



In 1995 we left the main stream of thought in breeding sheep after attending a day on SRS<sup>®</sup>. We left the traditional world of selecting sheep, progressing to selecting sheep based on skin biology. In which we are witnessing massive gains.

At this stage I felt we were doing everything to maximize genetic gain in our sheep but we questioned whether we were addressing the nutritional requirements in order to achieve this.

We approached 4 Seasons to make a prescribed block. The process involved tissue tests plus researching the mineral requirements of sheep. The end result was a prescribed block (Deep Creek Special 365) which we have available all year round.

In the first year we lifted our wool strength by 10 Newton's and lambing percentages in the maidens by 10%. Excluding the lambing percentage in 2003 these results have been maintained since.

Prior to 1999 the average wool strength was 35 Newton's. Since 1999 we have experienced a some very ordinary years. Our tensile strength has been outstanding.

	Averaging					
Newtons	46	45	50	45	45	46
Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005

These results are for all sheep. We aim to have less than 3% tender wool (>35 Newton's). We have achieved this consistently since using our prescribed mineral block.

Further to improvement of our bottom line we have been heavily involved in the development of a new breed of sheep MPM. It is imperative that we give all sheep the ability to express to their genetic potential. The nutritional levels are paramount so that we maximize the tri fold profit drivers that we are focusing on ( wool, fertility & carcass). To ensure this we will have a continued alliance with 4 Seasons and their team.

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