‘Clean, **Green and Ethical**’ finishing of prime lambs

Practices in the Q Lamb Alliance

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Q Lamb

- 1996: Consumer focus
- Tight specs & grid
- The 707 pellet
- Code of Practice
- Now 230 members
- Today 80% 18 – 22 kg
- 93.5% score 2 & low 3
There are no short cuts!

- The first rule: Do it right or sell as stores
- Fully committed to do the job right
- Research: visit other feed-lots, question
- Planning: Costs, markets, labour & time
- Agents & transport
- Records
Feed-lot set up

- Location: use natural features
- Summer/winter
- Pen size: max mob 350 pen 70 x 80
- Water points & troughs
- Scales & yards
- Rations
- Learn how to score lambs
Back grounding

- Essential
- Only feed healthy lambs
- Min weight/score for entry
- Weights in close range
- No stags, rams or CO’s
- Wool length
Animal welfare

- Lambs must be happy – how?
- Good dry feed & cool clean water
- Troughs: right height and easy access
- Summer: shade and dust controlled
- Winter: shelter and dry area to camp
- Pen enrichment: observe behaviour
- Always remove sick & poor doers
Handling

- Handle with care
- Don’t over-work lambs 10 days
- Control your dogs & use muzzles
- Efficient drafting & weighing set-up
- Use technology
- Return lambs to pens ASAP
- Record everything
Final preparation

- Confirm your booking & trucking
- Weigh & score every lamb
- Clean up all lambs
- Curfew 8 hours off feed
- Only load lambs that look right
- Supply correct Waybill/NVD
Conclusions

- Seek advise before you start
- Do it right the first time
- Finish, do not fatten or grow too long
- The most profitable systems are full of happy & healthy lambs