

# Electronic tags



# About Us

- Situated between Cleve and Darke Peak on the Eyre Peninsula S.A.
- I work together on the farm with my brother.
- We crop 2000ha of cereals and pulses. Leaving 1000ha for grazing
- Small amount of contract hay cutting and baling
- Dad started the stud when I left school in 1991, now semi retired
- We run 270 White Suffolk ewes, selling around 140 rams a year
- We also have approx. 1100 commercial merino ewes mated to W.S.



# Why do we use electronic tags

- Time efficiency in the yards
- Time efficiency in the office
- More accurate recording
- Extra backup tag as insurance for tag losses
- Don't need to handle sheep to read the tag

# Utilising the electronic tags

- Purchase of an auto drafter, which allows us to draft sheep for
  - Weaning and weight recording
    - Lambed ewes
    - Mating and culling
  - Sale day and cataloguing
    - Preg scanning

# How we got started

- Bought Tru-test XR3000
- Bought portable wand
- Tags were scanned with the wand, weights were still recorded automatically, but needed to mark the sheep and then redraft



# Setting up records for tags

- Lamb gets flexi tag when born and recorded manually in lambing book
- Births are recorded manually into PW and my own database
- Electronic tag is put in the opposite ear at tailing and recorded against the flexi tag number into the XR3000
- DOB, WOB and Sire is then transferred (uploaded) from a spreadsheet into the XR3000



# Weaning

- Draft using WOB information already in the XR3000
- All the lambs are run through the drafter and lambs that are old enough are drafted to a separate pen
- Weights are automatically recorded against the lambs number, even if not old enough to wean
- Download weaning weights straight from XR3000 into PW



J:\Stud\14\_2009 LAMBS.txtXR  
3000 file

File that is imported into  
PWJ:\Stud\2009 LAMBS 1st  
wean.txt

# Lambled ewes

- I can draft the ewes that have already lambed away from the pregnant ones
- Need to upload Yes against the ewe numbers that have lambed.



# Mating and culling

- Use the portable wand to scan the ewes no. and enter sire or cull direct to XR3000 or to paper first.
- Finalise numbers in office
- Use auto drafter to draft the different mating sires entered.



# Preg scanning

- Use portable wand to scan ewes no. into XR3000, then enter number of lambs scanned
- We use the drafter to draft the triplet ewes off prior to lambing
- Can use the information to draft into feeding groups

# Disadvantages

- Need power
- Sheep are not used to being handled
- Cost
- Need to be computer literate
- Tags sometimes don't read
- Can read sheep that have already been drafted
- Some ewes don't fit in drafter

# Benefits

- Can draft sheep alone
- Can easily draft sheep on different information
- Saves time in the office and in the yards
- Minimises human error – no reading and typing numbers
- Transportable – we use 2 sets of yards
- Less stress on sheep and handler
- Tags can be reused

