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LambEx26 AMPC Carcase Showcase Guidelines

Demonstrating excellence in Australian Lamb Production

The LambEx26 AMPC Carcase Showcase will demonstrate excellence across diverse Australian lamb production systems through collaborative learning rather than competition. This innovative program builds on the hugely successful LambEx24 AMPC Carcase Competition, which established an ongoing carcase analysis initiative. In 2026, the Showcase will shift the focus towards showcasing different production pathways towards optimum eating quality as well as producer education for LambEx delegates.

The Showcase recognises that the strength of Australia's lamb industry lies in its diversity, from grass-fed systems in high rainfall zones to feedlot finishing in grain growing areas. Instead of determining winners, we will highlight the many pathways to producing quality lamb, whilst demonstrating how modern assessment technology can create fairer, more transparent pricing systems. With 2,000 delegates anticipated, the Showcase will help build understanding of the factors that influence lamb eating quality and will create lasting resources that promote best practice across the industry.

Key Dates

SA/VIC/NSW/QLD:

- **Applications open (Prior Entrants):** 17th September 2025
- **Applications open (All Entrants):** 19th September 2025
- **Applications close:** 12th October 2025
- **Processing windows:**
 - **November/December 2025** (specific weeks to be confirmed)
 - **February/March 2026** (specific weeks to be confirmed)

WA:

- **Applications open (All Entrants):** 3rd November 2025
- **Applications close:** 23rd November 2025
- **Processing:** 9th March 2026 delivery, for 10th March processing

Contact Information

For further information, please contact:

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Program Vision & Core Principles

There are five (5) core principles that will guide the LambEx26 Carcase Showcase:

1. Demonstrating strengths and innovation

The Showcase will highlight specific strengths and innovations rather than competing for overall superiority. The entries encompass more than just the lambs – they tell the complete story and system behind them. Three (3) to four (4) nominated producers will be asked to share their stories and champion best practice points of interest to LambEx delegates.

2. Education as the foundation

The educational focus ensures that all LambEx delegates will experience comprehensive carcase analysis and engage in direct dialogue with value chain participants. Video documentation submitted by participants, combined with expert commentary, and deep dive educational workshops will create permanent educational resources that extend learning beyond the LambEx event.

3. Collaboration across the value chain

Industry collaboration brings together participants across the value chain with the common goal of producing and marketing lambs with carcase traits and eating quality reflective of customer preferences in accordance with MLA's MSA Guidelines.

4. Showcasing the impact of genetics

The impact of genetics will be on display, with producers able to evaluate their carcase results in relation to their current ram team ASBV's for carcase traits. A meta-analysis of entrant data will also be undertaken to identify trends and highlight knowledge proven in scientific trials.

5. Highlighting nutrition and management

The Showcase will emphasise the importance of nutrition and management through the demonstration of a range of pathways currently used by producers to achieve optimum eating quality.



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Program Structure

The program will involve:

- **Consignments:** Groups of 100 lambs per entry, enabling processing efficiency and meaningful statistical assessment. Lambs may be consigned either directly from farm-to-processor or through a commercial feedlot (to be organised by the individual producer).
- **Transport:** Individual producers are responsible for arranging transport of their consignment to their assigned processor on the assigned delivery date.
- **Documentation:** There must be a willingness to document, share knowledge and learn from the feedback provided by the showcase. Producers must document their production protocols including genetics, nutrition, health management, and processing preparation (including eID scanning and weight recording). It is a requirement that all delivered lambs are accompanied by a National Vendor Declaration and a Animal Health Statement.
- **Use of eID:** All consigned lambs will need an active working electronic identification ear tag (eID) for the duration of the Showcase.
- **Showcasing Producer Stories:** The stories of selected entrants and their lambs will be captured on video and linked to their processing performance. Short videos will be used to promote best practice during and after the LambEx conference. Entrants will also be asked to submit phone-captured video of lambs at loading. This will be in addition to video footage captured in the weeks leading up to processing.
- **Processing Facilities:** Three processors are supporting the LambEx26 Carcase Showcase across four (4) facilities that are equipped with the necessary equipment to allow MSA grading . The MLA MSA team will be responsible for applying MSA grading to all lambs processed as part of the showcase using AUS-MEAT accredited devices only.
- **Timing:** Processing will occur over two designated delivery months (final days to be confirmed) at each facility, with timing chosen to accommodate different turnoff patterns and seasonal variation.



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Processing and Carcase Assessment

Processors

The LambEx26 AMPC Carcase Showcase will partner with three (3) leading processors – Gundagai Meat Processors (GMP), JBS Foods Australia (JBS) and WAMMCO. Participants will be able to nominate their preferred processing facility from the following sites:

- JBS Brooklyn (VIC)
- JBS Bordertown (SA)
- Gundagai Meat Processors (NSW)
- WAMMCO Katanning (WA)

Processors reserve the right to refuse any entry if lambs do not meet their criteria.

Target Market Specifications

The target carcase specifications are as follows:

- 22 – 32kg (ideally 26kg)
- Minimum Fat Score 2 (6ml GR)

Producer Engagement Sessions

Before the conference (April–June), producer engagement sessions will be held at participating processing facilities. These will enable entrants to:

- Observe assessment technology in operation;
- Receive technical information on pathways to improve eating quality; and
- Participate in peer-to-peer learning.

Selected producers from these sessions will be invited to share their stories at LambEx26. Sessions will be supported by processing staff, livestock advisers and the MLA MSA team.



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Data Capture and Documentation

Where possible, entrants will capture and submit growth data from the six weeks leading up to slaughter. Complete production system documentation will include:

- Genetic background and breeding decisions;
- Nutrition and health management protocols, and
- Time off feed, time in transport, and time in lairage.

Entrants will also be required to:

- Undertake eID scanning on-farm prior to processor delivery to ensure that all lambs in the consignment have working eID tags that can be read.
- Send their eID data file to LambEx for cross reference, which:
 - May include on-farm weight data on the lambs 6 weeks prior to processing (preferable but not mandatory)
 - Will include on-farm weight data (matched to eID) on the lambs within 36 hours of processing (mandatory)

This information will form part of the meta-analysis undertaken across all entrants, with key trends highlighted during the LambEx26 Carcase showcase session.

Objective Carcase Assessment

During processing, each carcase will undergo objective assessment of:

- Intramuscular fat (IMF);
- Lean meat yield (LMY); and
- Carcase weight.

These measures will be combined to produce an MSA Index for each carcase. Where possible, results will be linked back to on-farm weights and growth rates provided via eID. Documentation will include any animal health defects, downgrades, and condemnations.



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Benchmarking and Recognition

Each group of lambs will be benchmarked against the collective dataset. The meta-analysis will examine impacts within and across groups, providing insights for LambEx delegates. Producers may be commended for excellence in specific parameters (e.g., highest MSA grading, strongest lean meat yield), ensuring recognition without declaring overall 'winners'.

Education Content

Professional video will capture will document selected participating production systems (i.e. feedlot, grass-fed), processing procedures, and on-hook demonstrations explaining quality measurements and attributes. Producer interviews will explore management philosophies and decision-making, while expert commentary from the processors and MLA staff will provide technical context and educational value.

The program will use videography to:

- Demonstrate the application of assessment technology to the LambEx audience;
- Link measured differences to consumer preferences; and
- Showcase a range of production system approaches and outcomes.

Case studies will link management decisions to measurable results. Beyond individual producer stories, a meta-analysis will identify patterns across the data set and explore innovative ways to present the findings to industry participants.

The showcase will culminate in a dedicated Carcase Showcase program session at LambEx26, presenting variation in MSA grading and the factors that influence outcomes.



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Anticipated Outcomes and Industry Benefits

For participating producers

- Opportunity to evaluate genetics, nutrition, and management in relation to carcase performance.
- Insights into how breeding and management strategies can be modified to meet future customer demands and improve profitability.
- Benchmarking against diverse production systems.
- Networking and peer learning opportunities.
- Recognition for innovative approaches and best practices.

For LambEx delegates

- Real-world demonstration of processing technology and assessment methods.
- Enhanced understanding of diverse pathways to quality lamb production.
- Direct interaction between producers and processors.
- Access to comprehensive educational materials.

For the broader industry

- A permanent library of educational content showcasing Australian lamb diversity.
- Greater understanding of value chain relationships.
- Demonstration of transparent, technology-based pricing systems.
- Strengthened collaboration between producers, processors, and industry sectors.



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How to Apply

Producers interested in participating in the LambEx26 AMPC Carcase Showcase are invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI).

Application Requirements

Entrants will be asked to provide:

- Contact details and property information.
- Confirmation of preferred processing facility.
- Outline of production system (genetics, nutrition, health management, and preparation for processing).
- Agreement to provide eID-linked liveweights files prior to delivery to plant.
- Consent for video and data capture (with de-identified data for publication).

Application Process

1. Submit your EOI via the online form available on the LambEx website
2. Select your preferred processor from the available facilities: JBS Brooklyn, JBS Bordertown, Gundagai Meat Processors or WAMMCO Katanning.
3. Provide required documentation as outlined above.
4. Applications will be reviewed by the LambEx AMPC Carcase Showcase Sub-Committee and the selected processor.
5. Entrants will be contacted to confirm acceptance and receive further instructions.