



PRE-LAMB BOOSTS PRODUCTIVITY FOR MID CANTERBURY FARMER

Article provided by 4 Season Company Pty Ltd

Dennis Bird owns a property called 'Parkend' 600 acres just east of Ashburton in Mid Canterbury. He runs approximately 1600 Corriedale ewes, which he uses mainly for prime lamb production. Dennis is the only farmer on his road to continue with sheep production in the heavily stocked dairy area and he is very optimistic with the way the market is going.

There are tough times in farming and the winter months prove to be some of the toughest. Not only for us tucked up inside beside the fire but also for our livestock, which are always lean, cold and hungry for most of winter.

Dennis is due to start lambing in August which in Mid Canterbury can be bitterly cold. This means that his flock will be faced with the issues of losing body condition and keeping their new born lambs alive.

"At the current market price for lamb I can't afford to be losing any lambs due to poor nutrition, so that is why I started using Pre-Lamb."

4 Seasons has come out with the Pre-Lamb product especially to help lamb production. When a ewe is under stress due to climatic and poor feed conditions, she will struggle to produce enough colostrum and milk to feed her lambs especially for multiple births. This is when miss-mothering will occur and hundreds of lambs die unnecessarily. Pre-Lamb has 40%bypass protein and is enriched with minerals including extra selenium, iodine, copper and cobalt, and is designed to prevent this from happening.

Pre-Lamb should ideally to be fed out six weeks before lambing and six weeks after lambing to really give your stock a lift in this crucial time. Two thirds of a lambs growth occurs in the last third

of pregnancy, so it is important to supplement at this stage of the cycle to give your ewes every chance of producing enough goodness for their lambs.

Being a lamb producer, Dennis' main interest is obviously his mob of Corriedale ewes, and Dennis believes that the most important part of lamb production is in the feeding of his sheep. "Ewes can't produce good lambs without good nutrition. I have been using 4 Seasons Pre-Lamb blocks now for a couple of years and I have never had better results".

"My ewes have a better body condition and they are carrying more milk. I am losing hardly any lambs, I couldn't be happier".

I used three pallets last year and I haven't looked back".

Dennis Bird, Mid Canterbury.

