



**Program**

**PRECISION SHEEP  
PRODUCTION**

**MASTERCLASS**

**Orange Agricultural Institute  
16-17 February 2010**

*The E-Sheep Masterclass is designed to train producers and service providers in the area of Precision Management and the role of electronic identification systems*

# PRECISION SHEEP PRODUCTION MASTERCLASS

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## DAY 1 (16 Feb)

**From 9.30am: Coffee**

**10.00-10.15am: Welcome** (*Cheryl Pope*)

What you can expect over the next 2 days?

What resources have you been given?

**10.15am-12.00pm: Precision Management Introduction**  
(*Phil Graham/ Jess Richards/ Cheryl Pope*)

This segment will deal with the opportunities and strategies which can be applied in wool and meat flocks to achieve increased profits. The process really starts with the producer being clear in their mind on the direction they are taking. Missing this step will ensure failure down the track.

It is the applied use of the data collected which results in financial benefit, not the collection of the data.

Phil Graham - introduction

Cheryl Pope – benefits of PSM

Jess Richards – Decision Support Tools

- Selection Assist (Breeding direction)
- Wether Calculator (optimal wether proportion)
- OFFM Calculator (additional profit from measuring FD)
- Merino vs Terminal Sire (maximum no of ewes mated to terminal sires)
- Smart Merino (overview) (integration of decision support software)

**12.00-12.30pm: Lunch**

**12.30-1.30pm: Equipment** (*Steve Semple*)

This session is designed to give participants an overview of currently available RFID technology, covering the following topics:

- RFID types – FDX-B-B, HDX
- RFID Readers
- Weighing equipment
- Auto-drafting equipment
- Data collection systems

The equipment required for specific applications and approximate prices will be given

**1.30-2.30pm: Technology Applications** (*Steve Semple*)

- Drafting on weight
- Autodrafting
- Inshed data collection
- Walk over weighing
- Pedigree matchmaker

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This session is about applications of the technology, setup and animal behaviour. It will also include potential new applications (PMM and nutritional drafting) as well as drafting and telemetry.

**2.30-3.00pm**            **Coffee and move to outdoor display**

**3.00-4.00pm:**            **Autodrafting and Sheep Classing Demonstration at yards** (*Steve Semple*)

This will include explanation of setting up systems and indicators. Demonstrations will include:

- Autodrafting using Gallagher and Trutest indicators - drafting on body weight and group
- Classing
- WOW in paddock (including telemetry)
- Fleece weighing using RFID

**4.00pm – 4.45pm: PSM Plan**  
(Review template filled in prior to the workshop)

Developing a personal PSM Plan

- What do I want to achieve?
- What do I want to measure?
- What equipment do I need?
- What data will I collect?

**6.30pm:**                **Dinner – ProvVista (Own Cost \$35.00/head)**  
**129 Summer Street**  
**Orange**

## DAY 2 (17 Feb)

**8.00am-9.30am:**    **Data Handling** (*Steve Semple*)

Introduction to data handling

- What are the options?
- Service providers and services

This session is designed to give participants an overview of possible methods of handling the large amounts of data it is possible to capture.

- Downloading data, methods to get data files out of the data capture equipment
- Uploading data, methods to get data files into the data capture equipment
- Tag bucket files
- Raw data cleaning, sorting, matching (vlookup)

WOW and Pedigree Matchmaker (*Steve Semple/Jess Richards*)

**9.30-10.00am:**        **Morning Tea**

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## **10.00-11.30am: Practical (*Steve Semple*)**

Participants move around various stations to put gear together and collect data. Exercises may include:

- Fleece weighing- Generate barcodes and record weight
- Body weighing/ Drafting- Put systems together using Trutest, Gallagher and Prattley gear including indicator setup
- Remote system- Communicate with systems remotely.
- Setting up Blue-tooth

Problems will be built into systems for participants to solve. If time permits, they can move around to solve problems. If not this will be done as a discussion session with the aim of realising that most problems can be solved logically.

## **11.30am-12.00pm: Operational Software Tools (*Jess Richards*)**

- Simultaneous Assortment (Allocation of meat and wool animals to production and/or mating groups)
- Lamb Growth Predictor (calculate individual growth rates – future weight predictions)

## **12.00-12.30pm: Lunch**

## **12.30- 2.00pm: Developing PSM Strategies (*Phil Graham*)**

Participants will be given scenarios involving wool, meat and dual purpose enterprises and use data and decision support software to address issues

## **2.00-3.30pm: Reviewing your PSM Plan (*Phil Graham/Cheryl Pope*)**

This session will be broken up to give you time to work on your plan as well as time to ask questions and discuss ideas arising from the 2 days. All presenters will be available during this session

- What is my aim from PSM?
- What data will I collect?
- What equipment will I buy?
- What will it cost?
- How will I manage the data – with database system supplied with equipment, with service provider, myself with Excel?
- What enterprise analysis do I need to do?
- Do I need any further training?
- What software tools do I need to get and where do I get them?
- Who can help me?

## **3.30-3.50pm: Future developments (*Cheryl Pope*)**

Discussion session to identify where these technologies may lead to in the future

## **3.50-4.00pm: Evaluation (*Cheryl Pope*)**

## **4.00pm: Close**