

## Background Information

- With a challenge around sourcing weaners we needed to objectively compare buying in weaners with breeding them ourselves
- Both price and access to weaners was the challenge

## Process

I put together a simple spreadsheet to compare the options and presented it to our Advance Party for some feedback and discussion

We had a robust discussion and agreed the principal of the analysis with the ability to modify the inputs for the different market conditions

By analysing the process I was more comfortable with making a significant decision on farm which was a longer term decision and could not be quickly changed

## What was done

<i>Breeding</i>		<i>Finishing</i>	
<b>Income</b>		<b>Income</b>	
Weaning Weigh (kgLW)	65	Carcus Weight	58
\$/kg	6	Schedule/kg CW	\$9.00
Fawning % (to stag)	92%	Death Rate	1%
Gross Income	\$359	Net income	\$516.78
		Weight	65
		\$/kgLW	6
Marginal Cost	\$65	Weaner Cost	390
Net margin per head	\$294	Net Margin	\$126.78
Intake per day (kgDM)	3.7	Intake per day (kgDM)	2.8
Days	365	Days	180
Total feed Eaten	1351	Total feed Eaten	504
Net margin/kgDM	\$0.22	Net margin/kgDM	\$0.25

## Outcomes

- The benefits I see from breeding is a guaranteed supply of weaners, you can control the quality of them, older stock for parasite management, lower work load, lower the winter/early spring feed requirement where our system is under pressure.
- The major disadvantage I see is it changes the feed demand profile which may not fit supply as well.
- End decision is put on more hinds at this stage to keep a balance of deer to cattle numbers and see how they fit the system, and perform on a bigger scale. Also see how this flows on to the finishing. With the expansion of deer numbers again there is also a margin in the hinds even if they were to be sold next year.