



AN ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF

FACTORS AFFECTING THE RATE OF GROWTH

OF THE AUSTRALIAN SHEEP POPULATION

A Thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements

for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

by

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March, 1970

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This thesis was supervised by Professor F.G. Jarrett whose help and encouragement is much appreciated. The assistance of Mr. P.D. Praetz in the preparation of the Monte-Carlo study of the Powell-Gruen CET supply model is gratefully acknowledged.

In addition to published data, further unpublished data were provided by the Bureau of Census and Statistics and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The writer is especially indebted to Mr. E.J. Waring and Mr. G.M. Scobie of the B.A.E. for their interest in data problems.

All computer programs were written by Mr. L.A. Ward and most of the desk calculations were undertaken by Mrs. J. Simmons. My thanks are also due to Mrs. Christine Leckie for her careful typing of the manuscript.

Finally, I would like to thank the Australian Wool Board for their generous Research Fellowship and other financial assistance throughout the duration of the study.

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SUMMARY

The scope and aims of the thesis are discussed in a brief Introduction. The first chapter of the thesis describes the structure of the Australian sheep industry; it emphasizes important characteristics of the outputs and alternative products of various states and regions. There is also a discussion of historical movements in the location of the sheep population and changes in the composition of output. Chapter 2 discusses the theoretical and practical problems of empirical livestock supply analysis, possible analytical techniques and the results of some previous work on supply responses within the Australian sheep industry. The results are also presented of a Monte-Carlo experiment with the Powell-Gruen method of estimating supply elasticities based on the concept of production possibility curves. Chapter 3 describes the development of a simulation model for supply analysis. The application of simulation techniques to supply analysis follows from the conclusions drawn in Chapter 2. Chapter 4 presents results of the application of the simulation model. Chapter 5 is concerned with the analysis of sheep trading activities based on data from about 200 farms for which continuous records were available from 1952-53 to 1962-63 from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as well as published statistics. The conclusions of the thesis are in Chapter 6. Some statistical tables and results have been included in appendices.

This Thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any University; to the best of my knowledge and belief this Thesis contains no material previously published or written by another person except where due reference is made in the text.

Signed: _____

A.S. Watson