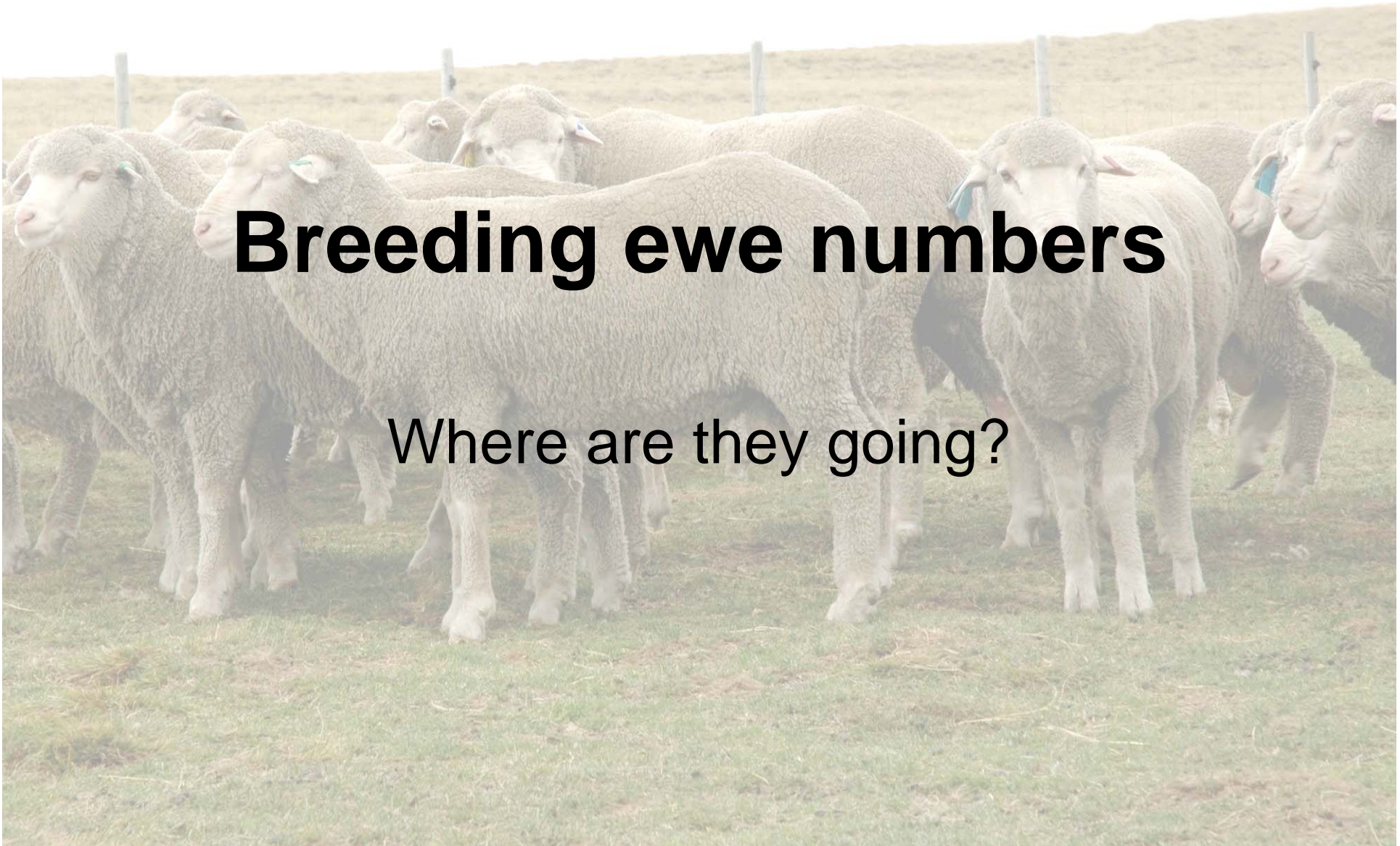




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Breeding ewe numbers

Where are they going?

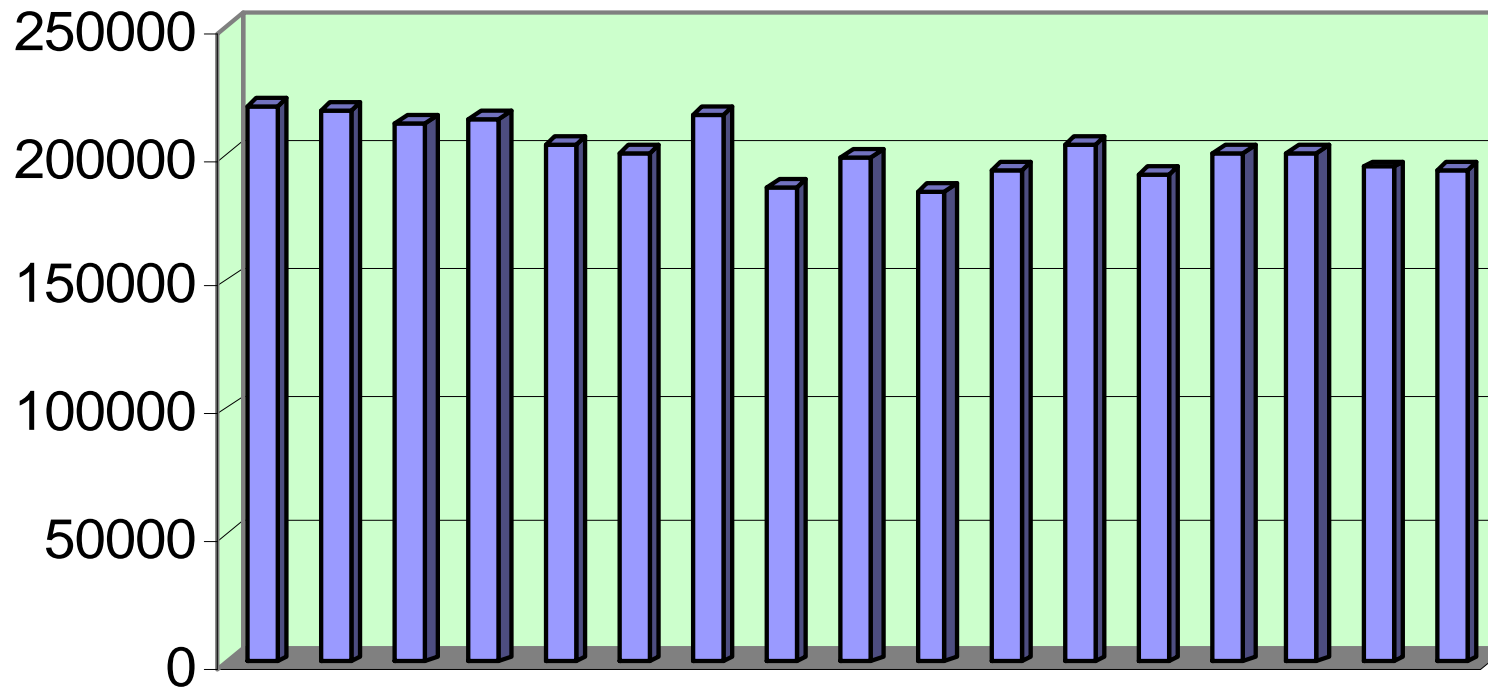


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Breeding Ewe Numbers from 1993 to 2009





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Barely sustainable!

- With a 60% lambing
- And 50% females = 30%
- And a 17% hogget mortality = 25%
- Barely sustainable because
 - ewes often cast after 5 lambings (20%)
 - Some culled (black spots, dry, face cover...)
 - And some die



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Can it be turned around?

- Can we do the required changes and grow the ewe flock by
 - Increasing lambing percentages?
 - Reducing hogget mortality?
- Can we run more ewes anyway?
 - Increase stocking rate on ewe camps
 - Running ewes on wether camps



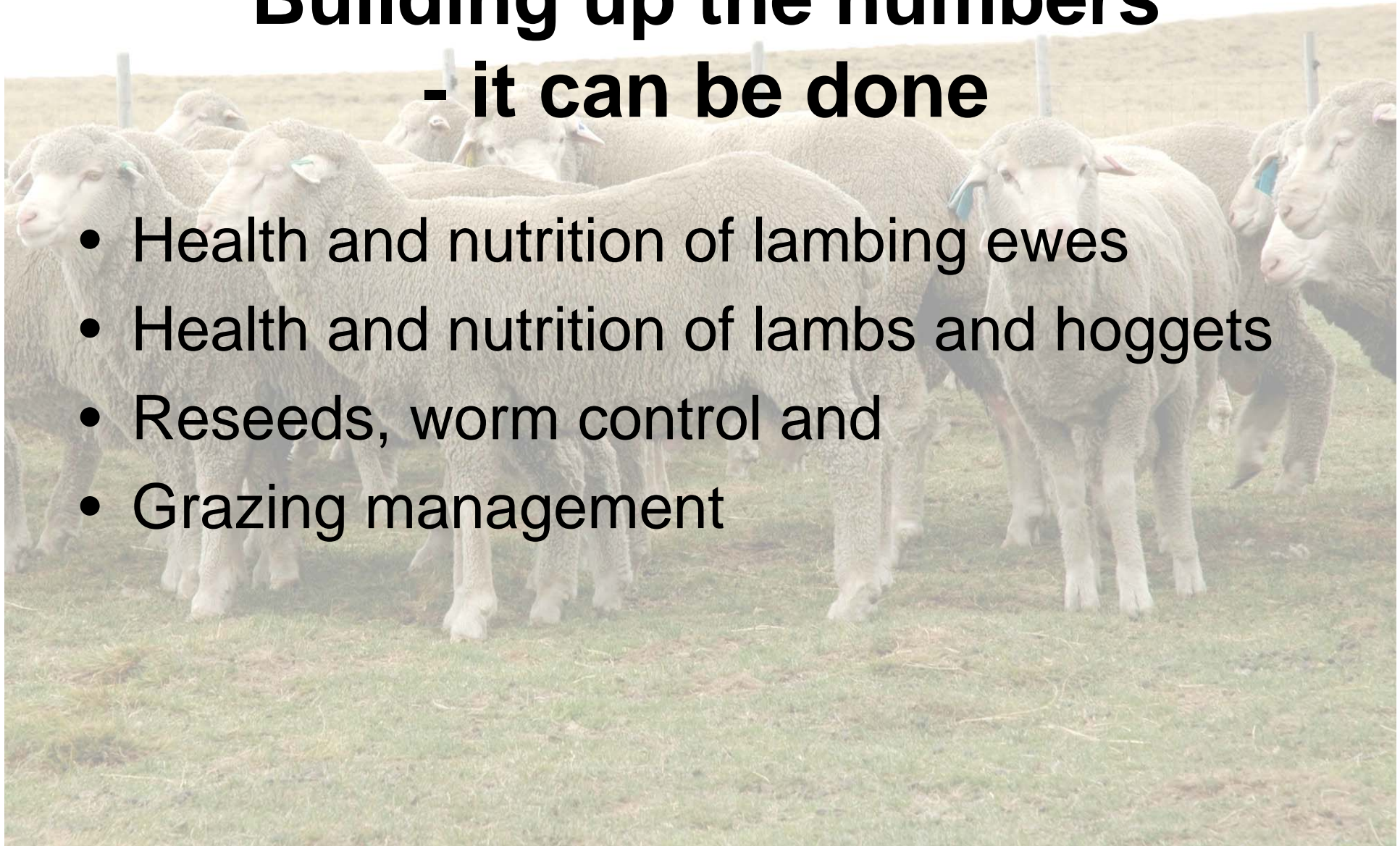
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Building up the numbers - it can be done

- Health and nutrition of lambing ewes
- Health and nutrition of lambs and hoggets
- Reseeds, worm control and
- Grazing management





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Grazing ewes on wether camps - is it on?

- Definitely not in a set stocked system.
- The DSE (Blunt Instrument) argument says if it runs 2000 wethers it can run 1200 ewes
- But that is **not** the case
- It only has the quality to provide 1 DSE- it is not a quantity issue!



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However

If we can use the wether camps to keep the ewes off the ewe camps for another few weeks- we can then put more ewes on those camps – later in the season...

- particularly if we get them off earlier as well



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The key to this...

Is because it is in late pregnancy when the nutrition of the ewe is vital.

In early pregnancy the ewe only needs 1.0 DSE.



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Summary

- Improvement to lambing % and hogget survival are needed
- Some more grazing management needed with wether ground
 - More shifting around of sheep
 - Perhaps earlier weaning