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Improving Hogget Survival

Susan Campbell





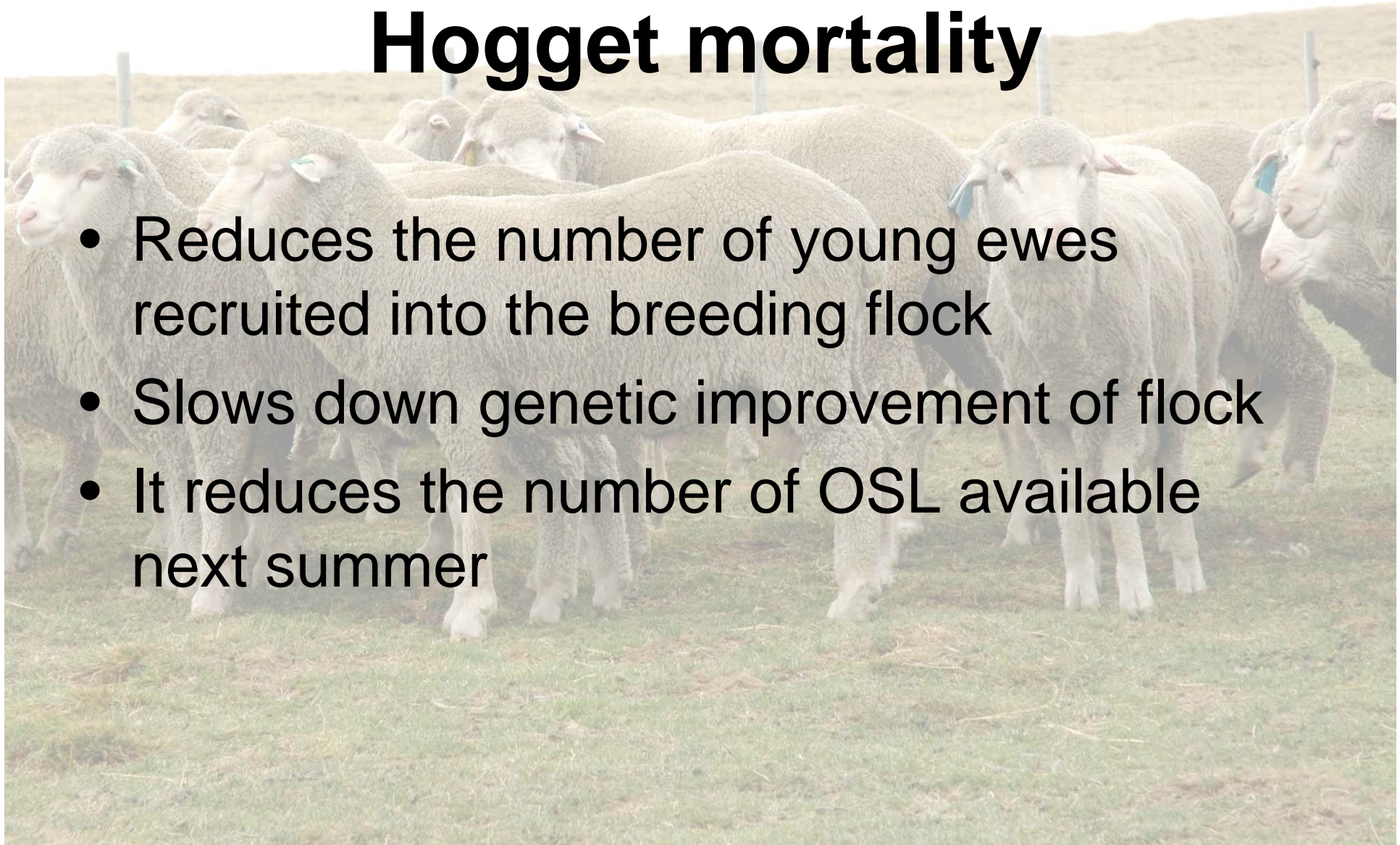
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Hogget mortality

- Reduces the number of young ewes recruited into the breeding flock
- Slows down genetic improvement of flock
- It reduces the number of OSL available next summer





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Hogget Mortality

- We believe it is 17%
- There is no single major cause as such
- Therefore there is no single solution
- Improving hogget survival will be a package rather than any single strategy



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Why are they dying?

A number of additive effects

- Low body weight
- + Bad weather
- + Inadequate nutrition
- + Ditches, reefs and snow drifts
- + Worms
- + Increased susceptibility to disease



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The Energy Equation

- Energy is needed for Maintenance and Growth:
 - about 8-10 MJ/day - more than 1 DSE
- Energy can come from the diet
- Energy can come from body reserves

When they run out of energy they die



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**Therefore the important things
are**

Weight of hogget going into winter

And

Quality of feed over winter

And

Good parasite control



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We need to know more about target weights

- For lambs at weaning
- For hoggets going into winter

Australian research is showing huge benefits if appropriate goals are set and achieved.





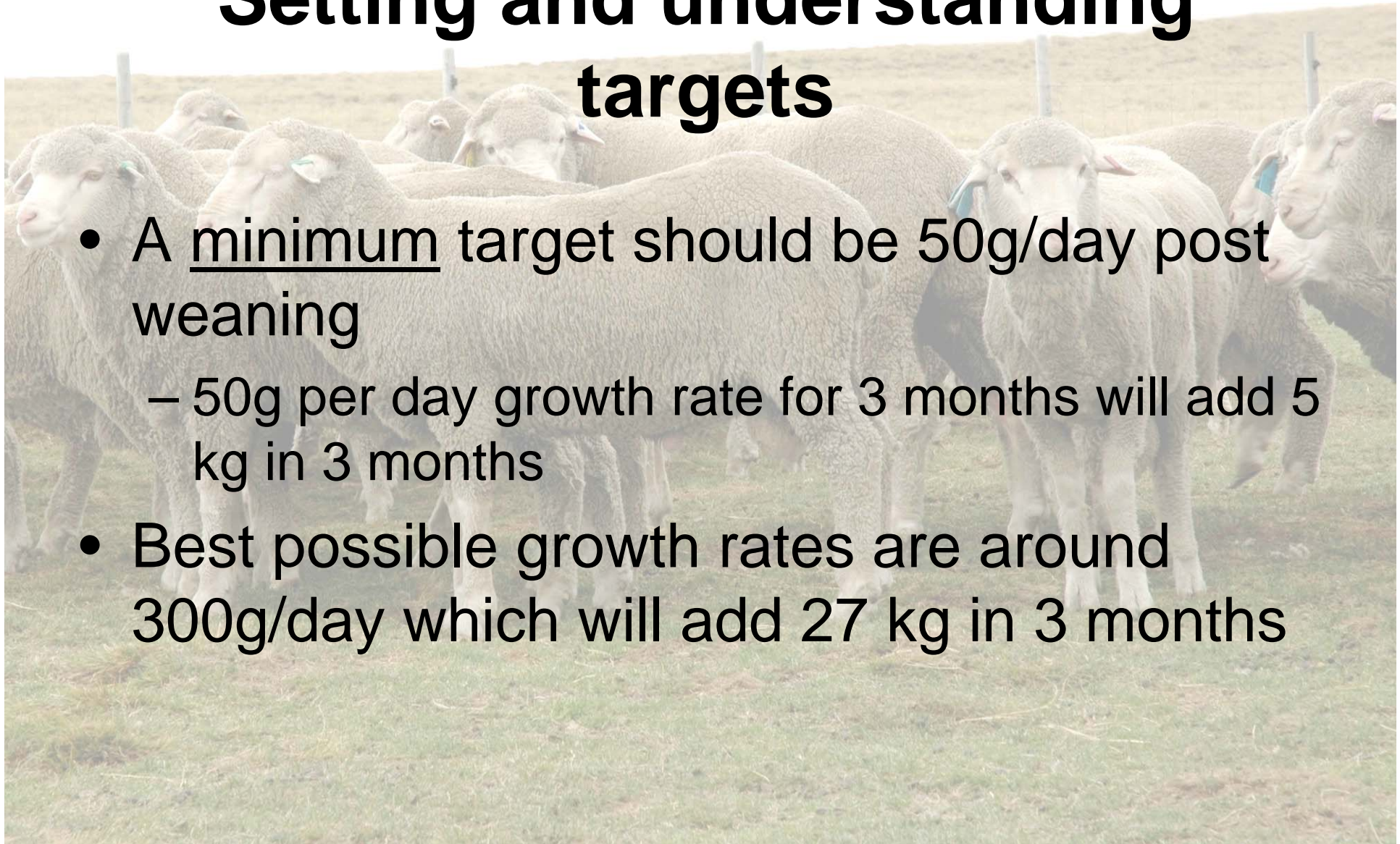
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Setting and understanding targets

- A minimum target should be 50g/day post weaning
 - 50g per day growth rate for 3 months will add 5 kg in 3 months
- Best possible growth rates are around 300g/day which will add 27 kg in 3 months





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Increasing weight going into winter

- Good birthweight
- Good lactation
- Not marked too late
- Weaned at 12 weeks after the start of lambing
- Weaned onto good parasite safe feed
- Worms kept at bay





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Improving winter nutrition

- Choice of camp
- Swedes, turnips etc
- Grazing management
- Worm free procedures





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Improved survival – but that won't be the only benefit!

- Short and long term gains
 - Higher average hogget weights
 - Better hogget wool cuts
 - Better shearlings after that good start
 - Maybe consider joining shearlings

