

Benefit of correct cultivar - sheep

Renew pasture

Sow

High quality seed, with genetics matching your renewal goals, is the smart investment. Often we come across farmers who choose ‘cheap’ seed that ends up having costly consequences. This example shows why. **So-called cheap seed saves $315/ha at sowing, but $4730/ha is potentially lost in a ewe breeding enterprise, or $5540/ha in a lamb finishing system over the next three years.**

We compare *Array* with *NEA2* endophyte (*Agricote* treated), versus uncertified ryegrass, over three years. The first example runs more ewes; the second finishes lambs faster. Array is assumed to yield 3 t DM/ha more than uncertified ryegrass, which is conservative, based on trial information.

Example: breeding ewe system

	Certified *Array*	Uncertified ryegrass	Difference
Cost	$400/ha (20 kg/ha at $19.95[1])	$85/ha (20 kg/ha at $4.30/kg[1])	$265/ha
Income			
Year 1	14,000 kg DM/ha	11,000 kg DM/ha	
Year 2	14,000 kg DM/ha	11,000 kg DM/ha	
Year 3	14,000 kg DM/ha	11,000 kg DM/ha	
Total gross margin (GM)[2]	42,000 kg DM/ha / 660 kg DM/ewe x $ 370/ewe = $23,545/ha	33,000 kg DM/ha / 660 kg DM/ewe x $ 370ewe = $18,500/ha	$5045
Net extra GM from *Array* (less seed cost)			$4730/ha
Internal rate of return difference from using *Array*			531%

[1] Approximate retail prices July 2026.

[2] Gross margin (GM) = $370/ewe (This is based on income: 1.2 lambs @ $200/lamb, plus cull ewe income @ $145, plus 5 kg wool @ $3/kg. Less expenses: freight $2.5, animal health $7, shearing expenses $6, ram purchase 20% of rams (1:50 service) @ $1000 (=$5), interest 5% on capital (=$10).

Example: lamb finishing system

	Certified *Array*	Uncertified ryegrass	Difference
Cost	$400/ha[3] (20 kg/ha at $19.95)	$85/ha[3] (20 kg/ha at $4.30/kg)	$315ha
Income			
Lamb production	200 g/day @ 31 lambs/ha[4]	175 g/day @ 26 lambs/ha[4]	
Turn round time	60 days per 'crop' of lambs[5]	69 days per 'crop' of lambs[5]	
Trades per year	5	4.4	
Total lambs	5 trades/year x 3 years = 15 trades x 31 lambs (SR) = 465 lambs/ha	4.4 trades/year x 3 years = 13.2 trades x 26 lambs (SR) = 343 lambs/ha	
Total gross margin over 3 years[6]	465 lambs/ha traded x $48/hd = $22,320	343 lambs/ha traded x $48/hd = $16,465	$5855/ha
		Net GM from *Array NEA2* (less seed cost)	$5540/ha
		Internal rate of return difference from using *Array*	618%

[3] Approximate retail prices July 2026.

[4] Increased lamb growth & stocking rate (SR) with *Array NEA2* due to increased DM yield and shoulder period growth (3t DM/ha from NFVT trials), improved nutritive value (0.24 MJME/kgDM from NFVT trials), later heading (+16 days) and low aftermath heading.

[5] Based on a 300-day lamb finishing system, faster lamb growths on *Array NEA2* allows an extra 36 days/year finishing and higher stocking rate.

[6] Gross margin (GM) for lamb $48/head (Based on income: 36 kg LW lamb at 46% yield gives a 16.6 kg CCWT @ $11/kg CCWT =$182.60, plus 1.1 kg wool @ $3/kg =$3.40. Less expenses: lamb purchase $130, freight $2, animal health $2, shearing $3, interest $1).