

Effect	Level	Trait <sup>1</sup>				
		BW, kg	HCW, kg	DP, %	BFT, mm	LMA, cm <sup>2</sup>
Harvest group <sup>2</sup>	Early '20	55.7 ± 1.9 <sup>a</sup>	25.7 ± 1.1 <sup>a,b</sup>	45.9 ± 1.7 <sup>a,b</sup>	7.98 ± 0.76 <sup>a,b</sup>	15.6 ± 0.7 <sup>b</sup>
	Mid '20	50.3 ± 2.1 <sup>b</sup>	22.5 ± 1.2 <sup>a,b</sup>	45.0 ± 1.8 <sup>b</sup>	6.97 ± 0.84 <sup>a,b</sup>	15.4 ± 0.8 <sup>a,b</sup>
	Late '20	51.3 ± 1.5 <sup>a,b</sup>	27.8 ± 0.9 <sup>a</sup>	53.8 ± 1.3 <sup>a</sup>	7.65 ± 0.61 <sup>a</sup>	15.5 ± 0.6 <sup>a,b</sup>
	Early '21	50.6 ± 0.9 <sup>b</sup>	24.7 ± 0.5 <sup>a,b</sup>	49.1 ± 0.7 <sup>a,b</sup>	6.14 ± 0.34 <sup>a,b</sup>	17.5 ± 0.3 <sup>a</sup>
	Mid '21	51.1 ± 1.8 <sup>a,b</sup>	26.1 ± 1.0 <sup>a,b</sup>	51.3 ± 1.6 <sup>a,b</sup>	6.04 ± 0.73 <sup>b</sup>	15.4 ± 0.7 <sup>a,b</sup>
	Late '21	48.8 ± 1.6 <sup>a,b</sup>	25.1 ± 0.9 <sup>b</sup>	51.6 ± 1.4 <sup>a,b</sup>	5.25 ± 0.63 <sup>b</sup>	15.0 ± 0.6 <sup>b</sup>
Rearing type	Single	51.8 ± 0.6	25.2 ± 0.4	48.6 ± 0.5 <sup>b</sup>	6.70 ± 0.22	15.8 ± 0.2
	Multiple	50.8 ± 0.6	25.5 ± 0.3	50.3 ± 0.4 <sup>a</sup>	6.64 ± 0.20	15.7 ± 0.2
	Age <sup>3</sup>	0.10 ± 0.05 <sup>*</sup>	ns	-0.10 ± 0.04	ns	ns

<sup>1</sup>BW = body weight at harvest, HCW = hot carcass weight, DP = dressing percentage, BFT = 12<sup>th</sup> rib backfat thickness, LMA = loin muscle area.

<sup>2</sup>Lambs were harvested in groups of 37 to 78 each in 2020 ('20) and 2021 ('21).

<sup>3</sup>Solution for linear covariate of age at harvest, expressed as trait unit/d.

<sup>a,b</sup>Means within a trait and effect with no common superscript are different ( $P \leq 0.05$ ).

<sup>\*</sup>Linear covariate of age at harvest is significantly different from zero ( $P \leq 0.03$ ).

ns = linear covariate of age at harvest is not different from zero ( $P \geq 0.89$ ).