



**OPTIWEIGH**  
MAKING IT BETTER

# UNLOCKING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF YOUR OPTIWEIGH: GETTING STARTED GUIDE





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We get lots of interesting feedback here about how Optiweigh units are helping with decision making - and we want to share these with our community to help everyone achieve the gains that automated weight monitoring can deliver.

**Bill Mitchell, Founder**

## INTRODUCTION

Optiweigh is revolutionizing livestock management with its innovative approach to on-the-go, in-paddock weighing.

This advanced system saves time and resources, enabling livestock producers to make data-driven decisions without the need for conventional weighing methods. The accuracy of Optiweigh has been proven both in field situations and in published research papers.

This guide will delve into the benefits, common pitfalls to avoid, and practical strategies to help you get the best results from an Optiweigh unit.





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## BENEFITS OF OPTIWEIGH

### 1. Efficiency Gains:

- Drastically reduces time spent on livestock weighing, eliminating the time and cost associated with yard weighing.
- Enhances productivity by allowing more data to be collected without the animal stress and weight loss associated with yard weighing.

### 2. Accurate Decision-Making:

- Provides accurate and reliable weight data, facilitating better decisions regarding feed, health, and breeding management.
- Highly sensitive weight change information that can provide early warning signals.
- Supports strategic planning for market-ready livestock

### 3. Improved Productivity:

- Real-time feedback on management decisions impacting growth rates provides the opportunity to take corrective action more quickly.
- Knowledge learned about factors impacting weight gain can be used in future years to boost weight gains and more efficiently utilise pastures.

### 4. Multiple and Flexible Application:

- Both sheep and cattle variations available.

- Application in breeding, backgrounding, finishing and feedlot situations.
- Units can be used for spot weight checks or for continuous monitoring.

### 5. Improved staff safety and improved animal welfare

- Less staff time spent in a high-risk environment.
- Less stress on the animals and more time spent in their natural environment.





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## PITFALLS TO AVOID

### 1. Improper Setup:

- Incorrect installation can lead to inaccurate readings and system inefficiencies.
- Ensure the unit is positioned on level ground and avoid overly muddy or uneven terrain.
- Make sure the area around the load bars and platform is regularly checked for build up of obstacles and dirt/mud. Clean around the area regularly and check/zero the scales using the Optiweigh App.

### 2. Not engaging the whole farm team:

- Poor results can arise when the people responsible for looking after the unit aren't engaged with the information being generated.
- Creating the impression that the information is going to replace the skills of an experienced stock manager will also lead to disengagement.

### 3. Misinterpretation of Data:

- Weight fluctuations might occur due to environmental factors or inadequate sample size.
- Ensure the sample size is adequate and review individual animal measurements to confirm data rather than relying on single summary number.
- The weight reported by Optiweigh is a "Full" weight and there are many factors that can contribute to 'shrink' when comparing to static weights.

### 4. Over-Reliance on Technology:

- While Optiweigh is a powerful tool, it should complement and enhance, not replace, good livestock management skills.



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## GETTING THE BEST RESULTS

### 1. Use the Right Attractant and Keep it Topped Up:

- Optiweigh units need to have a good attractant and it needs regular replenishment.
- Sweet dry-licks are usually the best – particularly the one available from Agricon called Optiweigh Attractant (available through many rural resellers).
- Other attractants that have been used to good effect include molasses blocks, salt blocks and liquid molasses.
- Take the time to work out what attractant works best in your situation, keep a good stock of it on-hand and make sure you take some with you when checking or moving the unit.

### 2. Make Sure Enough Animals are Being Weighed:

- 15 + animals per day will give a highly accurate sample for most mobs – regardless of mob size.
- The bigger the range of weights in the mob the more animals need to be weighed to ensure accuracy. A 100kg weight range needs 20 animals while a 200kg weight range needs 65 animals (divide by 10 for sheep!).

- Even very large mobs can be accurately sampled with a single unit over a large area.

### 3. Look at the Detailed Data:

- Use the Daily Email and the Optiweigh App for both peace of mind and early warning alerts.
- Go to the Optiweigh website to dig deeper into the data and view individual animal information.
- Download the data or use our free API to integrate the Optiweigh data with other farm data for more powerful decision making.

### 4. Utilise the Service of the Optiweigh Support Team:

If you have queries with the data we have the experience and expertise to help you understand how the numbers are calculated and what they mean.

All the units and components are made in-house at our premises in Armidale. Our team is here to help and all parts are easily swapped-out.



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**Optiweigh offers livestock producers an efficient, accurate, and welfare-conscious solution for managing livestock weights. By understanding the benefits and potential challenges, and implementing best practices, you can unlock the full potential of your unit.**

**Make smarter decisions, save time, and elevate your livestock management with Optiweigh.**

