



**SHEEP
SUSTAINABILITY
FRAMEWORK**

INDICATOR SUMMARY 2024



Source: Meat & Livestock Australia

**SHEEP
PRODUCERS
AUSTRALIA**






**WOOLPRODUCERS
AUSTRALIA**

Indicator Summary 2024

The role of the Sheep Sustainability Framework (SSF) is to monitor, measure, and report industry performance against sustainability priorities. Data and trends gathered through the SSF will identify opportunities on-farm, in transport, processing, and at the customer interface where practices can be improved by both the industry and individuals. Below is a snapshot of data included in the 2024 *Annual Report*.









STATUS OF DATA COLLECTION

Data status key and 2024 progress summary

		% OF INDICATORS WITH THIS STATUS IN 2024	
Second and third wave data	Directional improvement		25%
	Holding steady		23%
	Directional decline		12%
	Baseline data point		36%
	Indicator, metric or data to be identified		4%



CARING FOR OUR SHEEP

		REPORTING YEAR		TREND
		2023	2024	
Incidence of mulesing in the Australian flock				
1.1.1a Percentage of producers who mules their ewe lambs	Merino	52%	57.7%	
	Non-Merino	8%	3.9%	
1.1.1b Percentage of wool declared as non-mulesed/ceased mulesing	Merino	15.8%	18.6%*	
	Non-Merino	40.1%	47.1%*	
Use of appropriate pain management associated with mulesing, castration, and tail docking				
1.1.2a Percentage of producers who use appropriate pain management at mulesing	Merino	88%	89.7%	
	Non-Merino	83%	96.2%	
1.1.2b Percentage of producers who use appropriate pain management at castration	Merino	12%	22.3%	
	Non-Merino	11%	14.7%	



CARING FOR OUR SHEEP

		REPORTING YEAR		TREND
		2023	2024	
Use of appropriate pain management associated with mulesing, castration, and tail docking				
1.1.2c Percentage of producers who use appropriate pain management at tail docking	Merino - Hot knife	78%	78.8%	●
	Merino - Rings	11%	24.2%	●
	Non-Merino - Hot knife	39%	32.3%	●
	Non-Merino - Rings	10%	14.4%	●
Lamb survival				
1.2.1a Percentage of producers pregnancy scanning ewes for litter size		29%	31.4%	●
Adoption of best practice management				
1.2.2a Percentage of producers who have completed Lifetime Ewe Management (LTEM) training		9.4%	11.4%	●
Shearing welfare				
1.2.3a Total number of days per year spent by shearing trainers in woolsheds nationally		1,112	925*	●
Wild predator management				
1.2.4a Percentage of producers with a documented wild predator management strategy		-	18.5%	★
Transport of sheep within Australia to ensure welfare of sheep				
1.2.5a Percentage of sheep transported in line with animal welfare standards (fit to load)		🔍	🔍	
Sheep welfare in saleyards				
1.2.6a Percentage of sheep transacted through National Saleyard Quality Assurance (NSQA) program saleyards		50%	35.6%	●
Wellbeing of live sheep during export				
1.2.7a Percentage of mortality on ships		0.14%	0.17%	●
Humane on-farm euthanasia				
1.3.1a Percentage of producers aware of humane killing requirements in the <i>Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines</i> (AAWSG) for sheep		78%	76.8%	●
Humane processing				
1.3.2a Percentage of lambs and sheep slaughtered through an establishment accredited by the <i>Australian Animal Welfare Certification System</i> (AAWCS)		81.5%	88.3%	●
Australia maintaining freedom from disease				
2.1.1a Australia continues to be declared free from 12 major diseases		YES	YES	●



CARING FOR OUR SHEEP

		REPORTING YEAR		TREND
		2023	2024	
On-farm activity to prevent and treat disease				
2.1.2a Percentage of producers who vaccinate for clostridial diseases		-	87.6%	★
2.1.2b Percentage change in Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBV)	Change in worm egg count breeding value	-36%	-27%	●
	Change in early breech wrinkle breeding value	-15%	-27%	●
Producers adhering to biosecurity requirements				
2.1.3a Percentage of sheep producers compliant with Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) biosecurity requirements		80.1%	78.1%	●

*The last value reported was for FY2022. The latest figures reported are for FY2024. See the extended commentary of each metric for further detail.



ENHANCING THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

		REPORTING YEAR		TREND
		2023	2024	
Protecting soil resource				
3.1.1a Percentage of natural resource management regions achieving healthy groundcover thresholds		-	64.1%	★
Conservation practices				
Metric to be determined		🔍	🔍	
Responsible chemical use				
3.2.1a Percentage of producers who have attended a ChemCert course or similar		82%	81.1%	●
Efficient water use in processing				
3.2.2a Kilolitres of water used per tonne hot standard carcass weight (HSCW) when processing sheepmeat		7.2kL	-	★
Minimise waste in processing				
3.2.3a Kilograms of solid waste per tonne hot standard carcass weight (HSCW) when processing sheepmeat		29.8kg	-	★
Maintaining and increasing biodiversity				
Percentage of producers undertaking deliberate activities to measure, maintain or enhance biodiversity		-	72.6%	★
Contribution of sheep production to GHG emissions				
4.1.1a Net emissions: Metric tonne of CO ₂ e generated by sheep industry (farm and sheepmeat processing)		8.93Mt*	8.94Mt	●



ENHANCING THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

	REPORTING YEAR		TREND
	2023	2024	
Contribution of sheep production to GHG emissions			
4.1.1b Emission intensity: kg of CO ₂ e emitted per kg liveweight (LW) when raising sheep	6.8kg	-	★
4.1.1c Emission intensity: kg of CO ₂ e emitted per kg greasy wool shorn	24.4kg	-	★
4.1.1d Emission intensity: kg of CO ₂ e emitted per tonne hot standard carcase weight (HSCW) when processing sheepmeat	364kg	-	★
4.1.1e Percentage of sheep producers who have measured GHG emissions for their enterprise using carbon accounting or another process	3%	9.9%	●
Renewable energy			
4.1.2a Percentage of sheep producers who generate and use renewable energy	50%	46.9%	●
Response to a changing and variable climate			
4.2.1a Climate-adjusted Total Factor Productivity growth	0.0%	0.1%	●

*Revised historical emissions



LOOKING AFTER OUR PEOPLE, OUR CUSTOMERS AND THE COMMUNITY

	REPORTING YEAR		TREND	
	2023	2024		
Health and safety prevention and training				
5.1.1a Percentage of producers who have undertaken a Workplace Health and Safety risk assessment	-	54.6%	★	
Number of deaths and serious injuries				
5.1.2a Number of fatalities in the sheep industry	34	26	●	
5.1.2b Lost time injury frequency rate (number of claims per million hours worked)	Farming	-	10.9	★
	Meat processing	-	19.7	★
Status of physical and mental health				
5.2.1a Global Life Satisfaction Index score of Australian sheep graziers	-	76.1	★	
Capacity of workforce				
6.1.1a Percentage of on-farm industry participants who have completed further education	45%	-	★	
Appropriate working conditions				
6.1.2a Federal award rate ratio	1.23:1	1.14:1	●	



LOOKING AFTER OUR PEOPLE, OUR CUSTOMERS AND THE COMMUNITY

		REPORTING YEAR		TREND
		2023	2024	
Availability of workforce				
6.1.3a Percentage of producers who find labour availability to be a major issue in their operation	General labour	35%	42.0%	●
	Shearing labour	38%	35.3%	●
6.1.3b Level of availability of workforce among processors		-	🔍	
Extent of succession planning in the industry				
6.1.4a Percentage of producers with a formal succession plan in place		21%	19.9%	●
Extent of workforce diversity				
6.2.1a Age distribution of those who are employed in sheep farming and shearing services	15-34	20%	-	★
	35-54	32%	-	★
	55-74	40%	-	★
	75-100	7%	-	★
6.2.1b Gender breakdown of those who are employed in sheep farming and shearing services	Men	72%	-	★
	Women	28%	-	★
6.2.1c Percentage of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islanders who are employed in sheep farming and shearing services		1.5%	-	★
6.2.1d Percentage who speak a Language Other Than English (LOTE) by those who are employed in sheep farming and shearing services		2%	-	★
Community perceptions of the sheep industry				
7.1.1a Percentage of Australians who believe that Australian lambs are farmed and raised in a humane manner		55%	54%	●
7.1.1b Percentage of respondents who believe wool is more environmentally friendly than other fibres		52%	-	★
Consumer perceptions of product quality				
7.2.1a Percentage of Australians who believe that Australian lamb is worth paying a bit more for		25%	27%	●
7.2.1b Willingness to pay (WTP) for 100% wool garments		52%	-	★



ENSURING A FINANCIALLY RESILIENT INDUSTRY

		REPORTING YEAR		TREND
		2023	2024	
Rate of return				
8.1.1a Rate of return on capital, including and excluding capital appreciation, using a five-year rolling average	Including	-	9.7%	★
	Excluding	-	0.8%	★
Contribution to the Australian economy				
8.2.1a Gross value (AUD) of agricultural production for sheepmeat		\$4.425b	\$4.553b*	●
8.2.1b Gross value (AUD) of agricultural production for greasy wool		\$2.645b	\$3.145b*	●
Productivity				
8.3.1a Total factor productivity average annual growth rate		0.1%	0.0%	●
8.3.1b Percentage change in the Sustainable Merino (SM) index		-	2.1%	★
Investment in research, development and adoption (RDA)				
8.4.1a AUD invested in research, development and adoption (RDA) per annum	Sheepmeat	\$21.8m	\$20.5m	●
	Wool	\$32.7m	\$33.2m	●
Value of product				
9.1.1a Australian value share (%) of sheepmeat exports		45.0%	46.0%	●
9.1.1b Australian value share (%) of greasy wool exports		75.5%	70.2%	●
Access to markets				
9.1.2a Cumulative alleviation (from 2020) of red meat non-tariff barriers		-	\$474m	★
9.1.2b Percentage value share of Australian sheepmeat, sheep offal and live sheep exports covered by one or more preferential trade agreements (PTA)		75.5%	71.7%	●
9.1.2c Percentage value share of Australian greasy wool exports covered by one or more preferential trade agreements (PTA)		83.1%	90.0%	●
Compliance with product integrity and safety standards				
9.2.1a Proportion (%) of the wool clip that is produced with a voluntary product integrity scheme		13.9%	13.0%	●
9.2.1b Compliance rates (%) for chemical residues in sheepmeat		99.45%	99.91%	●

*The gross production value for sheepmeat and greasy wool, as reported in the SSF's 2023 Annual Report, was for FY2021. The latest production figures reported are for FY2023. See the extended commentary for further data points.

Read the 2024
Sheep Sustainability
Framework Annual
Report via this QR code



Visit the SSF's Digital Data
Dashboard to see its historical
data in an easy to understand
graphical format.





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