

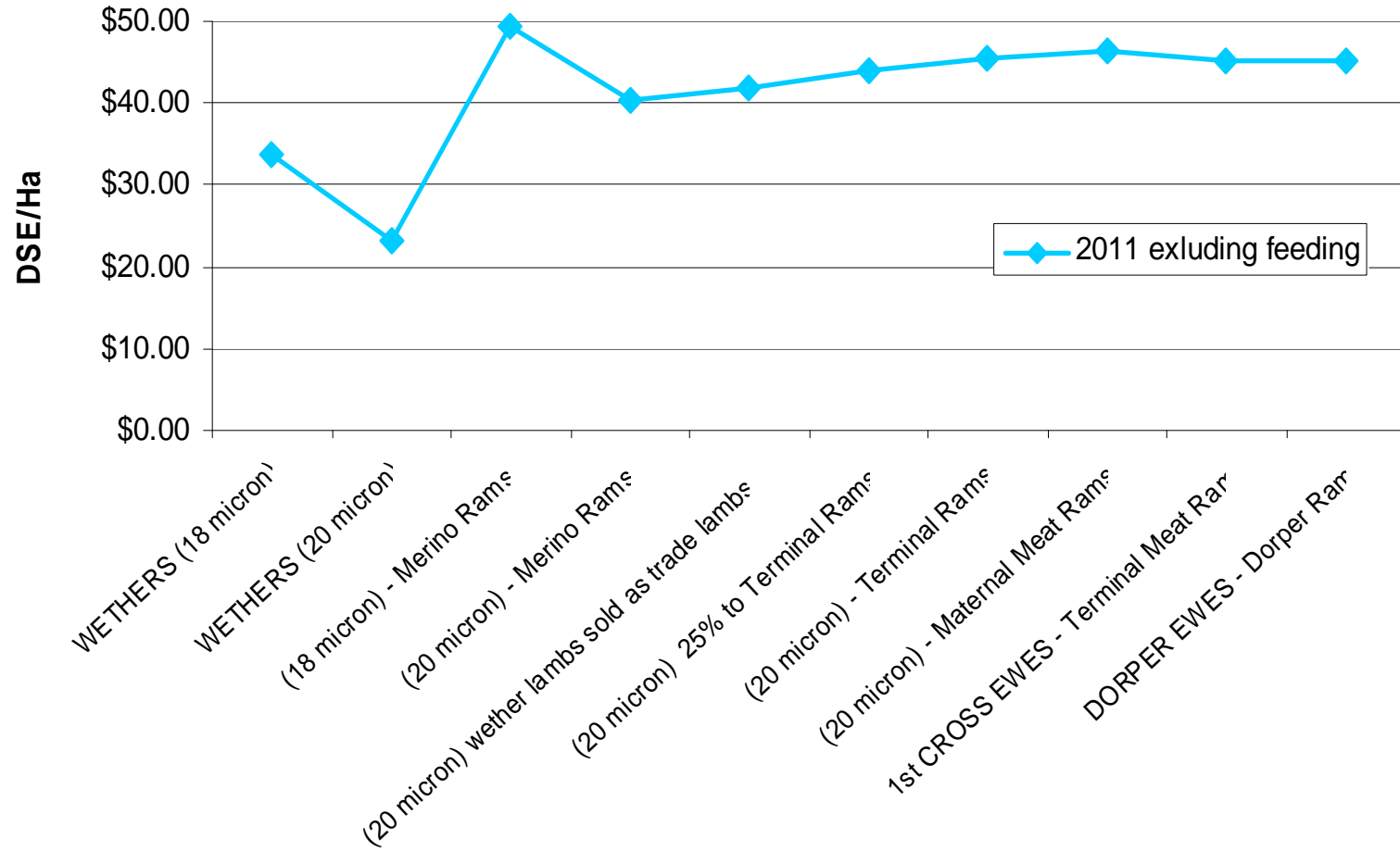


Primary
Industries

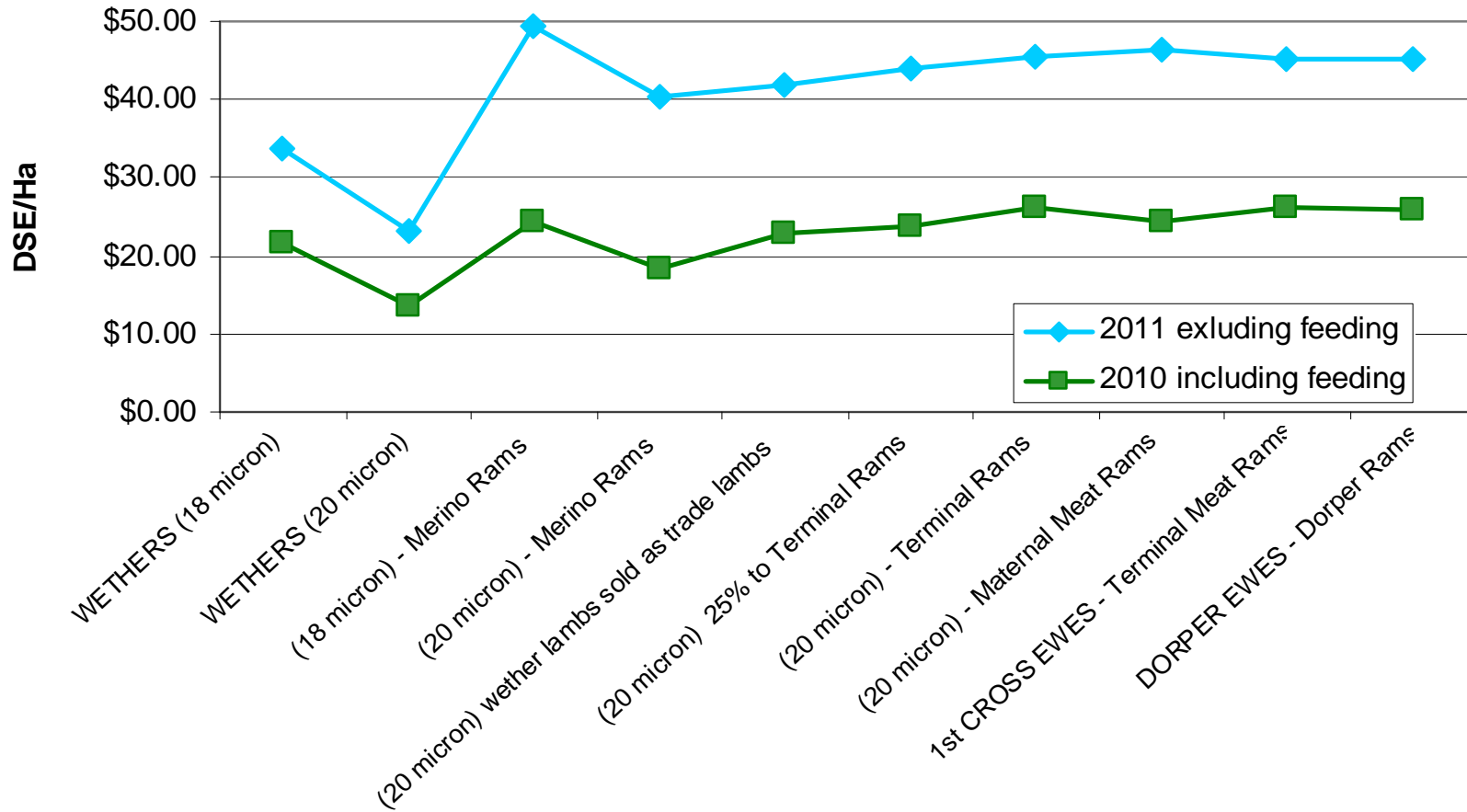
Sheep = \$ dollars

Geoff Casburn sheep Officer Wagga

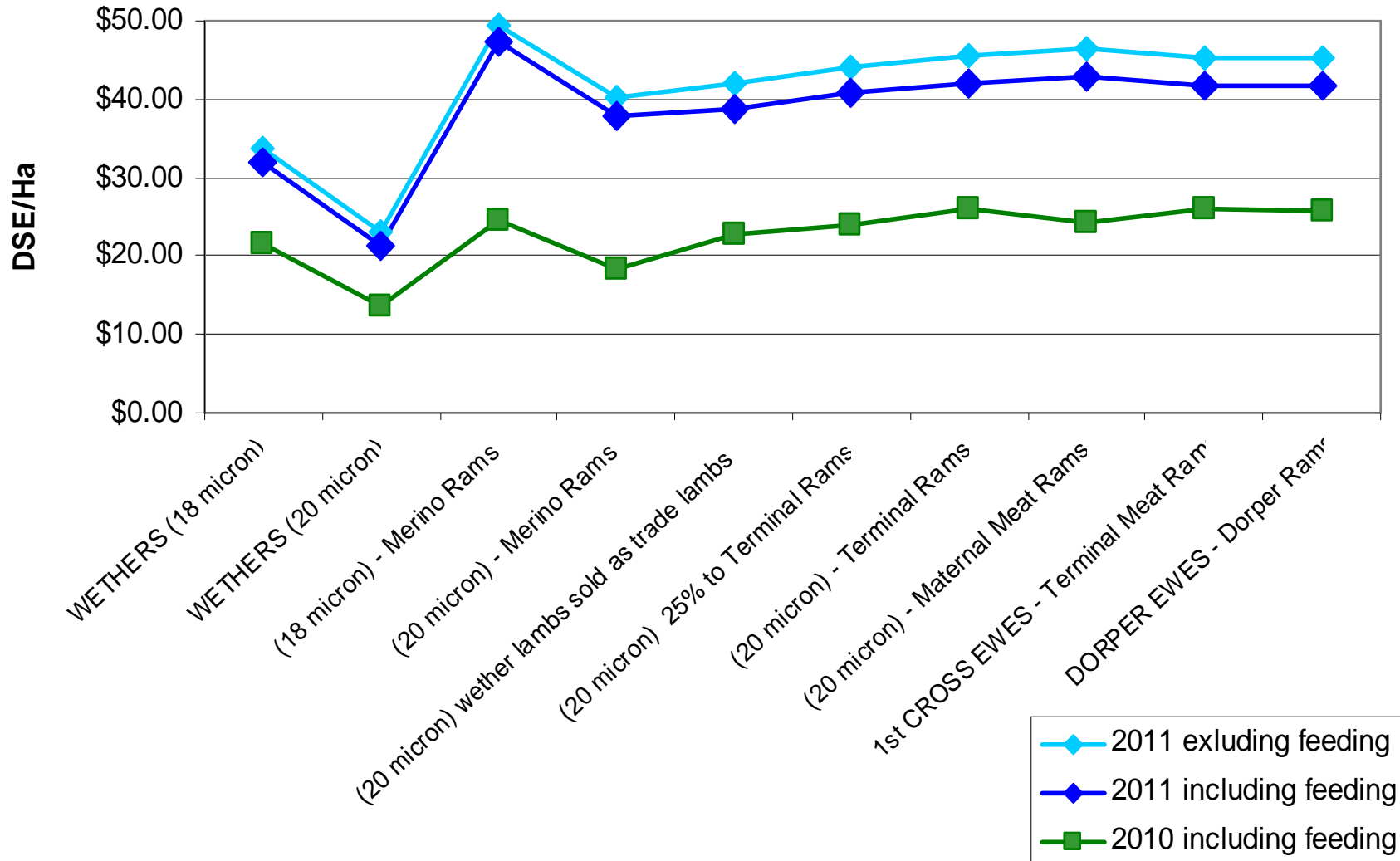
Sheep Gross Margins



Gross Margins \$/DSE



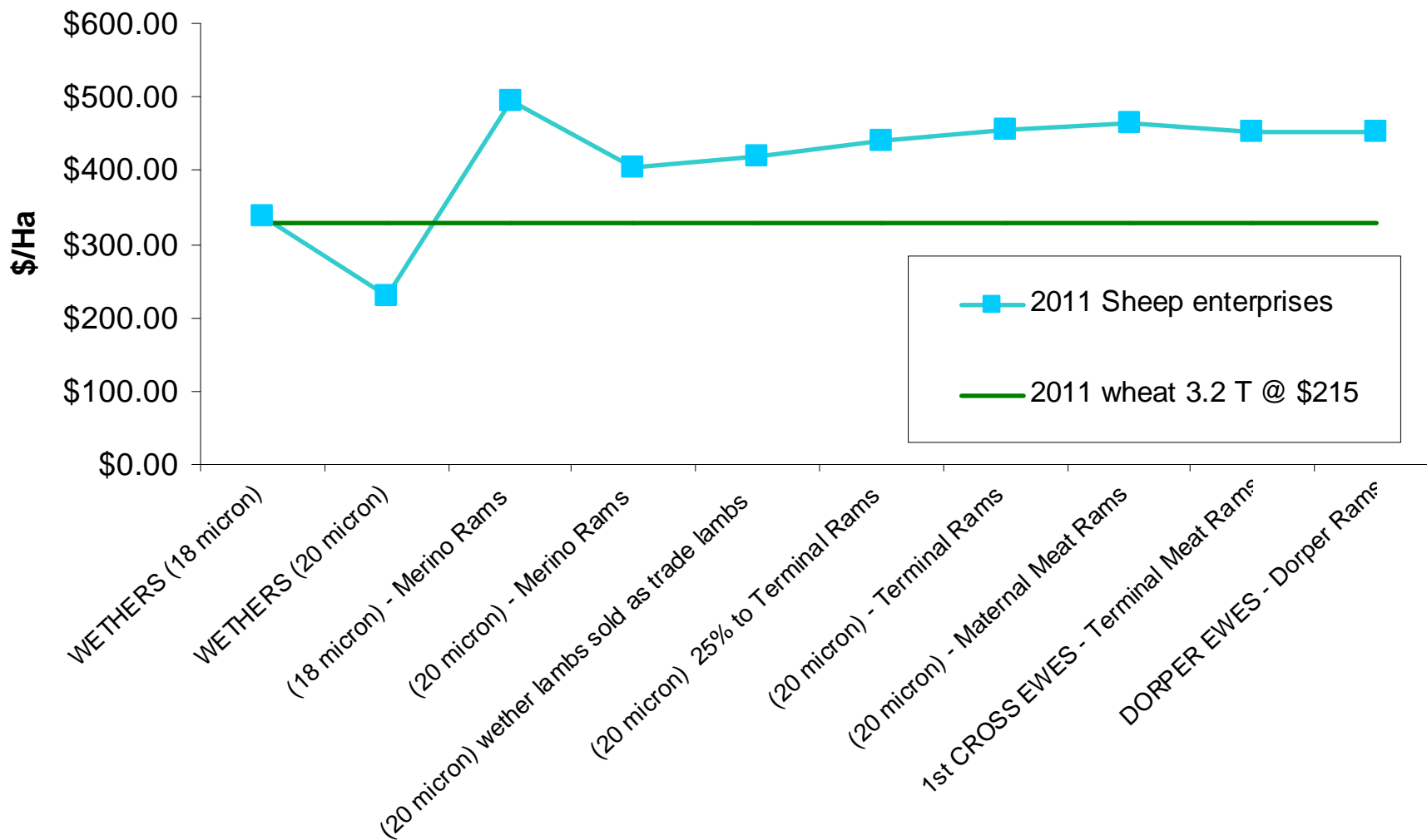
Gross Margins \$/DSE



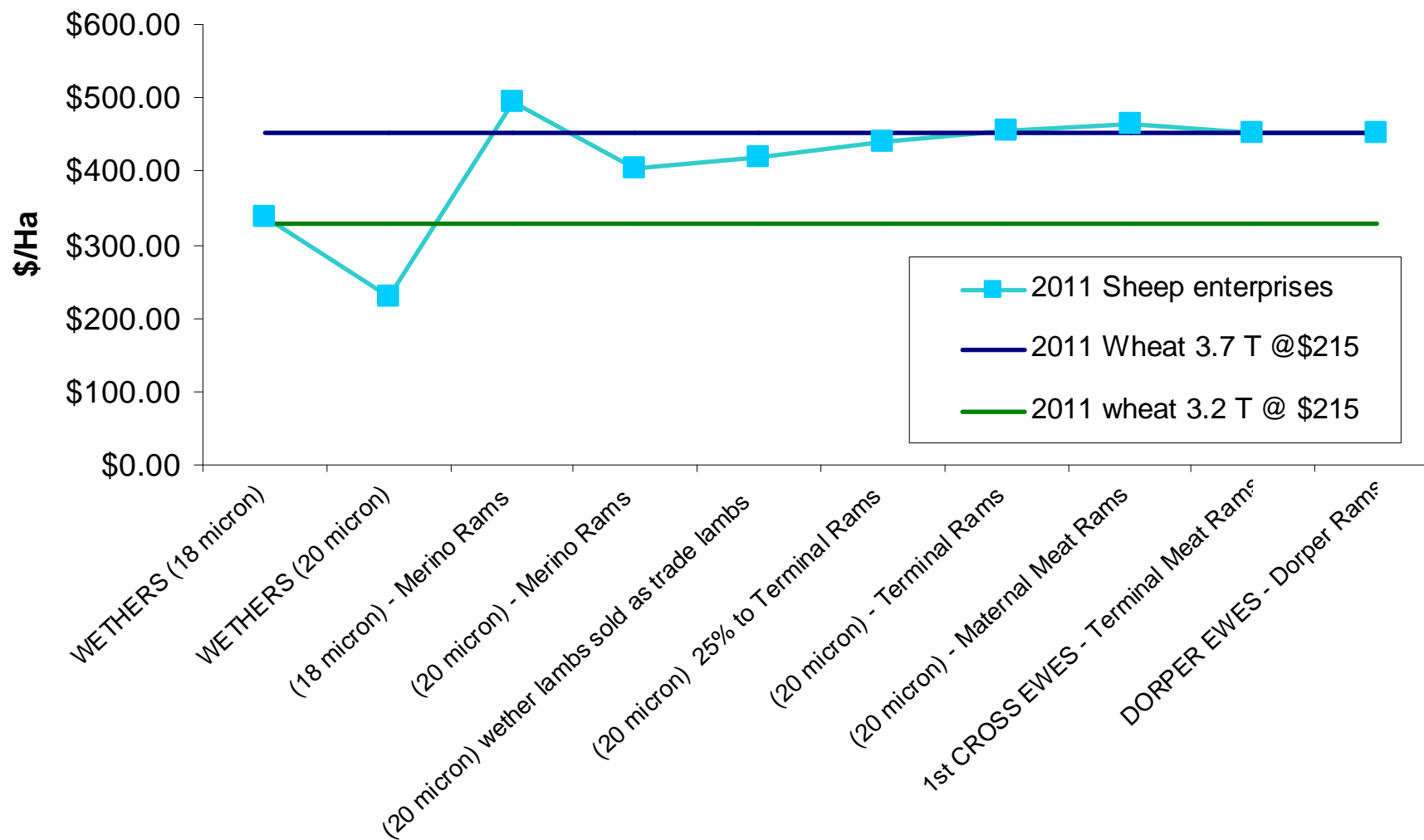
2011 Sheep enterprise Gross Margins

	Weaning %	+20% Weaning
18µm self replacing (SR)	83	99
20µm SR	86	103
20 µm SR - finished wether lambs	86	103
20 µm SR - finished wether lambs 25% T	87	104
20 µm SR - all joined to terminals	90	108
20 µm SR - breeding 1st X ewes	90	108
1st X ewes: joined to terminals - prime lambs	118	141

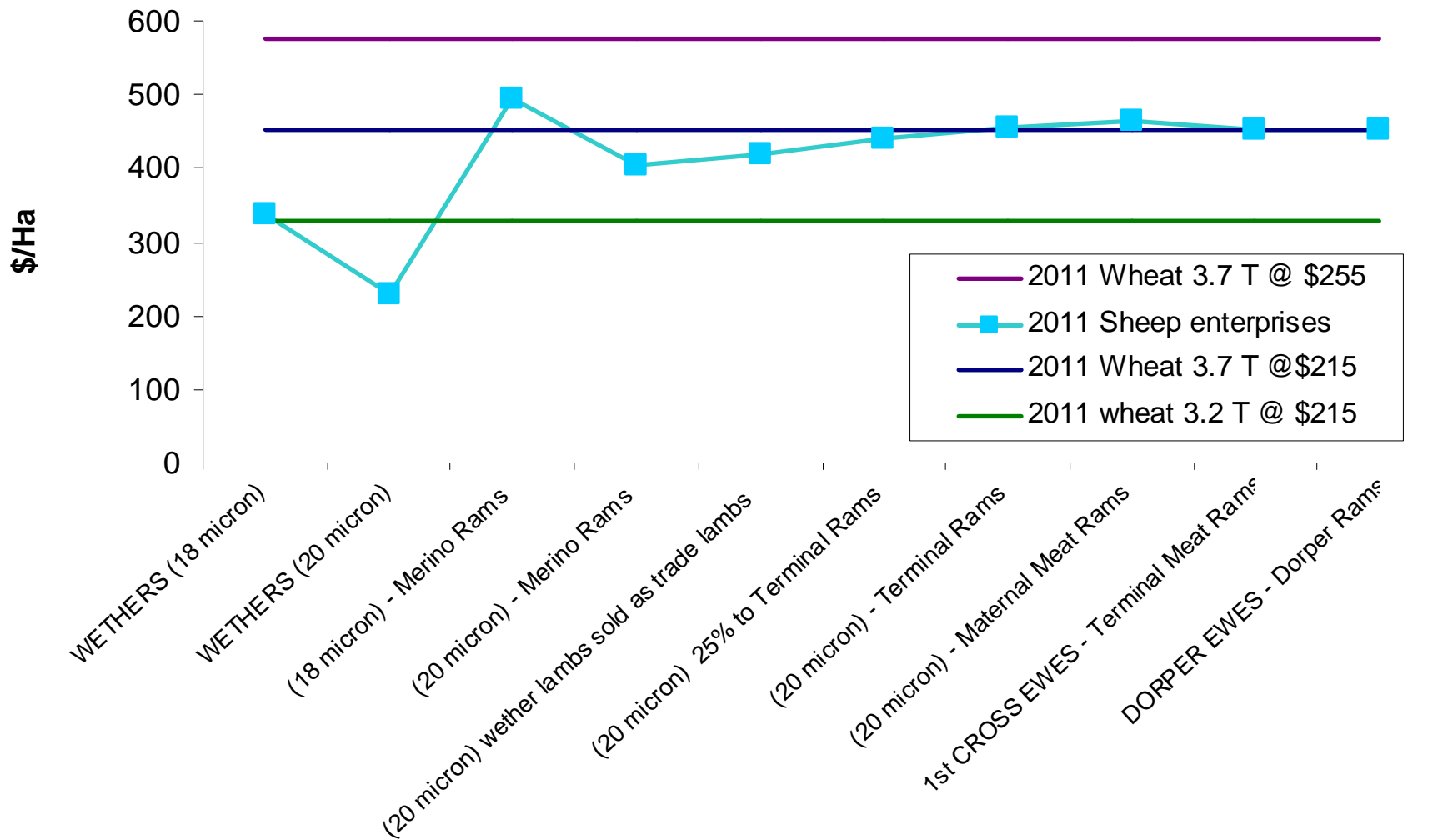
Gross Margin per hectare



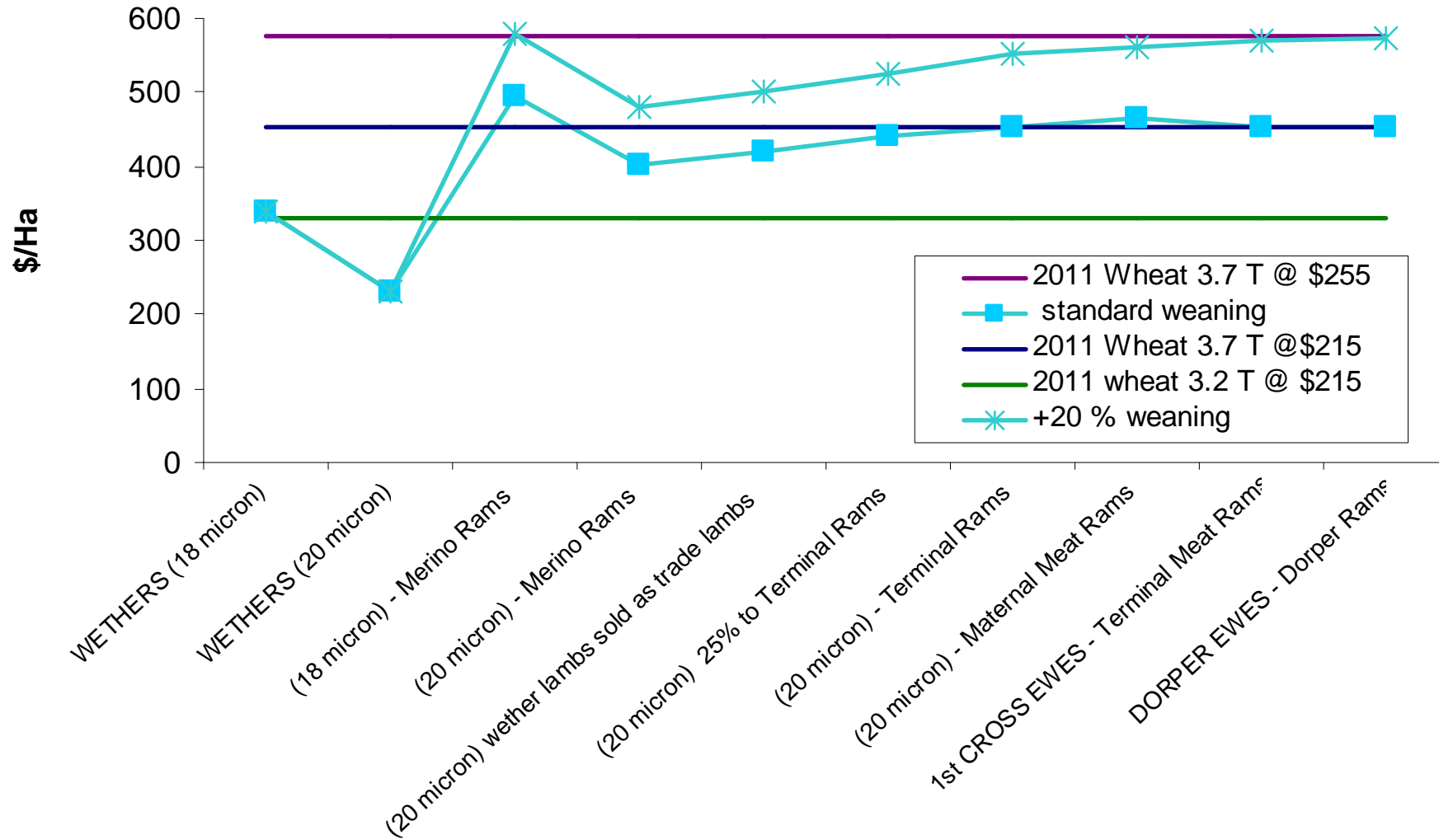
Gross Margin per hectare



Gross Margin per hectare



Gross Margin per hectare



- A proportional increase in stocking rate or weaning rate improves gross margin per hectare (GM/ha) by about the same amount.
- For Under-stocked farms improving reproductive rate at the same time as increasing stocking rate will result in fewer ewes being bought.
- Especially important when the cost of ewes is high.

- Increased weaning rate increases stocking rate.
- For example increasing weaning rate in a prime lamb enterprise from 118% to 130% (ewes weighing 70kg) increases the DSE rating per ewe from 2.67 to 2.77.
- For an enterprise running 1000 ewes this equates to an increase of 100 DSE.

- In many situations there will be no need to reduce ewe numbers.
- The enterprise would produce 1300 lambs compared to 1180, an increase of **120 lambs**.
- However, if the stocking rate is optimum, the number of ewes would need to be reduced by 37 to 963 ewes producing 1252 lambs, an increase of **72 lambs**.

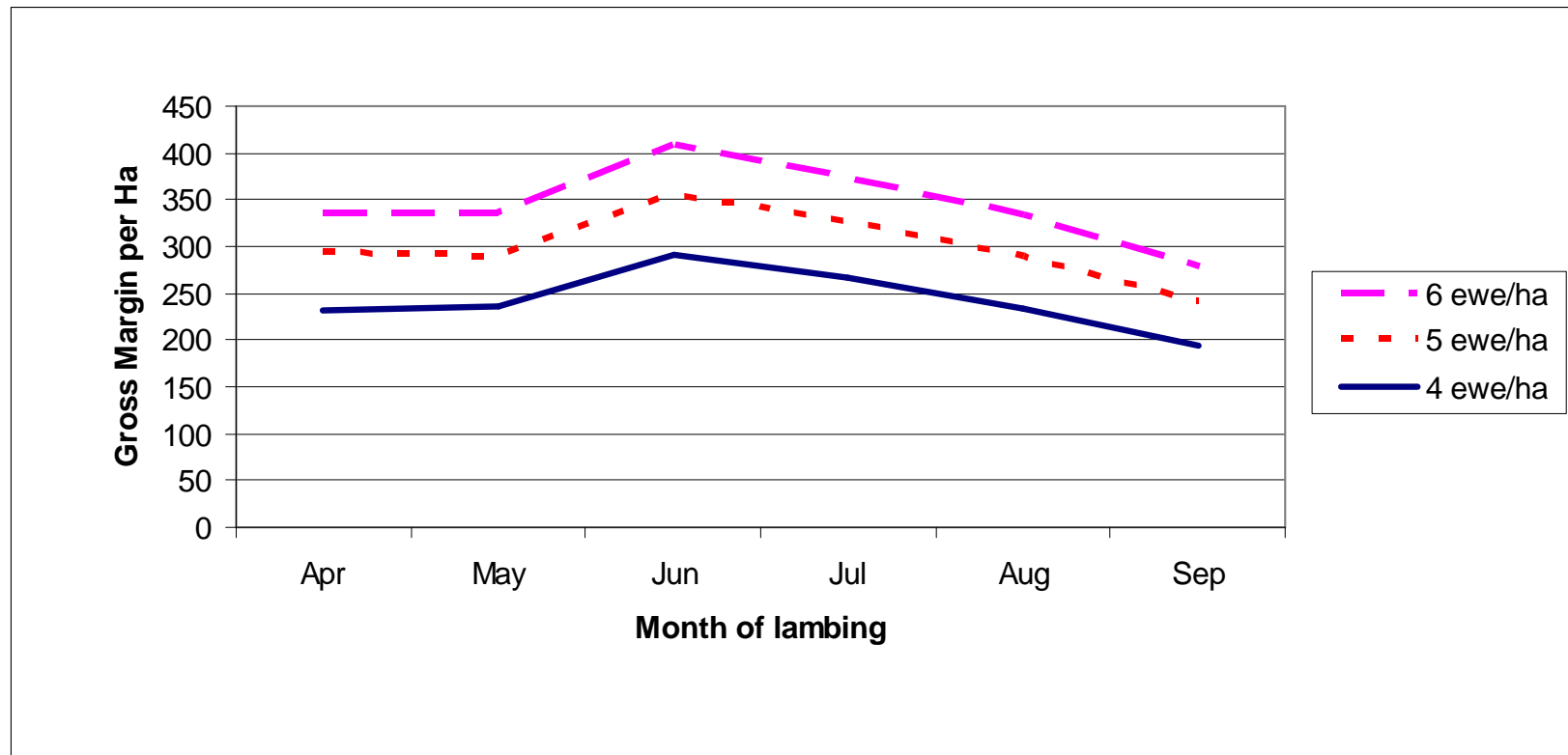
Profitability of a meat enterprise is more than just reproduction - what other factors need to be considered

- number of lambs born - natural breeding season and
fatscore
 - pasture utilisation - both ewes and lambs
- hand feeding - supplementation and production feeding
- kilograms of lamb meat produced per Ha - number of
lambs and their sale weight
 - sale value - \$/kg
 - Balancing everything else

Profit = Optimum

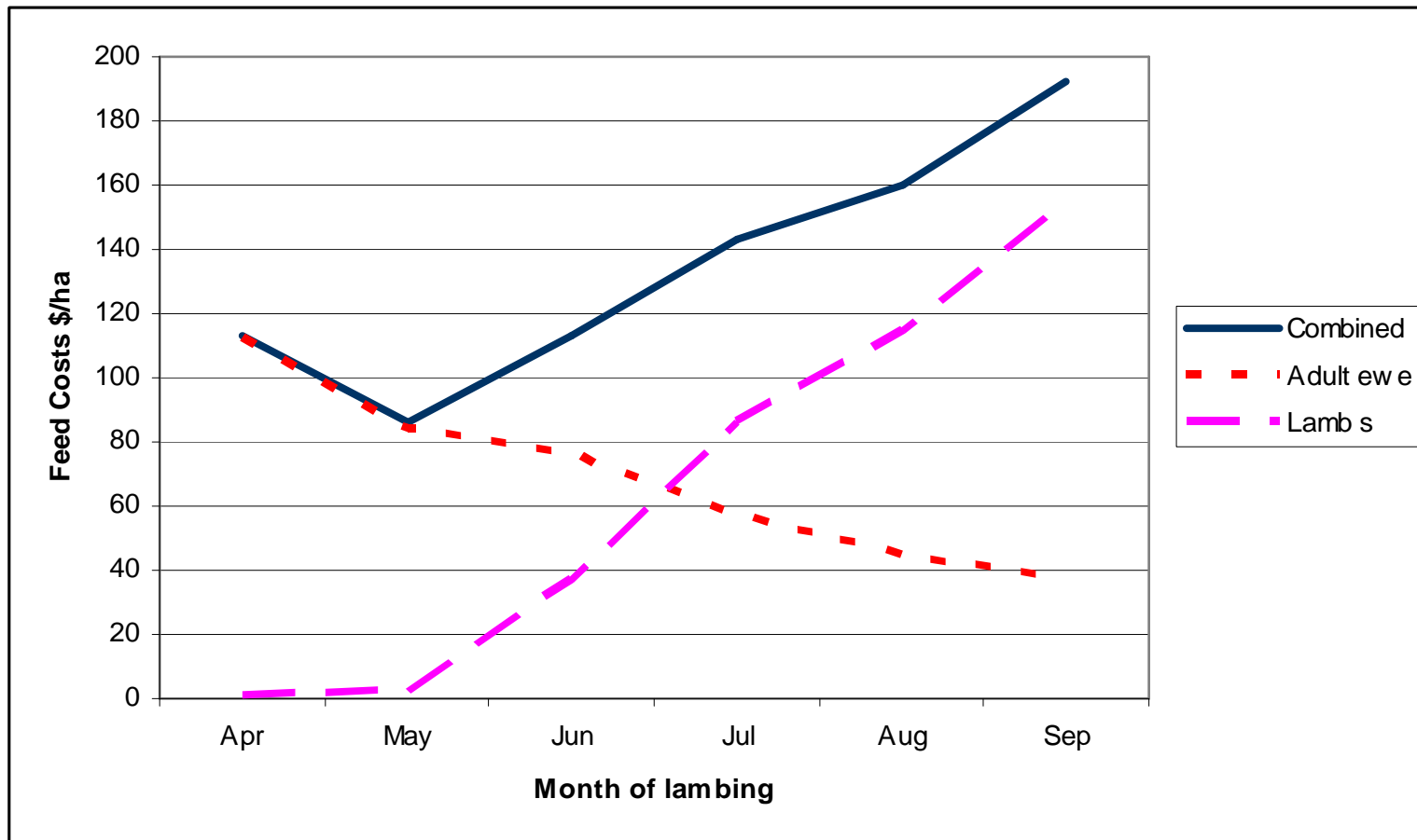
Optimum = a compromise that produces
the best possible result

Gross Margin (\$/ha), \$185T grain, production feeding and similar sale weight, annual pastures.

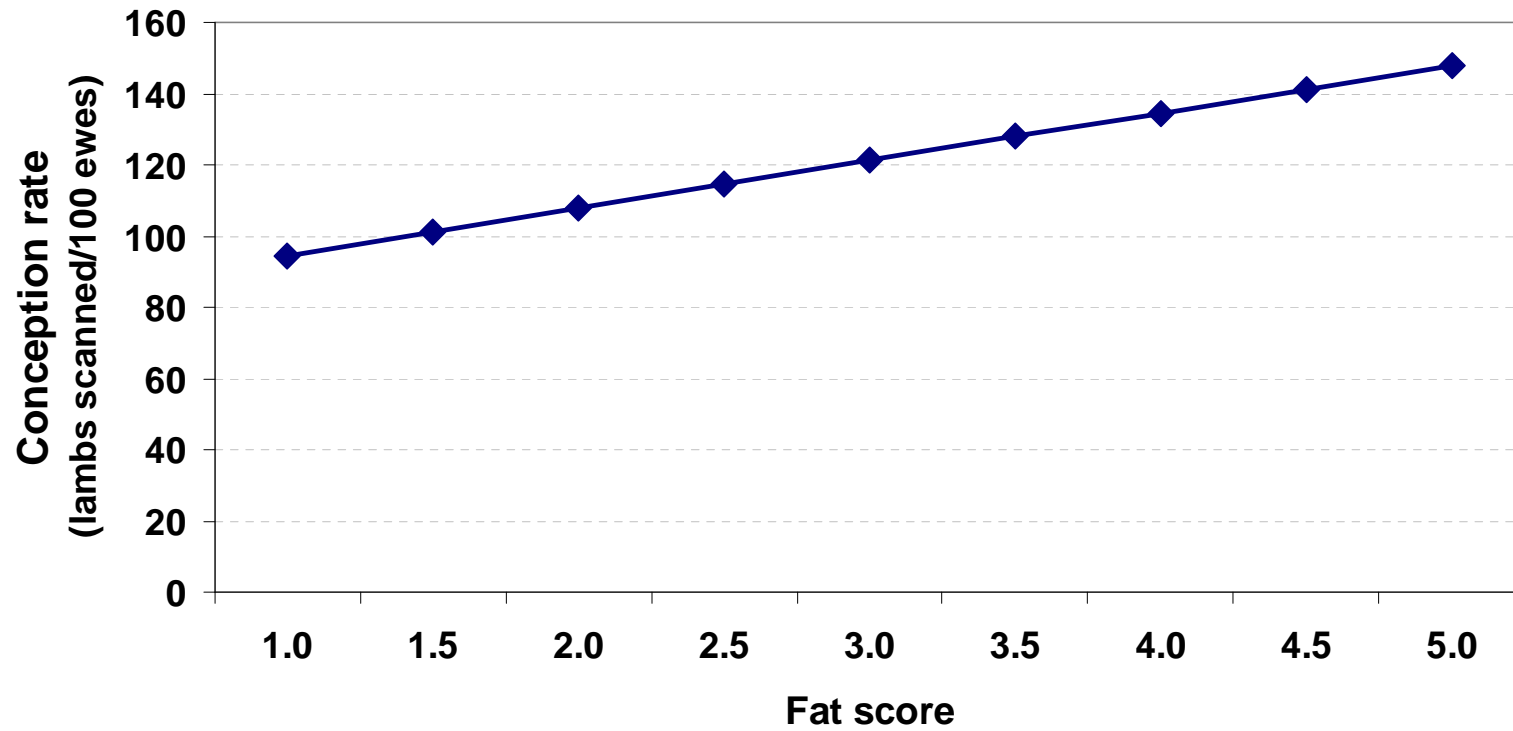


- Variation within an enterprise greater than between enterprise
- June the most profitable
- 5 ewes/ha as profitable as 6 ewes for other lambing dates

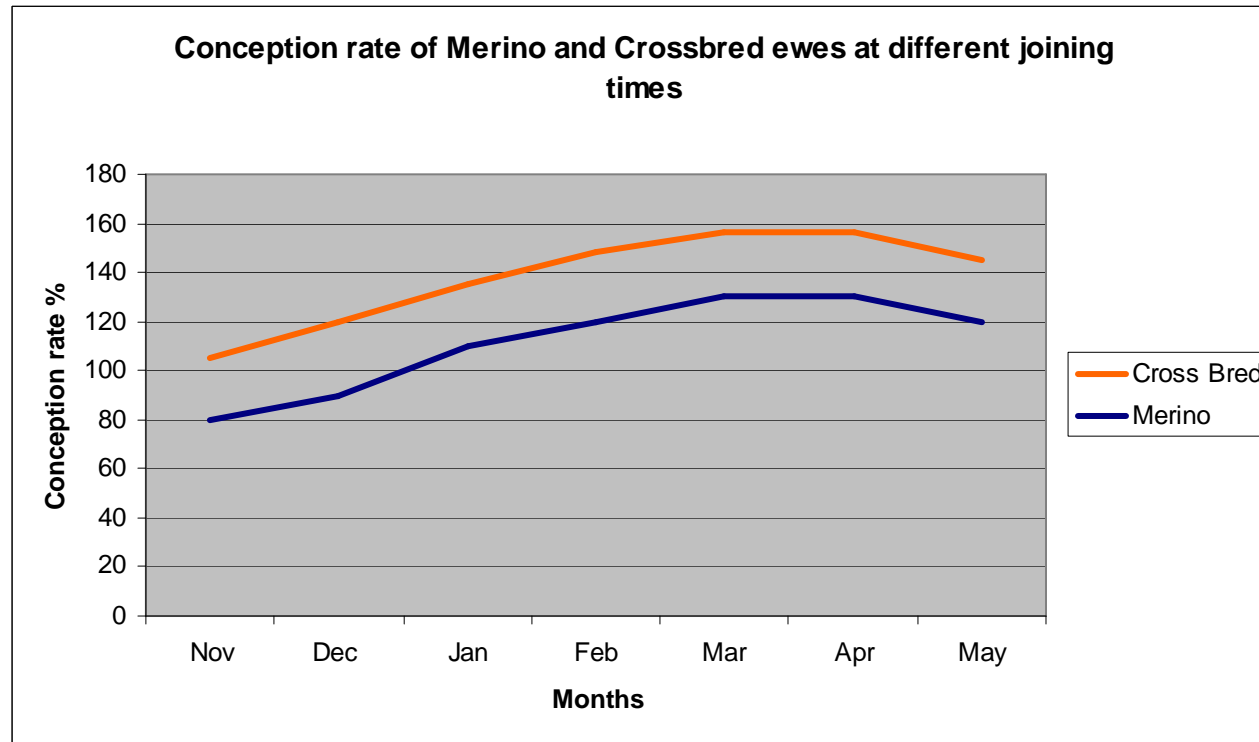
Feeding trade offs



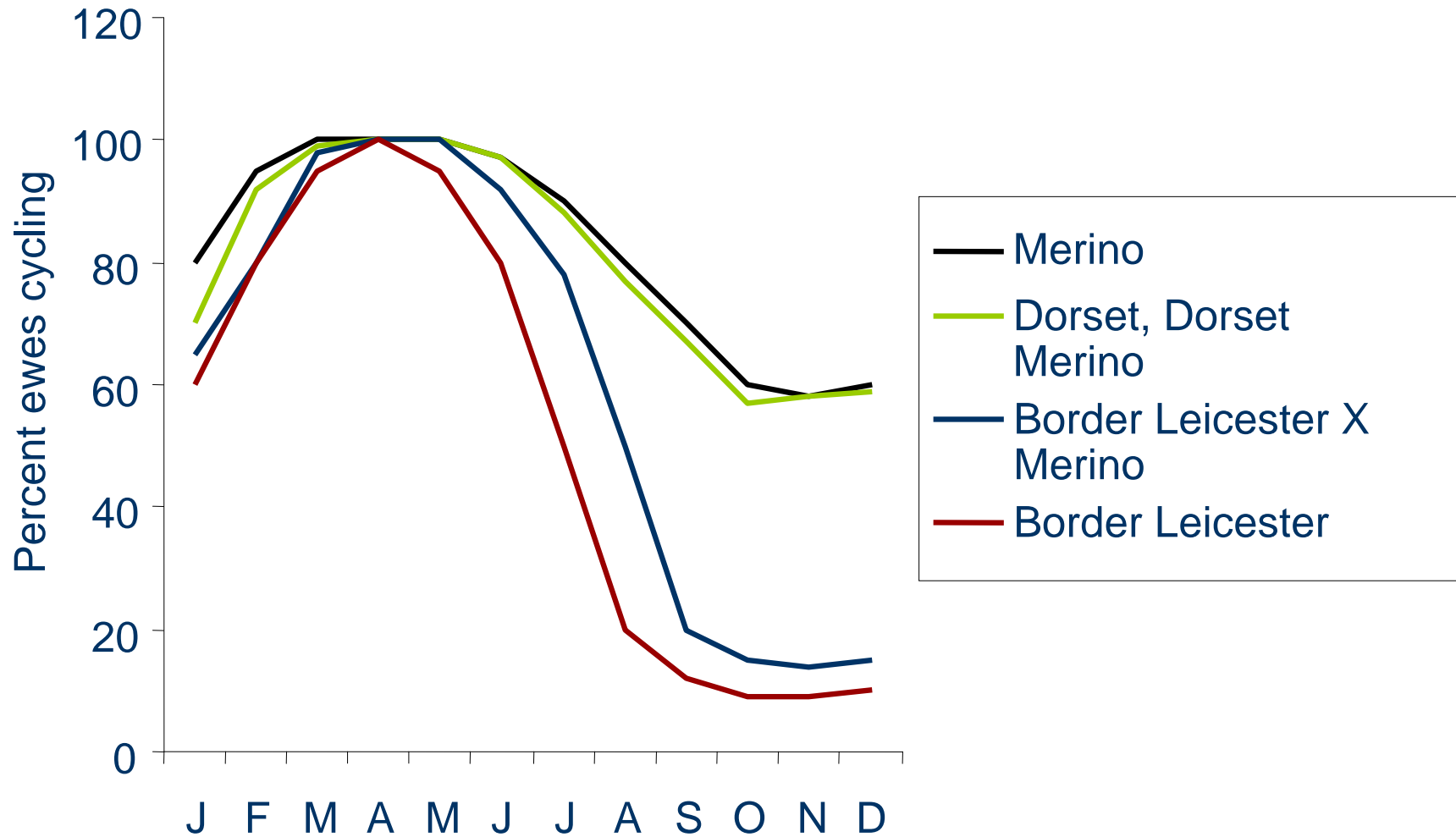
1 fatscore increase = 12 more lambs



Conception rate and breeding season



Seasonal oestrus patterns



Autumn Joining - Spring lambing

- Nearly all ewes will naturally cycle in autumn
 - Ewes cycle every 17 days
- Approximately 6% of ewes (1/17th) will be mated each day
- One healthy ram can join between 8-10 ewes per day
 - One ram per 100 ewes?
- One backup ram is required per mob (1% +1)

GC1

Slide 21

GC1

Geoffrey Casburn, 4/08/2011

Autumn Joining - Spring lambing

- Large, hilly or heavily timbered paddocks require as much as 2% rams
 - Maiden ewes have priority for the best joining paddock
- They should be joined at 2% regardless as they only stand for the ram for around 12 hours which is half the time of adults.
 - Join for a minimum of 5 weeks (35 days) - this allows two opportunities for a ewe to be successfully mated

Spring joining - Autumn lambing

- Many ewes will not cycle unless triggered by the sudden introduction of rams.
- Ewes must not have had contact (>1km) with rams for at least one month.
- Introducing rams trigger ewes to start cycling and come on heat between days 17 to 23
- This equates to between 10 and 30% of ewes cycling per day around this time with synchronisation continuing for subsequent cycles until ewes become pregnant

Spring joining - Autumn lambing

- Use between 2 and 3 rams per 100 ewes (depending on breed of ewe)
- If a ewe is not mated during the first standing heat, there is a chance she may stop cycling until at least late December into January
- Rams need to be with ewes for a minimum of 7 weeks to ensure two full cycles

Summary

- Sheep enterprises profitable and should remain so.
 - No real differences between enterprises.
 - Reproduction is a big driver of profitability.
- Potentially big differences within an enterprise
- Different joining/lambing dates require different strategies.

	Weaning %	GM/ha	GM/ha	
			+ 10% weaning	+ 20% weaning
18µm self replacing (SR)	83	473	516	558
20µm SR	86	379	417	455
20 µm SR - finished wether lambs	86	387	427	466
20 µm SR - finished wether lambs 25% T	87	408	449	490
20 µm SR - all joined to terminals	90	420	467	513
20 µm SR - breeding 1 st X ewes	90	430	478	525
1 st X ewes: joined to terminals - prime lambs	118	416	473	529