

Ag tech Optiweigh - All you need to know



What is an Optiweigh unit?

An Optiweigh unit is a portable automatic system for weighing livestock in the paddock.

It is a passive way of collecting real-time stock weights, without the cost of labour and is stress free for both the farm manager and the livestock. The unit is portable to monitor stock growth between paddocks. By providing real-time data, timely decisions can be made to improve productivity.

The cattle unit is a single bay unit. The sheep unit is a double bay unit.

How does it work?

By using a supplement or attractant, cattle or sheep, are enticed into the weighing crate, their electronic ID tag is scanned and weight data recorded. Data is then transmitted to the cloud-based platform to be accessed by the farm manager.

Data can be used to monitor the average weight and average daily gain of the mob/flock through an Optiweigh dashboard. Data is accessed on a mobile app, computer dashboard and daily email updates.

Installation and power

Optiweigh is towable on farm, and therefore easy to move between paddocks.

Power is supplied through a solar panel and battery.

Cost

Optiweigh has an upfront cost for the unit (around \$17,500 + GST + delivery) with ongoing data subscription fees (around \$240 + GST per unit per year).

Who is Optiweigh

Optiweigh units are Australian made and owned, manufactured in Armidale NSW. Sales commenced in 2019 and units have been sold around Australia.

Benefits

The power in the Optiweigh is in the ability to make informed decisions that impact productivity.

This includes the ability to:

- better meet target sale specifications, identify weight gain limitations (eg from animal health issues),
- assist with grazing management decisions, and
- identify differences in weight gains between paddocks, pastures, land types and supplements.

By improving production efficiency, emissions on-farm can also be reduced.

Why is Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu trialling Optiweigh units?

Optimising growth rates and shortening the time it takes to reach market weight is not only good for production efficiency, but it also helps to reduce emissions, and emissions intensity per kg/liveweight.

When working with landholders to calculate emissions on their farm, a key gap in data, is stock weights. This is because it takes effort to bring stock to the yards, weigh the animals and record results; and therefore, it is not done frequently. It can also mean decisions around stock weight are delayed.

An in-paddock, real-time, and passive way to collect this information makes sense.

Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu has purchased two Optiweigh Units – one for sheep and one for cattle as part of the Climate Smart Agriculture Program. Between July 2025 and June 2028, the Optiweigh Units will travel the region and be hosted and trialled on various farms.

What is emissions intensity per kg/liveweight?

Emissions intensity per kg/liveweight is a measure of greenhouse gas emissions produced per unit of animal weight. It is calculated by dividing the total greenhouse gas emissions (measured in kg of CO₂ equivalent) produced during the animals' life by its final liveweight at the time of sale.

How can I find out more?

We will be holding several demonstration field days and will put together some case studies. Stay tuned as we roll out the units on farm and capture farmer experiences. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Donna Bartsch, Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator – Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu by email Donna.Bartsch@sa.gov.au or call 08 8391 7500.

Further information

Further information is available through Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu

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