

# Optimising Ewe Lamb Joining Outcomes

## Project aim

To demonstrate the decision-making process and additional management skills required to successfully join ewe lambs.

## Project duration

February 2023 to December 2026

## Background

'Optimising Ewe Lamb Joining', utilises the principles of a Producer Demonstration Site (PDS) to guide producers through the design of a property-specific plan using existing tools and management strategies to assist producers to identify when it is most suitable to join ewe lambs and the management practices required.

## The demonstration

This project involves four (4) core groups of producers located in different regions of NSW (see map over the page), representing different production systems, sheep breeds and environments. The groups will be supported by the project team. In addition to the core group of producers, producers outside the group areas can still participate in the project as an observer, being able to attend field days and have access to the project results.

The project program will include discussion groups and on-farm demonstrations to provide producers with an opportunity to gain a better understanding about what is needed to successfully join ewe lambs, before having to make the decision to do so.

The group discussion will run for the duration of the project and groups will meet throughout the year, on-farm or online to:

- focus on the reproduction cycle,
- improve their knowledge and skills,
- explore the opportunities and impacts,
- use a range of industry tools available for improving the success of joining ewe lambs.

## Key outcomes

Assist group members to:

- Develop a management plan to optimise ewe lamb joining, that is specific to each participants production system.
- Utilise existing tools available to assist producers to make more informed decisions when joining ewe lambs.
- Measure the production outcomes of the joined ewe lambs and continue to measure these ewes through to the hogget stage and assess the impacts on production performance, in particular reproductive performance and additional traits.
- Conduct a cost/benefit analysis to measure the economic benefit of adopting the management strategies to join ewe lambs.
- Provide peer-to-peer learning, networking and support.

## Workshops/session content

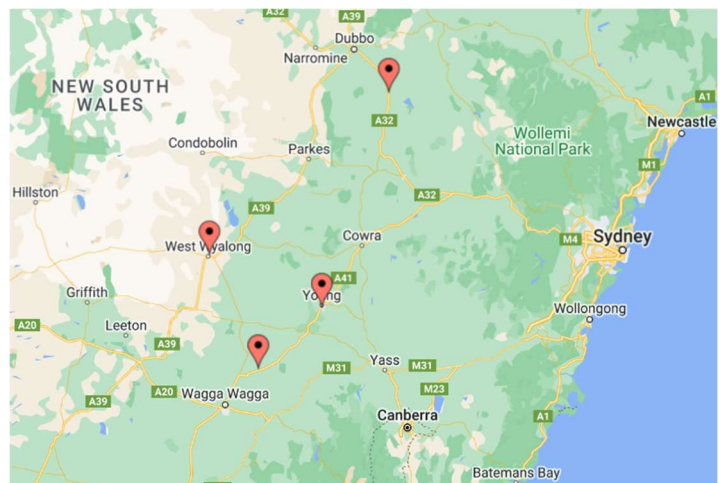
- Develop an outline for best management to prepare producers' ewe lambs for joining.
- Develop a farm-specific plan and protocols for joining ewe lambs and review it regularly.
- Upskill and train producers to utilise tools and resources available.
- Explore the opportunities and impacts that joining ewe lambs can have on the business.
- At the conclusion of the project a cost/benefit analysis will be conducted to assess productivity and profitability of joining ewe lambs versus not joining ewe lambs
- Annual Field Days.



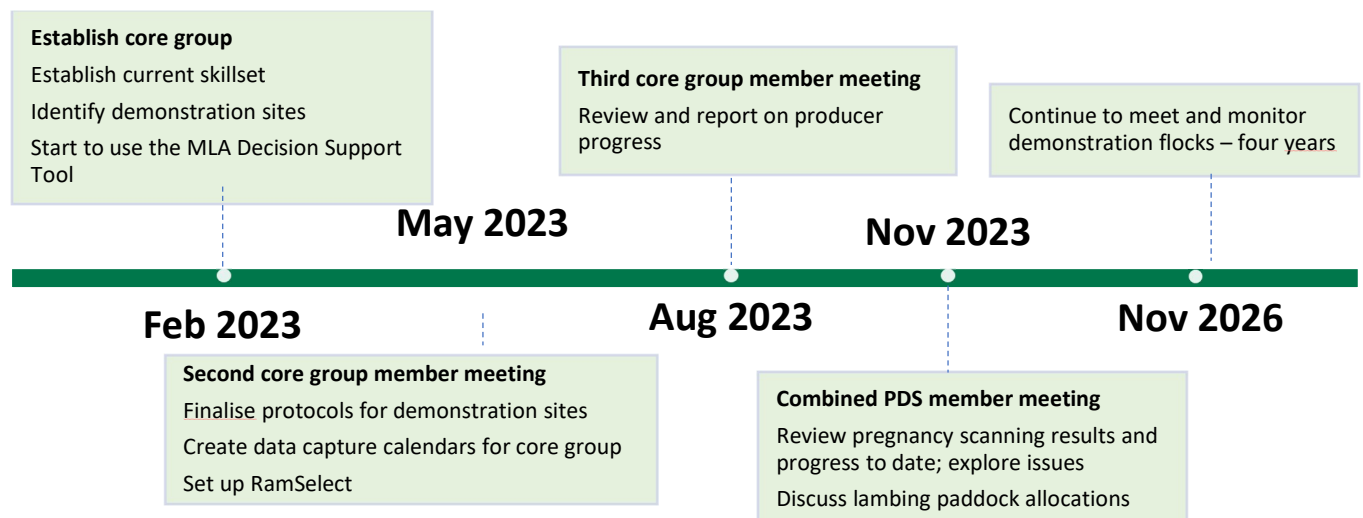
## Project locations

The four group locations for the project are:

- Wellington
- West Wyalong
- Young/Harden
- Junee/Wagga



## Project timeline



### For further information:

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