

## Dorpers Come into their Own

The Dorper breed as we know it today has begun to make inroads into traditional wool and prime lamb production areas and prime lamb markets.

Criticised by many for their contamination risk and 'written off' simply as a passing fad, the breed today is proving its value as a low input, low cost, profitable alternative to traditional systems.

Following is an updated Gross Margin analysis comparing terminal sire over merino and 1<sup>st</sup> cross ewes to that of a full shedding Dorper enterprise.

	<u>Term/Merino</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Cross</u>	<u>Dorper</u>
Micron and average cut	21	28	-
Wool price (clean/greasy)	725c	550c	-
Ewe Live weight/DSE Rating	50	65	65
Lambing/Wearing percent	95%	125%	130%
Replacement Ewe and Ram Cost	\$90	\$110	\$750
Lamb Returns	\$90	\$90	\$90
			\$102.50
			(\$90 = all sold as trade weights, \$102.50 = half sold as trade, half as export weights)
Gross Margin/Ewe	\$73.37	\$73.21	\$92.08
Gross Margin/DSE	\$31.90	\$28.16	\$36.41
% Wool Income vs Lamb Income	33/67 %	12/88 %	0/100 %

(The Dorper enterprise sold fewer trade or export grade lambs than the as ewe portion were sold as replacement breeders for \$120/hd)

With:

- ♥ Continued low wool returns
- ♥ Low skin values
- ♥ Increasing production costs
- ♥ High shearing, crutching etc costs
- ♥ Concerns with OH&S issues
- ♥ Repair and replacement costs for shearing sheds etc
- ♥ Increasing demand for lamb and sheepmeat internationally

the Dorper is well positioned to increase in popularity and numbers Australia wide!!!

Please feel free to contact me on any of the above issues including values used,  
and generated, in the Gross Margin Analysis results shown

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