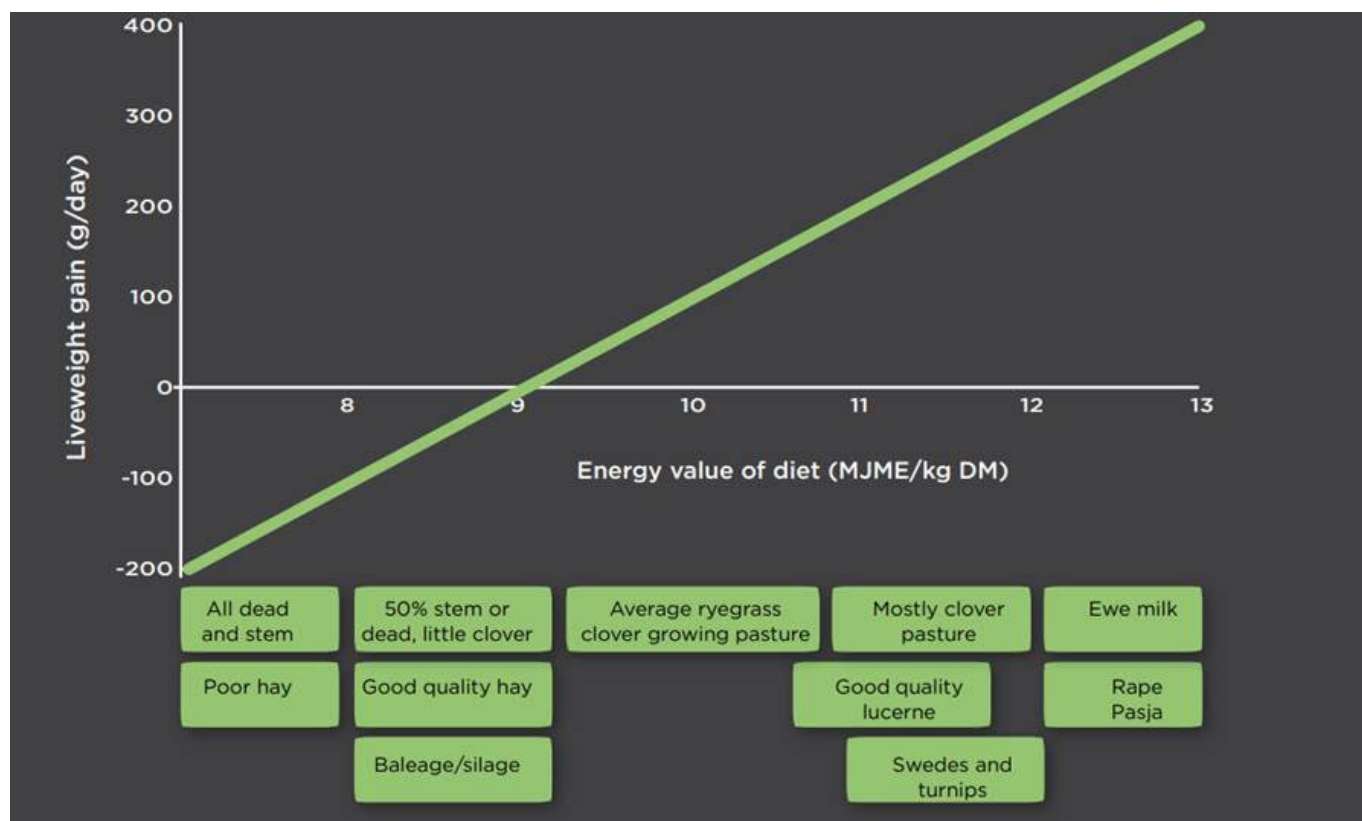


Ewe Nutrition and Lamb Growth

I always find the graph below a useful reminder that ewe milk is the highest energy feed lambs will consume. Therefore, managing the early to mid-lactation window well is highly influential to cost-effective lamb growth rates.

This depends on:

- Ewe condition – fit ewes produce more milk.
- Quality and quantity of grass in front of the ewes – prioritise the best grazing for them and avoid grazing lower than 5 cm.
- Legumes, as shown below as clover percentage reduces, the lamb growth rate declines.



Graph taken from [Beef and Lamb NZ Growing Great Lambs](#). Nb. Pasja is rape-turnip hybrid

From 6 weeks old, a twin lamb's dry matter intake from pasture will equal the milk intake, however this *often* equates to a third of the metabolisable energy intake depending on the pasture quality. Another reason to prioritise pasture quality for the twin group. (Remember suckler cows are better converters of poor-quality grass than sheep, treat the sheep like a dairy cow.)

From this point, start looking ahead, if you plan to graze lambs on novel forages, they will benefit from being introduced to this forage pre-weaning where practical – they learn from their mothers. If mineral deficiencies are an issue blood test to confirm. Treating from 8 weeks old should benefit their growth rates.