RED MEAT UPDATES
TASMANIA

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Using individual animal management to maximize profit and efficiency

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The Basics of eID

- Based around an RFID tag with an individual 16-digit number
- Tags come with a ‘bucket file’. This file links all the tags in an order that can be uploaded into data management devices and the NLIS
- Data attached to these tags will follow the animal for the rest of its life

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Don’t over complicate it

- Once the tag is in the animal, you can record any data you want, data is permanently linked to the eID tag and its 16 digit number
- There are scale heads all around the country that are full of millions of pieces of information about animals, but only a small amount of this data is used to improve outcomes

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A clear objective for data is key

- Identifying the right objective for your enterprise is key to maximising returns
- This objective allows you to collect data that is relevant
- Examples of data collection include
  - Pregnancy scanning
  - Fleece weight
  - Micron
  - Condition score
  - Weight gains

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It’s not just about the sheep

- Data collected can be transferred to decisions in other areas of the farm
  - Crop/pasture rotations
  - Fertilizer programs
  - Fencing/Shelter
  - Irrigation decisions
  - Drench Rotations

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Investing in the Technology

- There are different ways to set your enterprise up for eID
  - Buy the equipment outright
  - Buy the equipment in shares with other similar businesses
  - Utilize a 3rd party to collect the data

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Investing in the technology

Entry Level Costs

Gallagher		Tru Test		Combi-Clamp
TW3	$2,640	ID 5000	$2,150	
HR4 Reader	$1,459	SRS2 Reader	$1,750	
	$4,099		$3,900	$ 7,300

High End Costs

Gallagher		Tru Test		Pratley 3 Way Auto
TSI	$5,613	XR 5000	$4,481	
Panel Reader	$1,337	XRP Reader	$3,395	
	$6,950		$7,876	$ 19,763

Tag costs range from $1 to $1.50 depending on brand

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Returns in a Merino enterprise

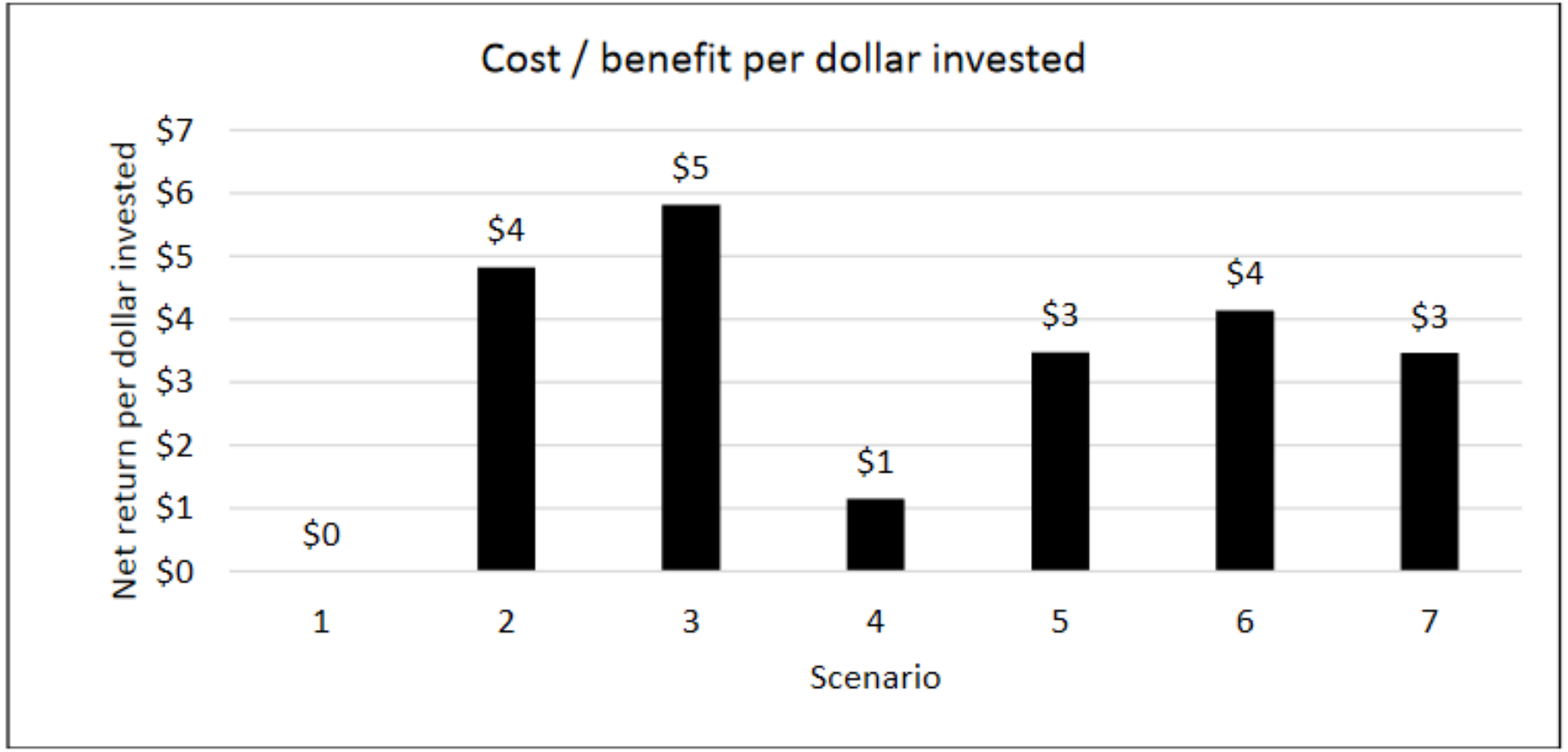

Figure 2 - Cost/benefit of utilising eID under each different scenario for Merino enterprises, showing the net return per dollar invested in collecting data.

Returns in a XB/composite enterprise

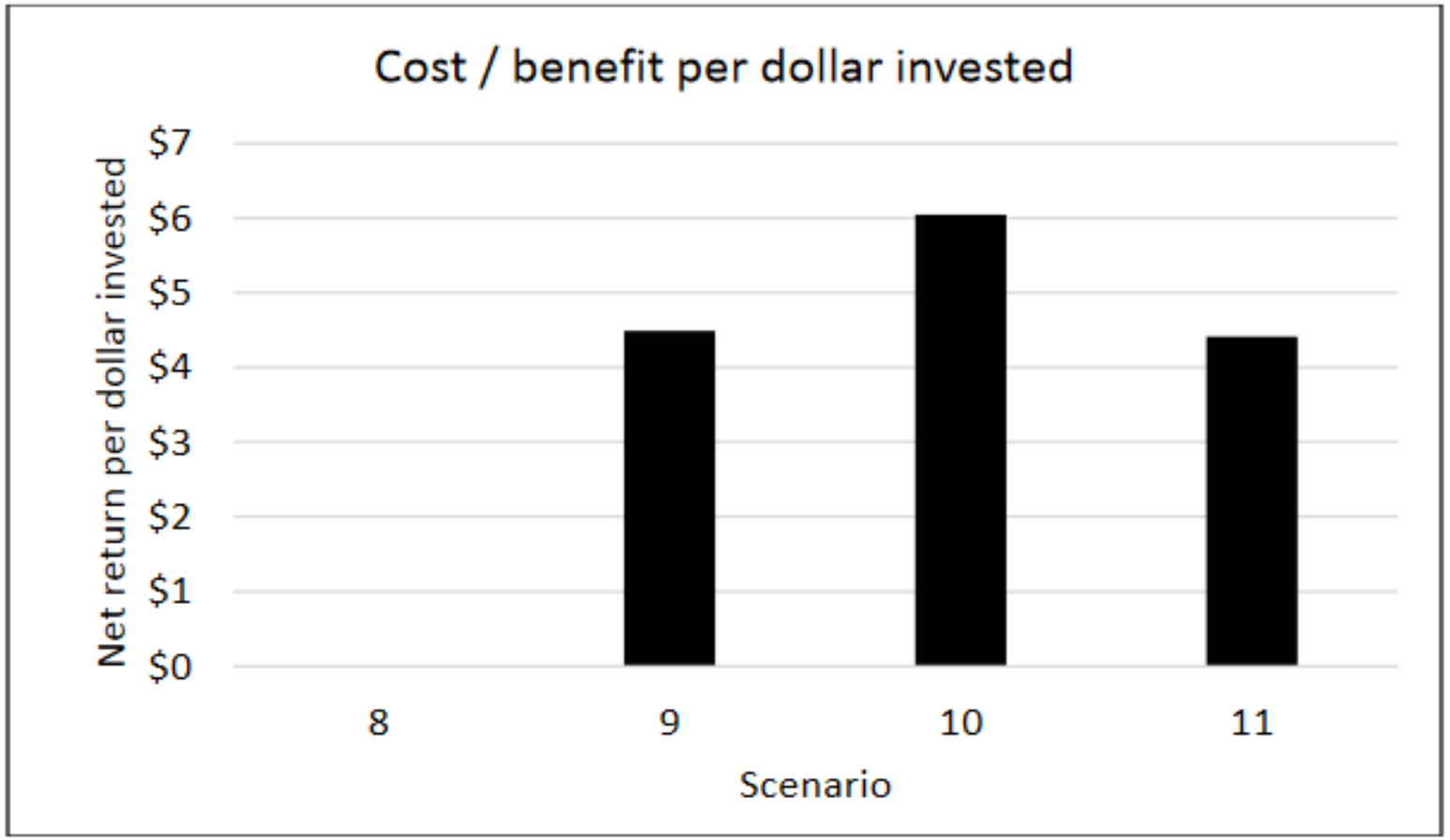

Figure 4 - Cost/benefit of utilising eID under each scenario for crossbred/composite enterprises, sho
dollar invested in collecting data.

Dickson, H, May 2019

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Return on Investment

Using data from an MLA study in 2016 that investigated incorporating eID into two merino flocks in central west NSW, it was estimated to have a less than three-year payback just on hogget shearing alone ($7,850 invested)

(Gardner, M, October 2016)

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Efficiency is key

- Utilising eID takes out the human error and time taken to collect data using manual techniques like visual tag numbers
- Technology like auto drafters enables labour efficiencies
- Utilising the data is faster and more accurate than manual capture techniques

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Creating traceability

- Utilising eID technology creates lifetime traceability in your flock.
- Even if you don’t use all the data straight away, it is still there.
- Traceability leads to better biosecurity for you business, less risk and better market access.

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Top three take home messages

1. Identify what you want to measure
2. Collect the right data
3. Use the data to make good decisions

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Tools, resources & training

- Use your local rural service provider to get the right equipment
- MLA has a raft of research papers on eID implementation and its benefits https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/search-rd-reports/
- Local knowledge. Talk to a farmer who is using the technology, find out what works for them

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