

Increase your profits by controlling foxes with FOXOFF®



Since its first used in 1992 FOXOFF has increased profits for many sheep farms.

Let's look at an example farm "Lambing Flats" that produces prime lambs on 250 hectares with a stocking rate of 4 breeding ewes per hectare (i.e., 1000 ewes total) and which sells finished lambs for \$150 per head.

Ovulation rates are higher in Autumn than in Spring joining, but for spring joining autumn lambing flocks, our research on melatonin to increase lambing rates many years ago showed we have about 5% dry ewes, 80% carrying single lambs and 15% twinning = 110 lambs *in utero* for every 100 ewes joined in a normal Autumn lambing flock. But lamb marking is seldom this high. A typical lamb marking on such a property is about 85 lambs per 100 ewes if spring joined.

So, at **Lambing Flats** our 1000 ewes producing 0.85 lambs/ewe = 850 lambs for sale @ \$150 per lamb = \$127,500 gross income. Foxes range in density from 2 to 20 foxes per square kilometer, but at just 4/km² there can be more than 300 foxes with a 10Km radius of your flock. It is not just one old rogue fox with a white tip on his tail!

If foxes are taking even just one in 10 lambs born at lambing flats we are losing 85 lambs to predation (e.g. 10% predation, but can be much higher). Preventing this loss by good fox control adds 85 lambs worth \$12,750 to income at Lambing Flats. Note that many places in Australia suffer much higher predation lamb losses than this. Much of this still goes under-recognized.

A good fox control baiting campaign will require weekly baiting at 1 bait per 10 Ha over the whole property with baits replaced weekly over a 6-week period pre-lambing. Shelf-stable FOXOFF Econobaits cost approximately about **\$1.98 inc. GST** each from a 1080 accredited merchant. For **Lambing Flats**, this is 6 baits/10Ha over 250Ha = 150 baits @ **\$1.98/bait = \$297**.

Even with just a 10% lift in weaning percentages this gives a gross Return-On-Investment (ROI) of \$12,750 for \$297 spent on baits. This is 43 times your money back! A good fox control program is paid for by saving just ne lamb in this case. Try achieving this ROI on a poker machine!

The message here is simple, no matter what numbers you plug into this scenario, the B/C of fox control with FOXOFF is so high that every lamb producer should be doing this protective measure.

Add to this the value of being able to increase selection pressure, or run more wethers, having some free-range eggs instead of dead chooks, and saving the local wildlife and there are many benefits from good quality fox control. Over the years we have had landowners report that we have saved their farms from bankruptcy by lifting marking percentages, sometimes well above 30% above normal, so the impacts can be even greater at an individual level.