



Improving the survival of lambs is a priority for the Australian and New Zealand sheep industries in order to improve reproductive efficiency, productivity and animal welfare. This research utilised data collected from producer surveys in Australia to determine if increasing the flock size of lambing ewes reduced lamb survival.

**AT A FLOCK SIZE
OF 250 COMPARED
TO 100, 16 LESS
LAMBS WILL BE
WEANED PER 100
TWIN-BEARING
EWES.**

FLOCK SIZE	100	250
NUMBER OF FOETUSES	200	500
LAMBS BORN PER DAY (ASSUME 75% OF LAMBS BORN OVER 17 DAYS)	8.8	22.1
DIFFERENCE IN LAMBS BORN PER DAY	13.3	
DIFFERENCE IN LAMB MORTALITY % (0.6% PER EXTRA LAMB BORN PER DAY)	8.0	
DIFFERENCE IN WEANING RATE PER 100 TWIN-BEARING EWES	16.0	

**REDUCING FLOCK SIZE AND
THUS LAMBING DENSITY COULD
BE USED AS A STRATEGY TO
IMPROVE LAMB SURVIVAL.**

NZM & Murdoch University are conducting research to understand the potential of this opportunity for the New Zealand sheep industry.