

Sheep Supplementation - Grazing Oats Trial



- **September 2016**
- **Participants - *Dougal and Duncan Davidson***
- **Delungra**

Aim: To test under commercial conditions the production benefits of the ***Rumenworks Sheep Grain Assist Pellet***.

Method:

- 100 Cross bred lambs averaging 45.67kgs were drafted randomly into 2 groups, **Group 1** being the control was fed a ration of wheat and cracked Faba beans. The second **Group 2** was fed the same grain and Faba bean ration with the **Rumenworks Grain Assist pellet** included at 2.5% of the finished feed.
- Sheep had access to unlimited amounts of grazing oats.
- The sheep had a target weight of 54kg
- Sheep were inducted for 7 days prior to commencement of the trial. (day -7-0) They were then weighed on day-7, 0,22 and day 36.

Results:

At the end of the 36 days the average weight gain of the 2 groups was as follows:

Group 1 (control)	Average daily gain: 268 grams / head / day
Group 2 (Rumenworks Grain Assist group)	Average daily gain: 312.5 grams / head / day

This represented an increase in weight gains of 44.5grams/head/day, 1.602kg over the duration of the trial. In percentage terms this represented an increase of 16.60% increase in weight gained.

Within the Control Group 1, 3 sheep or 12% had weight gains of less than 120grams/head/day, which could indicate that some sub clinic levels of acidosis was occurring.

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Feed Consumption:

Pasture cuts were taken to estimate pasture utilisation, on commencement and completion of the trials. From this it was gleaned that there was 11% more grazing oats left in the paddock where the sheep had access to the **Rumenworks Grain Assist pellet** in their TMR. (TMR - Total Mix Ratio)

Feed efficiency with the of Group 2 was higher with an efficiency of 2.2 to 1kg compared to the control group which took 2.49kg of grain to produce a kg of lamb.

Economic Analysis:	Group 1 - Control	Group 2 - Rumenworks Grain Assist Pellet
Sale Price Received	\$2.50kg/LW	\$2.50kg/LW
Average Daily Gain	268 grams	312.5 grams
Daily Weight Gain Difference	0	16.6%
Daily Dollar Gain	\$0.67	\$0.78
Cost of TMR	\$350t	\$430t
Feed Efficiency	2.49:1	2.2:1
Daily Feed Efficiency % Difference		13% improvement
Cost to Feed **	\$0.2217	\$0.2962
Net Return Daily / Head	\$0.4483	\$0.4834
Net Return / Head (36 days)	\$16.19	\$17.40

****Please note the 11% feed saving has not been taken into account in this analysis. Hence returns are higher than quoted above.**

Conclusion

- ❖ 16% increase in weight gains achieved using the Rumenworks Grain Assist pellet.
- ❖ 11% more feed left in the paddock grazed by the sheep on the Rumenworks Grain Assist pellet
- ❖ 85% of lambs on the Rumenworks Grain Assist Pellet made the target weight of 54kg compared to the control group where only 65% made the target weight within the 36 day period
- ❖ 13% improvement in feed conversion. The control group took 2.49kg of grain to produce a kilo of lamb, compared to the Rumenworks Grain Assist group which took 2.2kg of grain to produce 1 kg of lamb.

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