

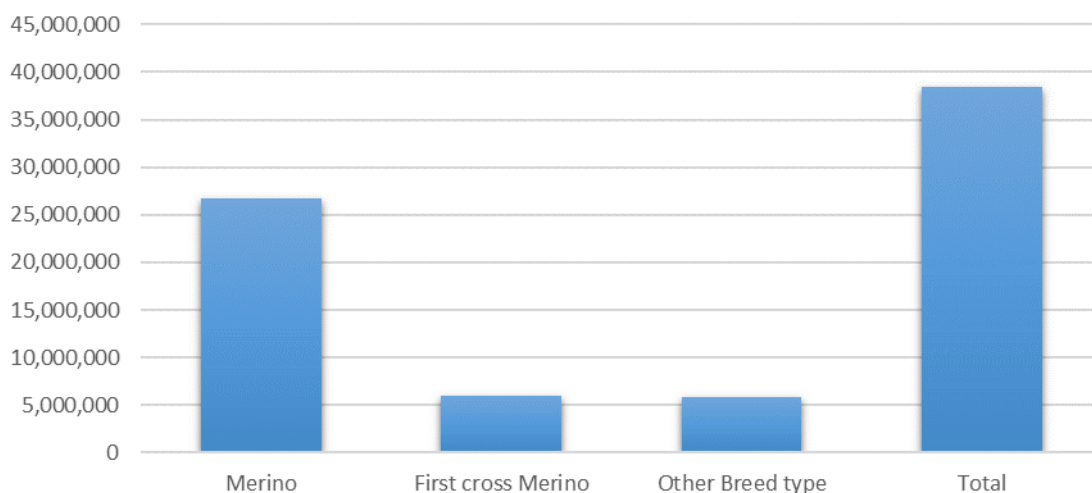


This month we examine the results for the MLA and AWI Wool and Sheepmeat Survey Report for March-June 2017 that offer a snapshot of the current flock make up and shearing over the past four months. The survey is conducted on a quarterly basis to improve the frequency and consistency of data collected, analysed and presented to woolgrowers.

### Breeding ewes

Australia's breeding ewe flock is the key for the continuation of wool production, and with wool prices now at very competitive levels, they are becoming ever more important. According to the results, current breeding ewe numbers sit around 38.49 million. Of these, 26.7 million are Merino ewes, accounting for 69% of the total breeding ewe population. Within the Merino flock, 67% are set for more Merino lambs while 33% will be used for other lamb production.

### Breeding Ewes on hand



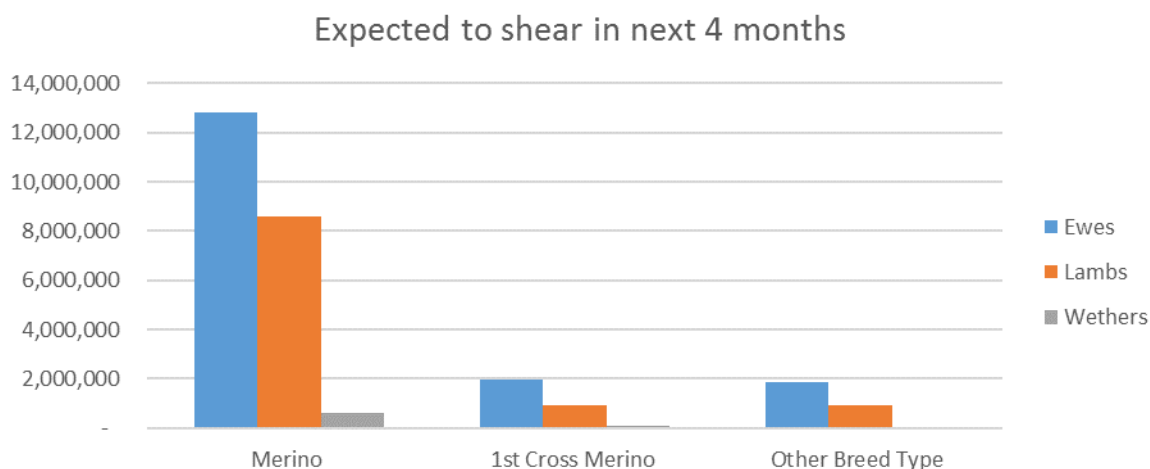
### Wool production

Within the March-June quarter, 12.8 million Merino ewes are to be shorn and expected to produce around 609,204 bales. In addition to this, 10.4 million lambs are expected to

be shorn, producing 104,040 bales. Proportionately, of these lambs to be shorn, Merino's make up 88% (82,008) while non-Merino lambs would account for 12% (12,484).

In addition to ewes and lambs, 8.9 million Merino wethers are recorded on hand of which around 3.5 million will be shorn in the next quarter. They are expected to produce 104,950 bales.

The Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee forecasts that Australian shorn wool production will reach 339mkg greasy in the 2016/17 season. This is a 4.3% increase from the 2015/16 season and can largely be attributed the excellent seasonal conditions resulting in higher fleece weights.



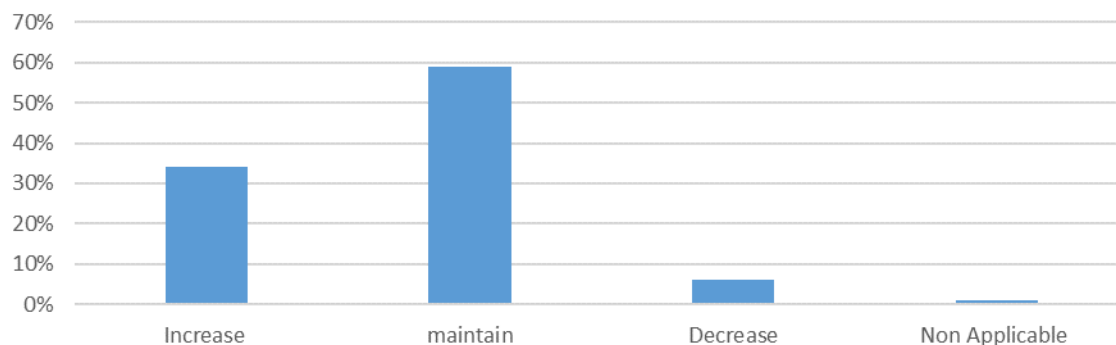
### Flock intentions - growers choosing to invest

As 2016/17 season prices continue to be encouraging for wool and sheepmeat production, many growers are seeing real value in the future of sheep. Wool prices have been steadily climbing over the past five years and have recently entered record levels. Of those surveyed, 93% of growers indicated they would be increasing or maintaining their breeding ewe flock over the next four months, while only 6% would decrease.

Committee Chairman, Russell Pattinson said that *“these excellent seasonal conditions combined with the high wool prices in the past few months have also encouraged producers to retain older sheep to help rebuild their flocks and shearing.”*

AWI trade consultant Scott Carmody is optimistic the current wool market can be sustained into the shorter term at least. For more commentary around the current state of the wool market and a look into the forward market for wool, listen to episode 14 of The Yarn at [www.wool.com/podcast](http://www.wool.com/podcast)

## Breeding Ewe Flock Intentions



An available resource for the increase and maintenance of ewe numbers is the successful use of the LTEM (Lifetime Ewe Management) program. LTEM enables the improvement of sheep producers' understanding of the influence ewe nutrition and management has on the performance of both ewe and her progeny. On average, graduates wean 7-10% more lambs each year and reduce overall ewe mortality.

For more information, visit <https://www.wool.com/LTEM>

Sources- MLA and AWI Wool and Sheepmeat Survey Report- Wool Report & Australian Wool Production Forecast Report

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