

**Demonstration 3:** The impact of paddock shelter on lamb survival

**Demonstration 4:** The impact of disturbance around the lambing paddock on lamb survival.

### Partners

This demonstration is conducted with Agriculture Victoria and co-funded by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA).

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### More information

[agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/on-farm-demonstrations](https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/on-farm-demonstrations)

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