

Sustainable Merino (SM)

Summary of Sustainable Merino index

- The Sustainable Merino index is based on a production system where the majority of income is from sheepmeat production, but there is still a large focus on wool clip and quality.
- SM focuses on genetic improvement of fleece weight, fibre diameter, and reproduction.
- A focus has also been placed on reducing wrinkle, and increasing growth and lean meat yield.

Production system outline

The Sustainable Merino index is suitable for a self-replacing Merino flock where wethers are sold at a post-weaning age stage, off shears. The majority of income in this production system is from the sale of sheepmeat, but there is a strong focus on fleece weight, fibre diameter and reproduction, as well as growth and lean meat yield, and the reduction of wrinkle.

Trait contributions

Figure 1 illustrates the relative contribution of each trait in the Sustainable Merino index. These have been developed on an updated economic model reflecting 5-year averages from 2018 to 2023.

More information

For more information on the Merino research indexes, please scan the QR code, or go to the link: <https://www.sheepgenetics.org.au/news/research-indexes/>

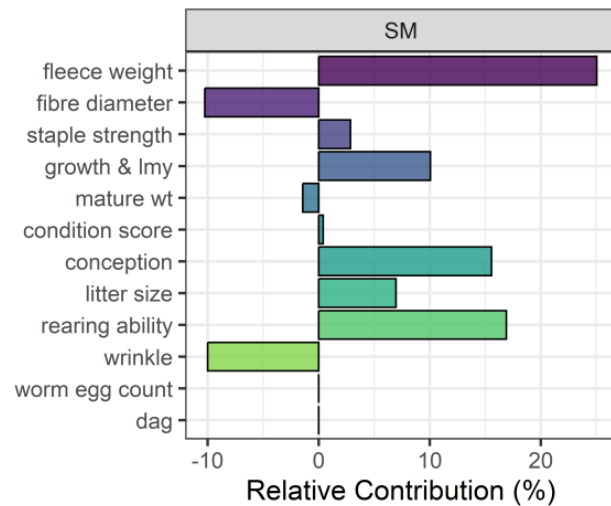


Figure 1: relative economic weighting of trait groups within Sustainable Merino

