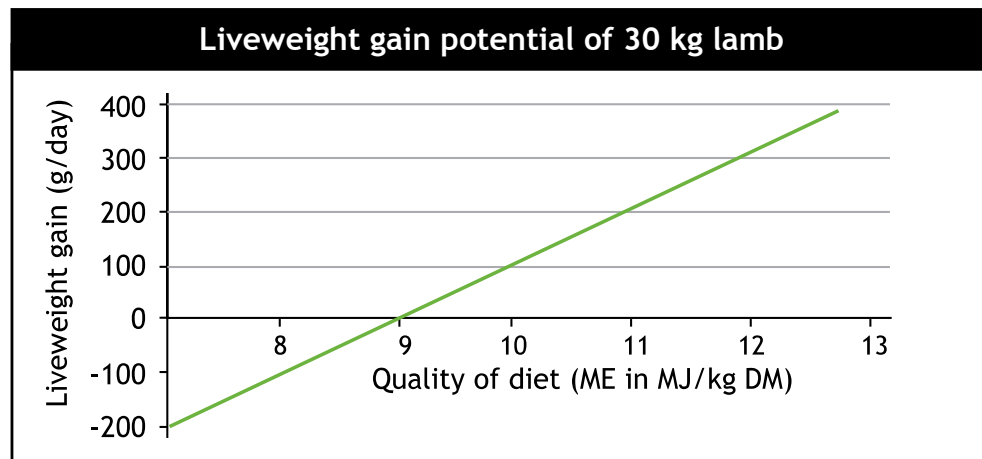


Feed quality and lamb growth

Summary

- Lambs need high quality feed to grow quickly.
- Feed quality is particularly important in November-February, when grasses seed and pastures can burn off in summer dry conditions.

Effect of ME on lamb growth



Source: A guide to improved lamb growth, NZ Sheep Council, 2000

For high weight gains, lambs need a diet with an ME higher than 11. This means green, leafy pastures, with low levels of dead matter or stem, and preferably high levels of clover. (See page 86 for typical ME levels.)

In summer dry areas high quality summer feed may be best supplied by clover dominant pasture, lucerne or brassicas.

Feed with an ME under 9 will not grow lambs. This includes all hay, moderate quality silage, and stemmy or dead pasture.

