

Next Stage Improvements...

- ◆ Piping will be 40 mm to keep water supply up
- ◆ Smaller troughs for quicker water turnover
- ◆ Shade over troughs
- ◆ Solar pump as an option
- ◆ Gate at both ends of feedlot pen divisions, east and west end to allow personal access
- ◆ Gates down the trough ends for ease of management

Conclusion

- ◆ More efficient with feeding and converting feed better
- ◆ We had old hay and purchased the mixed to incorporate it and get best value from it



Assessment

Strengths

- * Improved conversion rates
- * Ease of monitoring
- * Improved condition of stock throughout summer months
- * Multi-purpose design allowing for either grain or mixed feed
- * Improved time efficiency
- * 1-2 loads a day and reduced travel around the farm
- * Hopefully facilitating maintenance and increase of sheep numbers during tough seasons
- * Improved finishing of wether lambs
- * Improved joining rate percentages
- * Increased wool cut
- * Heavier lambs
- * Get younger lambs going quicker in dry times
- * Maintaining soil structure on the rest of the farm
- * Minimal soil erosion on the farm paddocks

Future Considerations

- * More gates
- * Smaller troughs
- * Shade over troughs
- * Poly pipe could have been bigger
- * Better pump set up, solar pump
- * No established feeding system yet feed troughs
- * Trees still require tin wrapped around them to stop debarking

****Please note that this brochure has been compiled based on our personal experiences and is intended for information purposes only. This design works for our business operation and may not be suitable for others. Discretion is recommended. Please seek independent advice for design, construction and operational requirements.****

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Modbury Merino stock have been able to demonstrate exceptional wool producing traits, including excellent crimping white wool on well structure meat producing framed non mulesed bodies (12 years non mulesed).

Background

We attended several seminars about feedlots, to understand and workshop the requirements to help us develop our feedlot.

Aim:

To build a feedlot to be more efficient with feed, to keep stock in good condition, to prevent stock from walking off condition in a paddock (to feed and water in poorer seasons)

We purchased a Feed Mixer with scales to monitor how much each ewe is eating per day of hay and grain.

We are aim to have all our sheep in the feedlot and be able to crop the farm to be more productive.

Our main objective is to keep stock in better condition, easier management and increase productivity in poorer seasons.

We pursued this feeding option due to having hay and grain on hand and the ability to monitor feed requirements with the mixer.

History

Pre 2018—always considered a feedlot, but just hadn't done it

Sept 2018—wanted to buy a mixer

Sept-Feb 2018—Dudley went away working and Duncan continued trial feeding

Sept-Feb 2018 -2019—Ewes maintained condition but didn't increase

Feb 2019—bought the mixer

Feb 2019—started trail feeding in the paddock with the mixer. Good results, sheep in good condition, but paddock sizes created issues with sheep walking condition off to get to water

Sept 2019—started cleaning up and building feedlot

Nov 1/2019—started joining ewes and feeding 1.5kgs per head a day

Nov 10/2019—started seeing massive results in the sheep condition

Jan 2020— should have built more pens earlier

2020—hoping to split ewes up into 100-150 per pen and lamb down in the pens (it's not ideal but tough times calls for tough measures and we want to see how it goes)

Construction

Pen Size: Our pen sizes are 50 metres wide and 100 metres long.

Shade: Shade is the key thing in the feedlot.

Water:

- * Pipe is trenched to each pen, with 1 line watering 2 pens off the main line
- * A stop tap at every second pen for ease of trough cleaning
- * Ensure a good supply of water to keep troughs full at all times
- * Smaller troughs to keep the water turning over, this will keep water fresh
- * Requirement 10-12 litres a day per head
- * We used 32mm pipe on our first feedlot pens
- * We have a pressure pump that supplies the troughs with water. A generator is on standby to power to keep water up to trough if the power goes off. We are looking at different options such as a solar pump



L) Stop tap to 2 pens with 2 troughs off one tap
R) Dudley tap turning invention

Joining

At joining, (1/11/19 for 6 weeks) we had 200 ewes per pen. We selective mated for wool types our merinos (stud ewes & commercial ewes).

We will be scanning the ewes 42 days after the rams come out.

Feeding

Ration:

- * Oaten hay .3kg
- * Vetch hay .5kg
- * Straw .2kg
- * Barley .5kg with
- * 100 litre of water to 20l of molasses

We are feeding each sheep 1.5kg a day (approx.), joining, lambing and maintaining rations will vary. Rations will also vary on fodder supply

We are hoping to make troughs and feed on the top edge by removing the middle plain wire to let sheep get the heads through to the feed trough

