Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Mixed Species Annual Forage Crops Budget Series

Winter 2025

SOUTHERN NSW, LAMB, WHEAT - GRAZE & GRAIN

Dual-purpose wheat

1. GROSS MARGIN BUDGET:

INCOME $/ha:

			Income $/ha	Your Budget
Lambs/ha		Sale price		
20		$153.97 per head	$3,049	
* includes 1% mortality.		45 kg per head		
		(after 60 days @ wt. gain 0.25 kg/hd/day)		
Grain t/ha		$/tonne		
2.00	ASW wheat	$300.00	$600	
	TOTAL INCOME $/ha:		$3,649	
	VARIABLE COSTS:	See page 3 for detail		
		Sowing	$84.00	
		Fertiliser	$154.95	
		Herbicide	$68.97	
		Grain harvest	$105.48	
		Grain levies	$6.12	
		Livestock variable costs	$1,941.30	
	TOTAL VARIABLE COSTS $/ha:		$2,361	
	GROSS MARGIN $/ha:		$1,288	

2. Effect of stocking rate and sale price on gross margin per hectare

Stocking rate	Selling price $/hd				
lambs/ha	$144	$149	$154	$159	$164
12	$703	$753	$799	$851	$900
15	$779	$842	$900	$964	$1,026
18	$837	$910	$978	$1,053	$1,126
20	$1,126	$1,210	**$1,288**	$1,374	$1,456
22	$1,066	$1,158	$1,244	$1,338	$1,430
25	$1,142	$1,247	$1,344	$1,452	$1,555
28	$1,383	$1,501	$1,610	$1,731	$1,847

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3. Effect of livestock prices on gross margin per hectare

Purchase price	Selling price $/hd				
$/hd	$144	$149	$154	$159	$164
$63	$1,502.60	$1,595	$1,688	$1,780	$1,873
$73	$1,303	$1,395	$1,488	$1,580	$1,673
$83	$1,103	$1,195	**$1,288**	$1,380	$1,473
$93	$903	$995	$1,088	$1,180	$1,273
$103	$703	$795	$888	$980	$1,073

4. Effect of grazing days and weight gain per hd per day on gross margin per hectare

Grazing days	Weight gain kg/hd/day				
↓	0.150	0.200	0.250	0.300	0.350
30	$100	$535	$598	$726	$789
45	$535	$726	$895	$1,024	$1,288
60	$726	$960	**$1,288**	$1,491	$1,740
75	$895	$1,288	$1,491	$1,809	$2,141
90	$1,024	$1,491	$1,809	$2,211	$2,498

5. Effect of weight gains and stocking rate on gross margin per hectare

	Weight gain/hd/day and Selling price $/hd				
Lambs/ha	0.150	0.200	0.250	0.300	0.350
↓	$126	$137	$154	$164	$177
12	$486	$617	$799	$913	$1,052
15	$507	$670	$900	$1,042	$1,216
20	$786	$1,007	$1,317	$1,508	$1,744
20	$762	$981	**$1,288**	$1,478	$1,711
22	$665	$906	$1,244	$1,453	$1,710
25	$686	$960	$1,344	$1,582	$1,874
28	$872	$1,179	$1,610	$1,877	$2,204

6. Effect of grain yield and sale price on gross margin per hectare

$/tonne	Wheat yield t/ha				
↓	1.20	1.60	2.00	2.30	2.60
$250	$1,024	$1,109	$1,188	$1,250	$1,308
$275	$1,054	$1,149	$1,238	$1,307	$1,373
$300	$1,084	$1,189	**$1,288**	$1,365	$1,438
$325	$1,114	$1,229	$1,338	$1,422	$1,503
$350	$1,144	$1,269	$1,388	$1,480	$1,568

This budget should be used as a GUIDE ONLY and should be changed by the grower to take account of movements in prices, changes in seasonal conditions and individual farm characteristics.

Southern NSW dual purpose wheat crop - crossbred lambs

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS:		Machinery	Inputs			
		Total		Cost	Total	Total Cost
Operation	Timing	$/ha	Rate/ha	$	$/ha	$/ha
Pre-sowing operations						
Glyphosate 570 g/L	Feb	4.50	2.00 L	8.41/L	16.82	**21.32**
Paraquat 360 g/L - with above			1.00 L	4.95/L	4.95	**4.95**
Wetter 1000 - with above			0.10 L	10.10/L	1.01	**1.01**
Sowing and fertiliser						
MAP at sowing	Apr	20.00	50 kg	1.08/kg	53.95	**73.95**
Wheat (Illabo) - with above			70 kg	1.20/kg	84.00	**84.00**
Broadleaf herbicide (iso-octyl-ester: 250 g/L difluenican: 25 g/L)	July	4.50	1.00 L	9.91/L	9.91	**14.41**
Urea - topdressing	Aug	4.00	110 kg	0.70/kg	77.00	**81.00**
Contract harvesting	Nov/Dec	105.48				**105.48**
End of season knockdown						
Glyphosate 570 g/L	Dec	4.50	2.00 L	8.41/L	16.82	**21.32**
Paraquat 360 g/L - with above			1.00 L	4.95/L	4.95	**4.95**
Wetter 1000 - with above			0.10 L	10.10/L	1.01	**1.01**
Crop levies						**6.12**
A. TOTAL FORAGE VARIABLE COSTS $/ha:						**419.52**

Input prices were correct at the time of writing (March 2025). Use your own prices to estimate your gross margin.

LIVESTOCK COSTS	Number				$		$/ha
Replacements (i.e. value in)	20		Lambs @		$82.93	per head	**1,658.57**
Husbandry							
Drenching	20		Lambs @		$1.25	per head	**25.00**
Vaccination	20		Lambs @		$0.75	per head	**15.00**
Crutching	20		Lambs @		$1.50	per head	**30.00**
Forage and supplementary feeds							
Supplements - dry lick	0.015	kg/hd/day	60	days @	$0.81	per kg	**14.58**
Commission on livestock sales, 4.5% commission on sales and 2% on other livestock selling costs					6.5%		**198.16**
B. TOTAL LIVESTOCK VARIABLE COSTS $/ha:							**1,941.30**
C. TOTAL VARIABLE COSTS $/ha:							**2,360.82**

NOTES:

A consistent set of assumptions were used to prepare the budgets in this series, covering agronomy, livestock and economic values. Sensitivity tables have been used to test the impact of key variables. Graze & grain budgets assume forages are managed for both early grazing and subsequent grain harvest. Graze only budgets assume forages are managed to maximise grazing utilisation without the need to protect grain yield.

Key economic assumptions include:

- All calculations are ex-GST.
- Livestock price information is sourced from the MLA Market Database in March or April 2025.
- A purchase price or initial value (where they have been bred on-farm) is applied to all livestock to allow the value of grazing the crops to be evaluated.
- Labour is not included. This is usually accounted for at either an enterprise or a whole farm budget level. Labour requirements differ substantially between enterprises, particularly where rotational grazing management or specialist machinery is required.
- Additional benefits, such as spring grazing of breeding stock, or hay production, are not included but may be relevant to some operations.

Key agronomy and management assumptions include:

- Weed control is conducted prior to sowing to minimise early competition and ensure successful crop establishment. A pre-sowing herbicide mix is included in the budget as an example; however, the specific products used will depend on paddock history, expected weed spectrum, and the pasture/cropping rotation.
- Sowing in April is into sufficient moisture and a suitable seed bed allowing for good establishment prior to grazing.
- Seed is of good quality and pre-treated to prevent disease.
- Optimal grazing management for the purpose of the enterprise, e.g. rotational or strip grazing to reduce spoilage, maximise regrowth, and extend the productive life of the forage crop. Overgrazing is avoided to preserve grain recovery (where appropriate) and soil structure.
- Stocking rates matched to expected growth potential of the forage crop, preventing over- or underutilisation.

Further Information: Mixed Annual Forage Crops NSW DPIRD 2025, www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/mixes or contact Matthew Pierce matt.pierce@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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