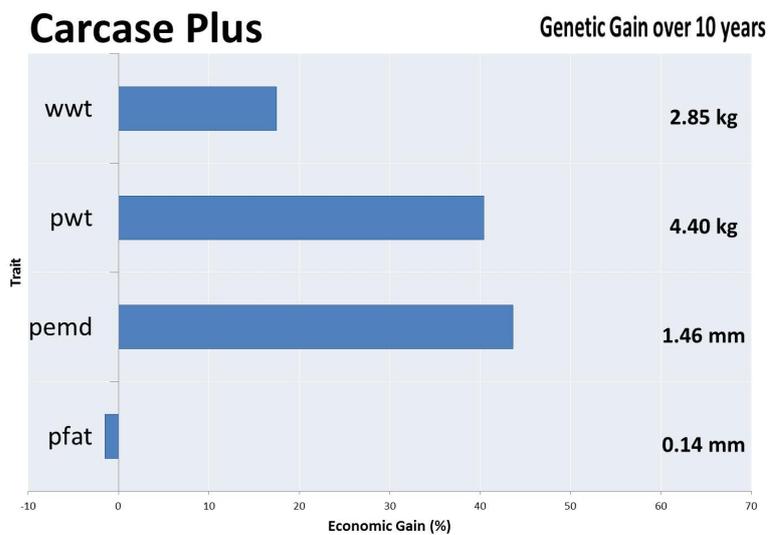


# Terminal Sire Indexes



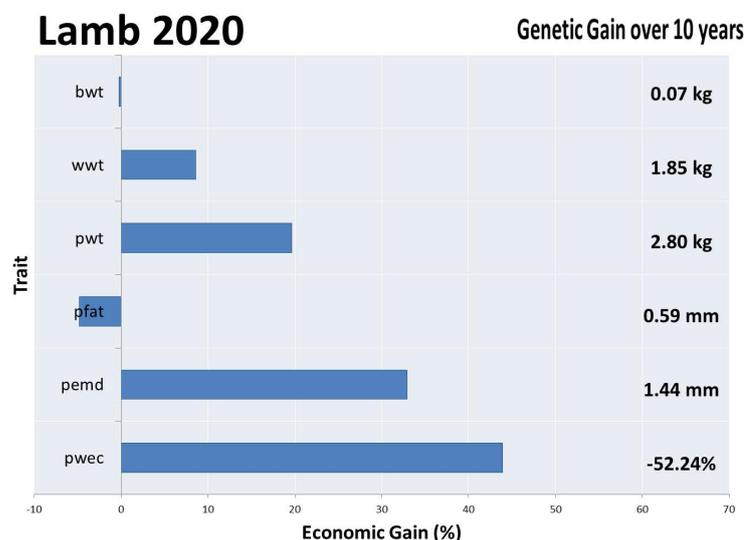
## Carcase Plus

The Carcase Plus index is a desired gains index promoting animals with high growth and muscle, while maintaining carcase leanness. This index identifies high growth animals by the traits for Weaning Weight and Post Weaning Weight and also aims to recognise carcase traits by rewarding for increased Eye Muscle Depth. It also puts a small emphasis on Fat Depth to maintain a level of leanness.



## Lamb 2020

The Lamb 2020 index has a similar weighting and aims for growth, muscle and fat as the carcase plus index however it also incorporates the traits for birth weight and worm egg count. The aim being to moderate birth weight and increase worm resistance.



From this graph, there are several important points to note.

- Despite a negative emphasis on birth weight, birth weight still increases by 0.07kg over 10 years. This is due to the positive correlations that exists between growth and birth weight
- Despite a negative emphasis on fat, fat increases slightly by 0.59 mm over 10 years. This is a direct result of the higher emphasis on muscle and WEC

LAMB 2020 is a dollar index and therefore reflects the improvement in lamb dollar value. For example, a sire with a LAMB 2020 index of \$113 will, on average, sire lambs that are worth \$3 more per head than a sire with a LAMB 2020 index of \$110.

This index is best suited to terminal sire breeders whose clients are targeting a 22 kg lamb carcass, from either Merino or 1<sup>st</sup> cross ewes and where worms may be a significant challenge to lamb production.

## Trade \$ and Export \$

The Trade \$ and Export \$ indexes are essentially fat optimisation indexes. They aim to highlight animals that are more appropriately suited to either the trade weight (roughly 19kg carcass) or export weight (roughly 26 kg carcass) ends of the market.

Parameters	Trade \$	Export \$
<b>Carcass wt. target</b>	19kg	26kg
<b>PWT target</b>	≥ +10	≥ +10
<b>PFAT target</b>	Optimised at 0	Optimised at -1.5
<b>PEMD target</b>	≥ 1	≥ 1

While production of lambs for any market requires appropriate leanness, it is recognised that for the earlier finishing trade weight lambs, excessive leanness is undesirable due to potential difficulties in finishing. Conversely, export weight lambs that are likely to be grown out for a longer period of time need to ensure there is not excess fat that is undesirable to the processor and an inefficient use of feed during production.

These indexes are designed to meet different breeding objectives. They are simply a guide to assist animal selection, however when doing so commercial and seedstock producers should first consider their own breeding objective. This will involve considering your current ewe base, the environment they are run in and the target market for their progeny.