

ASHEEP NEWS



Case Studies: New Cattle Committee Members

ASHEEP interviews Amy Forrester and Nick Ruddenklau

The ASHEEP Cattle Committee has recently welcomed two new members, Amy Forrester (Jimberlana and Rancho West) and Nicholas Ruddenklau (Epasco Farms). Thanks to both for giving us an insight into their respective farming operations.

Jimberlana and Rancho West

Amy Forrester manages and operates two certified organic beef properties, Jimberlana and Rancho West, located east of Esperance. The farms run 1500 - 1700 head of mixed Black Angus and Charolais cattle, many of which are destined to fetch a premium price thanks to their organic status. Operating an organic system brings a range of benefits, but also its own challenges. These include restrictions around methods of weed control, pasture management and animal treatments. It was great to have the opportunity to steal Amy away from work and study (she's in the middle of a Masters of Ag Business Management) to learn more about her background and the beef operation.

Tell us a bit about your farming system.

Jimberlana and Rancho West are part of a family run business, which also includes two pastoral properties located on the Nullarbor. All our properties have been converted to Certified Organic Status. We produce not only cattle destined for the organic market but also cattle that go through the conventional market. On our Esperance properties we breed, grow and finish Black Angus and Charolais cattle. I run the two farming properties primarily on my own, however I have seasonal staff to assist during busy times at seeding, calf marking, etc.

Image: Murrey Grey Brahman X cattle from the Forrester family's Nullarbor stations, brought down to be backgrounded on their Esperance farms. Continued over page.

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What was your background in farming prior to arriving in Esperance?

I grew up on my family's cattle stations on the Nullarbor before heading to Perth for school and university. Growing up on the station, myself and my siblings were just part of the crew and always helped with stock work, water runs and mustering whenever we could. I returned home after uni to our stations and worked there for two years before moving to Esperance. I began with a part-time role on the farms before stepping up to become the sole caretaker, manager and full-time farm hand for the operation. I have worked with cattle my whole life and the majority of my experience lays in cattle and livestock handling.

Do you run Black Angus and Charolais across all your family's properties?

The pastoral properties run a mix of primarily Murrey Grey and Murrey Grey / Brahman cross cattle. The Esperance properties run a mixed cow breeding herd of Black Angus and Charolais cross. The herd was mixed with Black Angus and Charolais bulls when purchased but we have moved away from the Charolais influence. We now focus only on joining with Black Angus bulls, primarily purchased from the south west.



What drove the decision to convert to organic?

Transferring to certified organic had always been a goal for my parents on the cattle stations. They saw an opportunity to differentiate and create an opportunity for premium price gain. The pastoral properties were already pasture input free and the cattle treatments were basic. As these properties were already established in the organic system, when the Esperance farms were purchased it was important to keep them in line with the rest of the production system and to make the transfer to certified organic despite the challenges. As well as fetching a premium price, our business values sustainability, and being solely cattle producers, do not place importance on high pasture inputs comprising of chemicals and synthetic fertilisers.

What area of the market do you target?

Currently our organic product is sold through to the local domestic supermarket chains into their generic certified organic product. We also put livestock through the conventional system into feedlots. Our focus in the organic market is to produce and finish a high-quality grass finished animal that meets consumer desires and encourages increased demand.

What are the challenges to running an organic system on the Esperance properties?

Disease and worm control pose problems, which we try to combat through rotational grazing, mineral licks and early identification of worm burdens.

Farm Snapshot

Location: Cape Le Grand Rd and Merivale Road, east of Esperance

Av. Annual Rainfall: 550-600mm

Enterprise Mix: Certified Organic Beef Cattle, Organic Hay (for fodder)

Feedbase: Kikuyu, clover, serradella and rye grass pastures

Soil type: Sand, with mixture of gravel and clay in some areas

Stock: 1500-1700 head of mixed Black Angus and Charolais cattle. (Approx. 700 breeder cows/heifers)



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Annual vaccinations such as 5in1 and 7in1 are an allowable input as it is recognised that they are required to prevent disease, as are mineral supplement injections (e.g. Multimin, Cobalex). To fulfil the requirements of the certification we need to identify that they are required inputs via blood tests, letter from the vet, etc.

Anti-inflammatories, antibiotics or any other prescribed inputs are not allowed. As such, when animals require those kinds of treatments we are required to tag and identify them as now being “non-organic” and quarantine them accordingly.

Biosecurity is particularly important in an organic system, particularly with contractors coming to the property. Measures must be in place to ensure all contracting equipment is cleaned prior arrival.

Another challenge is establishing crops such as hay, which can pose a difficulty given that we have to utilise alternate techniques to suppress pasture growth during the seeding process.

How do you manage through summer and autumn for feed?

Being predominantly kikuyu pasture, with appropriate management we can sustain a sufficient amount of feed over the summer and then we supplement feed when required. Recently we have begun to grow and cut our own hay which gives us an on-farm supply of organic hay to use when required. Generally, we try to reduce numbers over summer and autumn by moving on any dry cows and yearling stock that we do not wish to grow out.

I have begun to conduct some summer pasture seeding trials over the last year or two to try and find a way to establish an alternate feed option to kikuyu without using chemical spray to control the existing pasture. So far nothing has stood out to the competitive nature of kikuyu but each year I trial some new seed and new areas to focus that seeding on.

Is there anything else that you are trialling?

This year I am trialling a different product to use in our pasture management system called NutriSoil which is a worm vermiculture product. I will be using it as an alternate inoculant for seeding as well as a pasture spray.

We are always working on finding more efficient and sustainable ways to manage the pasture in an organic system. Areas which we hope to trial or look into more are composting/worm-farming to produce our own fertiliser or soil conditioner, as well as pasture improvements and finding different species of pasture and grasses which are hardy and pest resilient.

What is your approach to managing animal welfare?

Animal welfare should be a priority on every farmer's list. We try to ensure animals are kept in good health at all times but when animals are in ill health, remedial action is taken as promptly as possible. Although many animal health treatments are not allowable inputs with the organic certification, if there is an animal that needs treatment, they will get it and just be pulled out of the organic system. Animal welfare comes first in this respect.

Low stress stock handling is utilised when handling cattle. We believe that quiet cattle are healthy cattle and usually produce better beef so ensuring animals are treated in a manner that achieves this is a high priority. Many of my younger mobs have become accustomed to regular paddock movements and are usually waiting for me at the gate when it's time to shift paddocks as well as coming when I call out to them (yes, I talk to my cows).



To wrap it up, what do you see as the biggest positive of working in the livestock industry?

Working with livestock, particularly cattle, teaches you many skills such as patience, animal sense, common sense, problem solving and many other life skills. I get a lot of satisfaction out of watching the calves we produce on farm grow up and enter the supply chain. The livestock industry can also offer a huge diversity of career opportunities which many industries do not. I also find that the livestock farming community are always helpful and close-knit. It is never too much for someone to answer a question for you or help you out if you need it.





Epasco Farms

Nicholas Ruddenklau manages Epasco Farms in Condingup; a mixed farming enterprise weighted towards livestock. The farm utilises a team of seven full time staff, plus seasonal casuals, to run up to 20,000 merino ewes, 1100 Angus cows, their respective offspring, and a cropping program.

Nick hosted a stop at the last ASHEEP Cattle Field Day, where we looked over an Illabo Wheat crop being grazed by heifers that went on to harvest approximately 4.2 tonne. We've taken the opportunity to put a few questions to Nick to get a better overview of the farm system and his background as we welcome him to the Cattle Committee.

Give us an overview of your farming operation at Epasco.

We run a predominantly livestock focused business with about 75% of the operation dedicated to a combination of Merino sheep and Angus cattle. There is an emphasis on long-term sustainability. We run the enterprise mix with a view that into the future, livestock will support the stability of the operation.

The Merino flock is 100% Merino. We target wool production and are increasingly looking to improve lamb production. With the Angus cattle we are focused on turning calves off as weaners.

Where did you hail from before landing in Esperance?

I was brought up in New Zealand on a high production sheep, beef and deer farm, with a brief stint in the dairy industry. I spent time in agricultural contracting before moving to Western Australia nearly 15 years ago. I've worked west, north and now east of Esperance.



Farm Snapshot

Location: Condingup

Av. Annual Rainfall: 450–525mm

Enterprise Mix: 50% Sheep, 25% Cattle, 25% Crop

Feedbase: Self Regenerating Sub Clover based pastures with a long pasture phase. Currently introducing Illabo Wheat into our cropping rotation to graze as well as ryegrass/clover/wheat pastures for early grazing and silage. Also introducing Santorini and Margarita Serredella on our more acid deep sands.

Soil type: Sandplain in the south to heavier clay in the north.

Stock: Sheep 100% Merino, aiming to mate 17-20,000 ewes. Angus cattle turning calves off as weaners, mating approximately 1100 cows.

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What are your cattle breeding objectives?

We run Black Angus cattle, with the main breeding objectives being reproduction and early growth. This is important as we turn all our cattle off as weaners between January and March.

We are also targeting rebreeding rates as we feel our empty first calvers are not giving us a good return as they are smaller and we end up with less kilos to sell. We are using fixed time AI in our heifers and drift calving them onto retained stubbles.

What's your approach to managing calving?

We have a dedicated cattle overseer. We put a lot of emphasis on calving ease in our cows and these cows are pretty much left to their own devices. We intensively monitor our heifers and anything that requires calving assistance is removed from the herd.

Do the cattle and sheep aspects of the operation link in?

The sheep and cattle enterprise generally don't interact at this stage. Our sheep enterprise is heading towards a more dual focused meat/wool, plain bodied, low maintenance merino, with a mind to issues the industry faces such as mulesing.

We've looked at grazing crops that you have been experimenting with at last year's cattle field day. What are you putting in for livestock feed this year?

We are expanding the grazing crop portion of our crop rotation with Illabo Wheat sown in early April. We are also hoping to graze our silage crops which are ryegrass/clover/wheat before they are harvested in September/October.



Are there challenges you see in the future or are currently working to overcome in your farming operation?

Animal welfare and social licence are a huge issue for livestock farming. I feel as an industry we have to be transparent and honest with the general population as well as trying to educate and portray ourselves in a good light. Animal welfare is something that as livestock farmers we have to have at front of mind constantly, we need to make sure that we are always doing the right thing. It's also really important to encourage young people into the livestock industry.

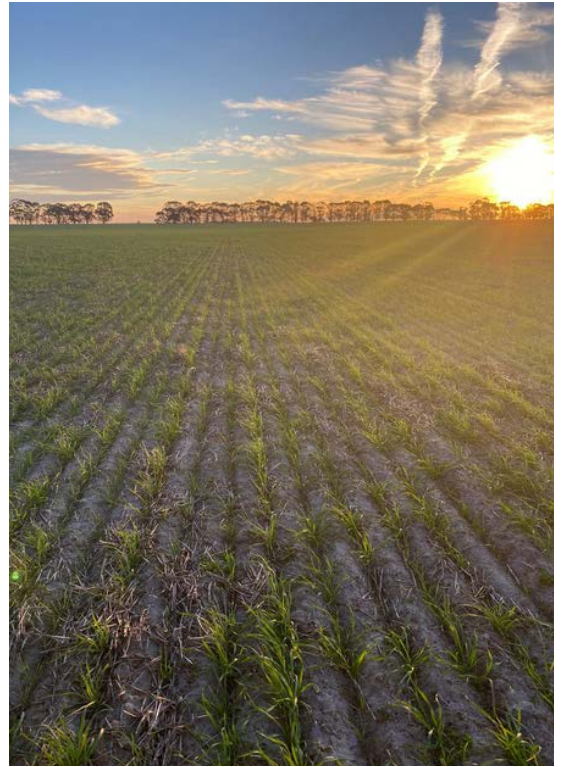


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What are the stand-out positives for you about working in the livestock industry?

It is satisfying to be involved in producing food and fibre for the world. I feel that going forward we have a big part to play with an increasing population in the world, requiring more red meat protein and environmentally friendly fibre. I also think there is potential once the mechanisms are figured out for us to be sequestering carbon.



Executive Officer's Update

It's a brilliant time of year as crops go in and pastures green up, with a much better season predicted than many experienced last year. I for one am enjoying the experience of lambing onto green rather than brown pastures, as my partner Dan and I go through our second season of "test farming" our flock of merino ewes. The sheep still don't seem to understand that we have day jobs, as I jump between putting this newsletter together, tube-feeding frosty lambs after the recent cold front and fixing up a prolapsed ewe. It's an incredible opportunity to be able to experiment with sheep farming whilst having access to the ASHEEP Committee and wider membership to keep us on track! Thank you all for your words of wisdom along the way.

The few months since our last edition of the newsletter have been reasonably busy for ASHEEP, with the Working Dog School, Low Stress Livestock Handling Course, Autumn Field Day and a Grain Legume Rhizobium Workshop in collaboration with SEPWA and PASE. We have continued working with the Dryland Pasture Systems team and are looking forward to showing you through some of their trial sites later in the year. They have developed some really promising new pasture varieties, some of which will be showcased in the ASHEEP / MLA Pasture Variety Trials - details on the opposite page.

ASHEEP Committee Member Basil Parker is underway working with Australian Wool Innovation to bring the ASHEEP Shearing School together, set to run between the 5th - 16th of July 2021. Places are available for those who are interested in a career or want to refine their skills in the shearing industry, as shearers or wool handlers.

Other events in the works include the ASHEEP Conference, AGM and Dinner which has been rescheduled to 17th August, plus a range of field days including the Winter, Cattle and Spring Field Days. A new trial is on the cards to look at the pros, cons and profitability of different shearing intervals, if you are interested in taking part let us know as we're getting together to set the protocols soon. The ASHEEP Committee is also putting thought into running another tour through the Southwest later in the year.

If you have ideas of projects you would like to see ASHEEP run, or information that would be good to share please get in touch. All the best for a good season to come.

Sarah Brown, Executive Officer, ASHEEP



**ASHEEP
Conference, AGM
& Dinner**

Tues 17th August 2021

Year 2 of ASHEEP Pasture Variety Trials Sown

Article by Sarah Brown, ASHEEP

The second year of the ASHEEP Pasture Variety Trials is in the ground, as part of the Meat & Livestock Australia Producer Demonstration Site program. South East Agronomy Services has been working with ASHEEP to manage the trial sites and have recently finished sowing the three sites that will be part of the project this year.

The project team met earlier in the year to review the results from Year 1 and to plan Year 2. The trial sites have been moved to new locations and the varieties in the trial have been changed up, with some carried over from Year 1 plus new additions. We've also included a range of pasture mixes and some of the new varieties that have been developed through the Dryland Pasture Systems project. Pasture cuts for biomass will be taken at 10 and 16 weeks and soil test results will be in soon. We'll also look to run nutritive analysis tests on the better performing varieties.

Neridup - Sandplain

Sown: 13th May 2021

Host: John Wallace

Varieties: 15 with 4 replicates

- Illabo Wheat
- Planet Barley
- Capello Vetch
- RM4 vetch
- Tetila Ryegrass
- Express Grazing Oats
- Express Grazing Oats / Tetila Ryegrass mix
- SARDI Grazer Lucerne
- SARDI Series 7 Lucerne
- SARDI Series 10 Lucerne
- Casbah Biserulla
- Dalkeith Sub Clover
- Leafmore Brassica
- Franno Serradella
- BALL Teara Ballard Mix

Cascade

Sown: 19th May 2021

Host: Simeon Roberts

Varieties: 15 with 4 replicates

- Sparticus Barley
- RM4 Vetch
- Capello Vetch
- Express Oats
- RM4 Vetch / Oats mix
- Trigonella
- Tetila Ryegrass
- Cavalier Medic
- Snail Medic
- SU Tolerant Sultan Medic
- Casbah Biserulla
- SARDI Grazing Lucerne
- Cobra Clover
- BALL Thumpa Ballard Mix
- BALL Salina Ballard Mix

Grass Patch

Sown: 20th May 2021

Host: David Vandenberghe

Varieties: 15 with 4 replicates

- Sulla
- Trigonella
- Express Oats
- Oats / RM4 Vetch mix
- Tillage Radish
- Snail Medic
- Leafmore Grazing Brassica
- Casbah Biserulla
- RM4 Vetch
- Mawson Subclover
- Cobra Subclover
- SARDI Grazer Lucerne
- Tetila Ryegrass
- BALL Thumpa Ballard mix
- BALL Salina Ballard mix

Project Lead Producer:

David Vandenberghe

0427 786 040



Images: Trial sites fresh sown - left Neridup Sandplain site and right Cascade.



Want to stay up to date?

Join our Pasture Trials
WhatsApp Group



Text Sarah Brown on 0409 335 194 or email
eo@asheep.org.au to be added to the group.



Grow has helped producers increase their saleable product by more than 30%. This go-to livestock agronomy service will help you realise your business potential. With the goal of improving your farm's productivity and profitability, Elanco Grow is a complimentary service offering a team with expertise in:

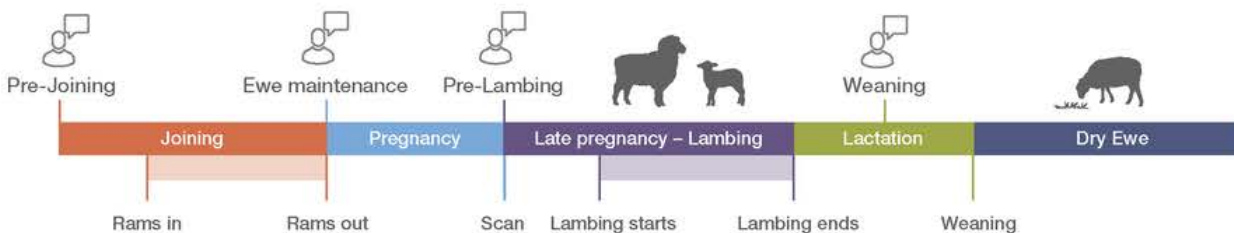


Grow provides answers to your farm's future challenges.

With rising input costs, increased demand and resource scarcity, the success of your farm's future lies in doing more, with less, on a larger scale and with greater efficiency. Grow has the tools to meet these challenges.

Simplified livestock management.

Grow integrates the latest in animal health, nutrition, and best practice management to increase profitability, achieve better welfare outcomes and improve your production system. We've simplified industry research and information into programs which are easy to implement and understand. We aim to be on your farm with advice at key times throughout the year.



Hear from John, manager at Pooginook Station, on how the Grow livestock agronomy service has become an integral part of their business. **Scan QR code to see video.**



Livestock agronomist Andrew Sutherland will be traveling to Esperance the week of the 5th July.

To set up an initial meeting or to find out more contact;

David Howey – Elanco Territory Manager
 m: 0439 988 953
 e: david.howey@elancoah.com

growsolutions.elanco.com



Agro Spot: Prompts for the season so far!

Theo Oorschot, Esperance Rural Supplies, 0427 715 166

With the very positive start to the season, opportunities can present themselves. I will cover just a couple of prompts going into winter.

For those running kikuyu pastures, this year might be the year to rejuvenate these stands. There has certainly been a build up of the “shitty grasses”, silver, barley and brome grasses over time. A number of herbicide options along with crash grazing are available, to change the sward back to a more dominant serradella/subclover stand. Soft options on both the kikuyu and the legumes include Raptor (imazamox) and propyzamide for silver grass. The grass selectives Targa (quizalofop) and Verdict (haloxyfop) if your chasing brome and barley grass. Paraquat and glyphosate, though more savage, work very effectively also.



Grass dominant pastures respond to Nitrogen. Table 1 shows the response to N at last year’s Esperance Rural Supplies feed trial at Wayne and Tracey Lewis’ Gibson.

Species	t/ha DM
Dictator 2 Barley Nil Flexi-N	7.92
Dictator 2 Barley 100 Flexi-N	8.99
Tetila Ryegrass Nil Flexi-N	3.48
Tetila Ryegrass 100 Flexi-N	5.48

Table 1: Dry matter cuts 3rd September 84 days after sowing and 20 days after Flexi-N application. 100 Lt/ha FN=42 kg/ha N.

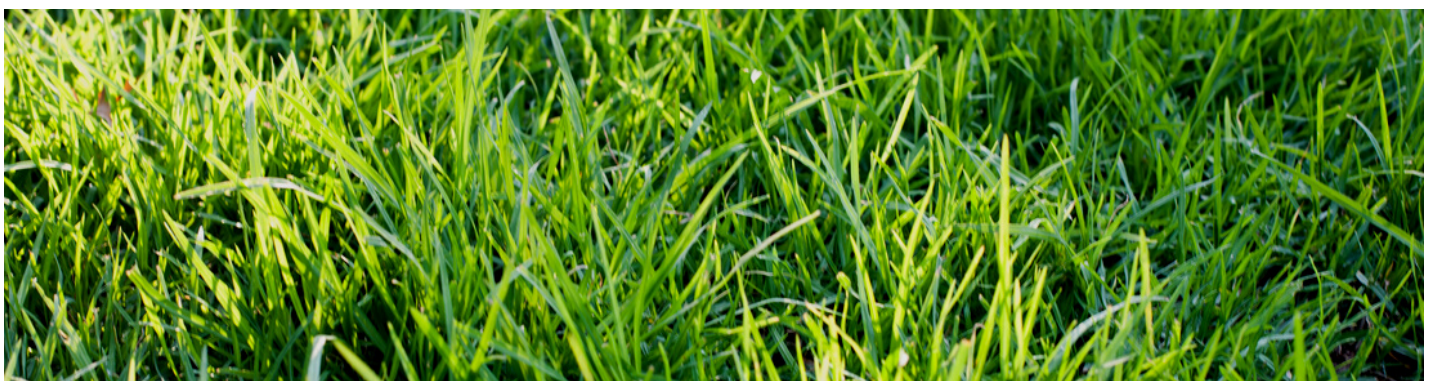
CSBP conducted a fertilizer response trial at John Sharpe’s in 2018. I have only teased out the N response, but it is fair to say that, there was also responses to applied Superphosphate and lime. The ryegrass species Hogan and Arnie were sown.

Rate of Flexi-N Lt/ha	t/ha DM
Nil	880
50	1180
100	2130
200	4060

Table 2: N response to ryegrass at John Sharpe’s.

Gibberilic acid (ProGibb) is a cheap plant growth regulator to stimulate grass dominant pastures during the winter. Gibberilic Acid is a very useful product along with a shot of Nitrogen to stimulate any grassy pastures. I call this scenario 1 + 1 =3! Gibberilic acid (ProGibb by Sumitomo) is a naturally occurring plant hormone that acts as a plant growth regulator. It does this by extending the leaf and stem of typically grass crops. It has a nil grazing and withholding period. The brand ProGibb has organic certification!

RLEM control as a hatching has occurred. Le Mat (omethoate) has been re-registered and offers very good RLEM control. Keep away from the Synthetic Pyrethiods (SP’s), examples are Alfa Cypermethrin, Trojan, as there are populations of RLEM resistant to the SP’s in the Esperance Shire.



Westcoast Wool Team WA

Proudly 100% WA owned and managed

Brad Faithfull, 0429 112 832, brad@wcw.com.au

Danny Burkett, 0418 848 314, d.burkett@wcw.com.au



Image: Westcoast Wool and Livestock's WA wool team at their Katanning Wool Store.

Esperance Sheep Surveillance Network: Report out

Article by Sarah Brown, ASHEEP

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has released their April report from the Esperance Sheep Surveillance Network. 84% of properties reported no signs of illness vs 16% of properties with signs of illness, the majority of which included neurological signs. The report notes that the quality of the data will benefit from more producers getting involved in the project.

DPIRD's report includes background on the potential causes of diseases with neurological signs and connects producers to follow up issues via the subsidised livestock disease surveillance program. The subsidy available to producers has recently increased, you are now able to claim up to 400km of travel for disease investigations, plus a significant subsidy against the investigation itself.

The report also provides a Sheep Health Forecast, warning producers about potential upcoming issues. The April report includes warnings about recent weather conditions being perfect for worms and nearby districts reporting several sporadic cases of listeriosis.

DPIRD is calling for more sheep producers in the Esperance region to sign up to the disease surveillance program, with a low number of producers currently involved. Taking part is simple: one quick form and then responding to a text every couple of weeks to report any signs of illness in your flock. Please take a moment to contact DPIRD Biosecurity Officer Taneeke Marsden on 08 9083 1103 or at taneeke.marsden@agric.wa.gov.au to join in.

Once-in-Generation Opportunity to Shape Future of Our Beef Industry



Rabobank

Article by Angus Gidley-Baird

Rabobank senior animal proteins analyst

Australia's breeding cattle inventory is starting to recover from its lowest levels in more than 30 years on the back of much-improved seasonal conditions. And this is putting the industry in a "unique position" to reassess and pursue its direction – as it faces a once-in-generation opportunity to shape its future.



That said, a number of challenges currently confront the Australian beef industry, such as high cattle prices for those trying to build stocks, low supplies and China trade access.

This is seeing producers face decisions around whether to restock at high prices, but also around which genetics, production system attributes, feeding regimes, supply chains and end customers are needed to build a sustainable basis for the business in the future.

Image left: Angus Gidley-Baird

The year ahead is set to be characterised by very limited cattle supplies. This will provide strong support for cattle prices, but also mean ongoing scarcity for restocking and fattening as well as challenge capital efficiency, with many plants and feedlots running below capacity.

Australian cattle slaughter for 2021 is forecast to be 6.7 million head – representing a drop of six per cent from 2020. While in 2020, male cattle slaughter (at 3.4 million head) was the lowest in more than 35 years – an indication of the extremely low breeder numbers in the system in 2018 (when those cattle were born).

Further compounding this – taking even more breeders out of the system – was the highest female slaughter (4.75 million) in 40 years in 2019.

This chain of events has led to some of our lowest breeder numbers in decades and, as a result, low slaughter numbers this year and a big rebuild process over the coming years.

In terms of prices, domestic cattle prices are forecast to remain very strong in 2021, though easing as producer demand dissipates.

While limited cattle supplies and favourable seasons are expected to provide a strong foundation for cattle prices, we believe they will ease through 2021 as some of the urgency of producer restocking demand recedes.

Low supplies will also see Australia's beef face some challenges on the global stage, with higher prices, an appreciating dollar and reduced access to the China market all expected to create headwinds.

Export volumes to China – impacted by high Australian beef prices, low supplies and trade tensions – are likely to see a larger decline than the more stable and established markets of Japan, South Korea and the United States.

Japanese and South Korean markets remained relatively steady through 2020 and these long-standing markets are expected to maintain import volumes of Australian beef in 2021, although we will face strong competition from the US, which is anticipated to increase exports through the course of 2021.

In this climate, Australian exporters need to consider their position in the global protein market going forward. Are we going to be a supplier into high-quality niche markets, a commodity supplier of lean beef to global trade, an exporter of live cattle or exporter of value-added beef to trade markets?



Neil Kristiansen Dog School: It's a wrap

Article by Sarah Brown, ASHEEP

Late February 2021 saw working dog trainer Neil Kristiansen down in Esperance to deliver a two-day school for ASHEEP. Places for participants with dogs were capped and went quickly, but others were able to attend as observers and still got a lot out of it. Neil took us through a range of skills, from getting pups started to working on dogs already going. Starting with heading sheep and building balance, to getting a good stop, adding sides and casting. Day 2 built on that to bring in race work and backing. It was impressive to see how quickly the dogs picked up and grew confidence between each session. Thanks go to Michael and Trudi letto for hosting the school and Scott Welke for playing a big role in organising it. A very worthwhile couple of days, especially if you ask the dogs.



Vet Spot: Lamb Marking

Dr. Katie Kreutz BSc BVMS, Swans Veterinary Service

Whist on my travels back and forth along the Ravensthorpe highway, I've enjoyed the watching the seasons turn over by way of what is in the paddocks. The month of May alludes to a productive year in tiny green sprouts and freshly minted lambs. That can only mean lamb marking is also upon us and this well timed Vet Spot gives us at Swans the opportunity to ensure it goes as painlessly as possible – for both lambs and those who raise them. Lamb marking entails castration of the males, ear tagging, tail docking, vaccination and mulesing (if applicable.) Lamb marking is carried out for the optimum health and longevity of the flock. With a series of procedures taking place on a variety of anatomical locations, one should ensure pain relief is part of the process. Several pain relief options are available and depending on which procedures your enterprise undertakes, the gold standard for your lambs should be considered.

Table 1. Pain Relief Options for Lambs at Marking

	Numnuts®	Buccalgescic® or Meloxicam	TriSolfen®
Castration	Immediate pain relief	Extended pain relief	
Tail Docking	Immediate pain relief	Extended pain relief	
Ear tagging		Extended pain relief	
Mulesing		Extended pain relief	Immediate pain relief, antiseptic and reduction in bleeding

Choosing to use **pain relief** in your livestock is choosing better animal welfare. Feedback from producers who use of one or more pain relief methods has shown a more rapid recovery and a reduction in stress for stock after marking. Simple and effective, the above products are made for easy application or administration and can be used together for the best effect. The newest product on the market Numnuts®, delivers local anaesthetic directly to the banding site which works immediately to offer relief, and at 60c per dose, producers can breathe a sigh of relief too.

Vaccination is an essential tool to keeping a healthy flock, and ties in well with lamb marking. We encourage producers to use at least a “3in1” vaccine that covers pulpy kidney, tetanus and caseous lymphadenitis (cheesy gland). These diseases rapidly spread amongst sheep, causing infection and/or death and serious costs to the producer. We also recommend producers utilize the “Eryvac” vaccination which protects against Erysipelas polyarthritis. This bacteria can cause polyarthritis, meaning inflammation of multiple joints in both lambs and adults. It lives in the soil and can enter into the bloodstream during lamb marking procedures, shearing or other wounds. Joints may be painful and the animal may run a fever but usually there is no obvious heat or swelling. Animals may recover with treatment but may go on to develop chronic arthritis at around 6 months of age. Likewise, “joint ill” can also cause polyarthritis from bacterial contamination, most commonly from the navel or lamb marking procedures. It is different to Erysipelas in that these joints are swollen, hot and full of pus. Abscesses may spread throughout the body once they have entered the bloodstream. There is no vaccination for joint ill. Good hygiene during procedures is therefore strongly encouraged.

To assist the lamb's immune system through the marking procedures we recommend **responsible prophylactic antibiotic use**. This is to reduce potential bacterial contamination and sepsis particularly against Staphylococcus and Streptococcus strains. Historically this has been with the penicillin based antibiotic “Benacillin” (long acting antibiotic.) As this drug is currently in short supply, we are advocating the use of “Alamycin 300 LA” at 1ml per 10kg (1mL per head) intramuscularly. Alamycin is also a long acting antibiotic with broad spectrum coverage which is appropriate for use at lamb marking.

Should producers have concerns regarding disease status of their flock, we recommend consulting one of our livestock veterinarians. In many cases conducting a post mortem and collecting tissue samples can help identify the cause of morbidity or mortality and a plan for treatment or future prevention can be put in place. If producers have any queries regarding providing pain relief or vaccination for their livestock we are always happy to assist.



Autumn Field Day

Article by Sarah Brown, ASHEEP

The ASHEEP Autumn Field Day was held on 31st March 2021, with a good turnout, particularly given that we were on the cusp of seeding. The morning was spent at the Gibson Football Club, where Dr David Swan (Swans Veterinary Services) kicked off the day by running us through the pain relief options for lamb marking and dehorning cattle. This was a great discussion, you can find a snapshot of options for lamb marking in Dr Katie Kreuzt's Vet Spot on page 13.

Following on from this, Bronwen Fowler (Nutrien Ag Solutions) and David Howey (Elanco) went over the causes, prevention strategies and management of fly chemical resistance after a case was found recently in the Esperance area. It is worth following up with your chemical supplier and looking through the information and tools available via the DPIRD and Flyboss websites. Resistance tests can be conducted if you have concerns.

Danny Roberts (DPIRD) then talked about sheep management decisions in summer and autumn in WA, including confinement feeding and managing mineral supplementation. Theo Oorschot (Esperance Rural Supplies Agronomist) gave a great presentation around the different pasture and grazing options that had been trialled in the district and used throughout the years, before Taneeke Marsden (DPIRD Biosecurity Officer) wrapped things up for the morning by picking up some common mistakes that people are making on the new National Vendor Declaration (NVD) forms. If you aren't sure, give her a call on 08 9083 1103.

Following lunch, we took off for a look around the Gibson countryside, with first stop at Josh and Tegan Sullivan's. We looked over a paddock of lucerne that had been heavily grazed and was on the rebound, discussing grazing strategies and long-term management. Josh also went through the results of 36ha of Illabo Wheat he trialled the previous year, grazing it with 800 sheep for 2 months. It kicked away from there, harvesting 5 tonne p/h and saving them 2 tonne to the ha of grain costs and fodder. In Josh's words "outstanding", he plans to expand the program this year.

We finished up at the Sullivan's with Ben Fletcher and Bob Reed chatting in the paddock about the importance of ongoing vaccination for OJD, and the negative impacts felt by producers who had not continued or altered their annual vaccination program.

Next stop was to Brad and Lindsay McLean's, where Brad showed us a paddock of emerging RM4 Vetch where they plan to lamb and graze cattle. Discussion was held around how to safely graze wooly-pod vetches. Simon Fowler and Wade Stokes then went over a Farmbot remote water monitoring device, and David Vandenberghe gave an update on the ASHEEP / MLA Pasture Variety Trials, before Brad took us on to a paddock of Grazer 85 Oats sown with Cappello Vetch.



Top to bottom: Field stop at the Sullivan's, Pain relief options, Lucerne recovering from grazing, David Vandenberghe gives an update on the ASHEEP / MLA Pasture Variety Trials, McLean's Grazer Oats & Vetch.

Continued from previous page.

The day wrapped up back at the Gibson Football Club, where we grabbed a beer and were fortunate to hear an update from Dr Angelo Loi on his latest work with pastures and the Dryland Pasture Systems Project. All in all, a great day and good to be holding an Autumn Field Day again after last year's was cancelled with COVID-19. A big thanks to all our speakers, site hosts, the Gibson Football Club, the Scaddan Primary P&C for catering the salads, the band of organisers on the ASHEEP Committee and, of course, our sponsors who make this possible.

Images: Top left, Geoff Harris and David Vandenberghe, Top right David Swan and Angelo Loi, Bottom left Leigh West, Simon Fowler, Bob Reed and Danny Roberts, Bottom right Bronwen Fowler, Floyd Sullivan, Bridie Luers and David Howey.



Neil Brindley Awarded Honorary ASHEEP Membership

Article by Mark Walter, ASHEEP Chair



ASHEEP, since its inception, has always tried to involve all of the livestock industry in the organisation. We have relied on their knowledge and their financial support to be able to improve what ASHEEP can offer its members. Neil Brindley has been part of this since the beginning. He was one of the inaugural sponsors and has contributed significantly every year, writing a cheque out as soon as asked. While Neil's business changed over the years this has not.

Neil also invested significant time in ASHEEP. I don't think he would have missed a field day, taking the opportunity to be able to catch up and talk sheep and golf with all. The Committee has decided that we would like to recognise Neil's contributions to ASHEEP with an Honorary Membership. Hopefully this will enable Neil to stay in touch with the livestock industry and we can continue to see him at field days. We wish him all the best for his retirement.

Wool Insights

Article provided by ANZ Bank



OVERVIEW

- Domestic flock recovery to support wool production recovery in medium term through 2023-24
- Wool prices stabilised with consistent offerings and improved demand from buyers
- Favourable climate conditions to improve fleece weight despite fall in number of sheep shorn
- Shipping challenges may create short-term disruptions to buyers' finance and order booking
- Short to medium-term wool demand to be dependent on global economic conditions
- Wool has relatively low share of global textile market and alternative cheaper fibres continue to create demand uncertainties and price volatility

Winter may have been a time of discontent according to the quote by Shakespeare, but it can be an excellent time for a wool-exporting nation looking to keep millions of people warm in the cold Northern Hemisphere. And while the next Northern Hemisphere winter won't be rolling around until the end of this year, the world's woollen mills and clothing manufacturers will already be doing their sums on the volumes of wool required to provide for that time when it comes. Australian wool producers, as with every farmer to some degree, are impacted by two fundamental factors: The conditions impacting the production of their product and the circumstances surrounding the sale of it, and the price they receive. While a reasonable amount of the former is within their control, apart from the obvious factor of the weather, most of the sale is up to many circumstances beyond their control, mostly well away from Australia.

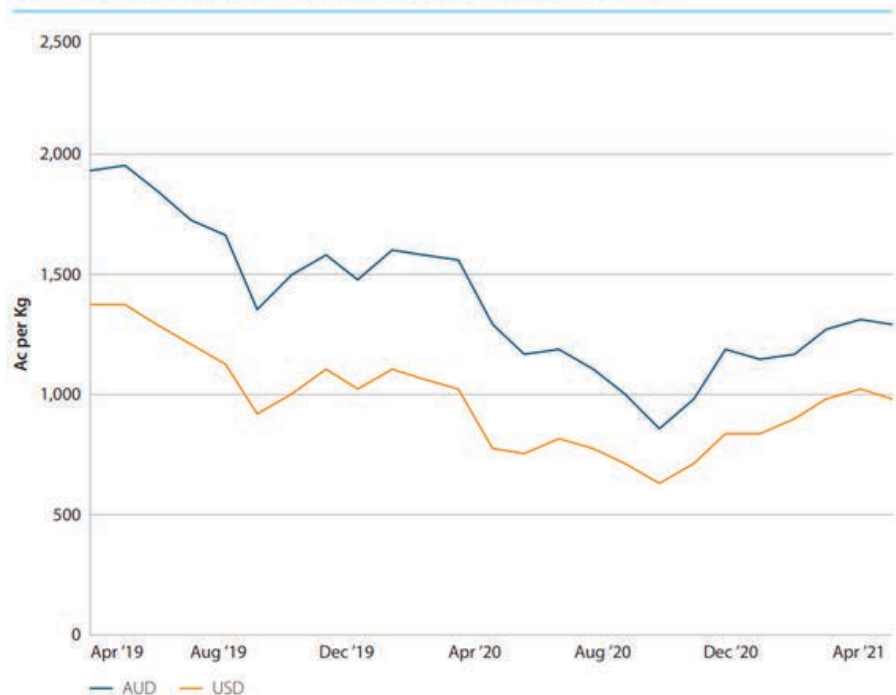
The first quarter of 2021 has largely seen wool price indicators climbing back to a level last seen a year ago, before prices fell around 50 per cent between January–September 2020. With the benchmark Eastern Market Indicator having hit a low of around 850 cents last September, prices have now risen solidly again, to reach around 1,300 Ac/kg in April 2021. While some agri sectors would look at similar price movements as part of an annual cycle, the wool price movements are being driven by other fundamentals. Undeniably, the momentum of buyers will increase, as mills and manufacturers look to provide for growing demand as COVID-19 restrictions ease. While some large European markets for woollen garments, such as France and Italy, are clearly continuing to feel the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns, the suppliers need to look longer term, hypothetically to a time when national vaccination programs have reinvigorated economies and consumer behaviour, and start planning their supply chain processes accordingly.

For some wool exporters, the challenge of accessing available shipping freight space has continued to create issues, which may impact the market in coming months. If importers, not just in China, but in markets such as Europe and India, become increasingly uncertain that their wool purchases will reach them, it may cause some softening in the market until greater certainty of delivery is achieved. One concern which may impact the market are the continuing challenges with shipping, which have affected a wide range of Australian imports and exports.

ON FARM STOCK LEVELS MAY INCREASE

Importantly, it has also been noted by market observers that the recent high wool auction prices have also been partly maintained by many growers withdrawing their supply from sale. This could be driven by a range of factors, including the hope by producers that prices will continue to rise. In addition, many producers will be running mixed farming operations and may find themselves in such a good financial position from the sale of their sheep and cattle this year that they can afford to hold onto their wool clip for longer than normal.

WOOL PRICES TO FIND SUPPORT WITH GLOBAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY

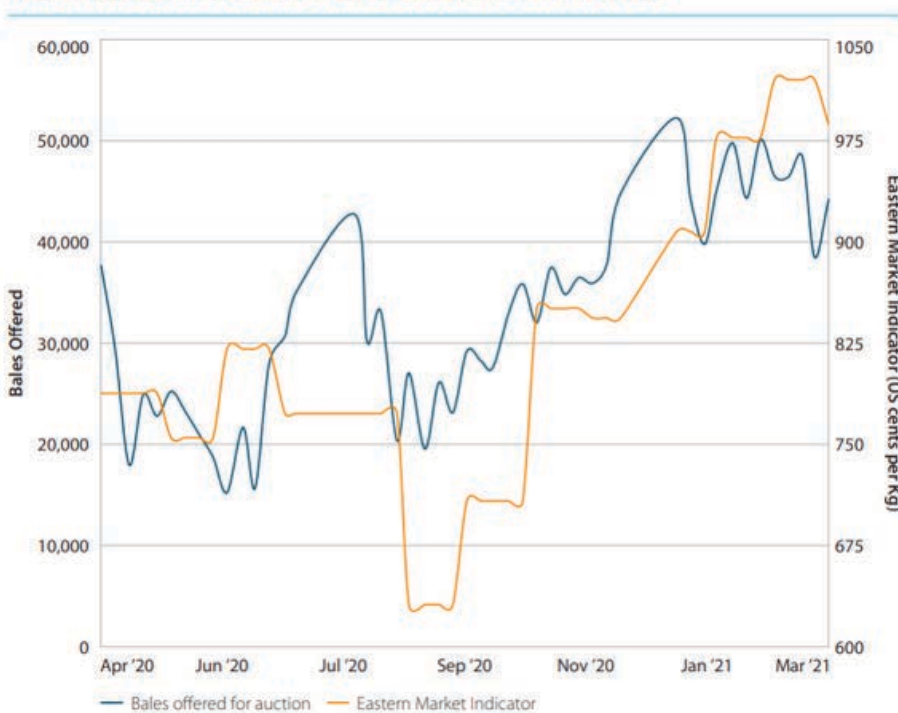


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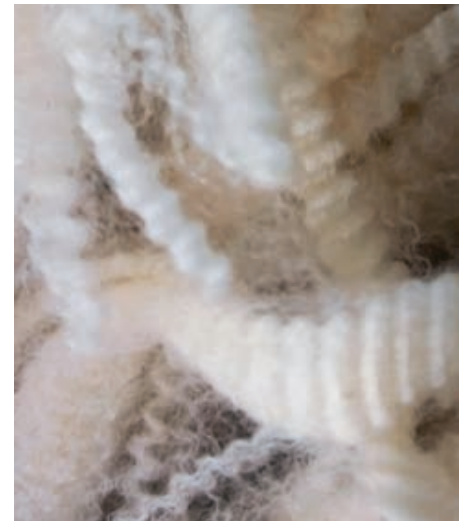
Looking ahead, the current ABARES forecast is that prices are likely to plateau at around the 1,300 AC/kg level. While the likely increase in demand from buyers will serve to push prices up, the uncertainty around freight, combined with the possibility of wool being stored on farm coming back onto the market could, at the same time, provide a dampener to any strong upward price movement. In the medium term, the overall supply of Australian wool onto the market is forecast to grow for at least the next five years. In a further sign of the positive impacts of the ongoing relatively good season, the Australian wool clip is forecast to climb by a marginal 1.7 per cent in 2020/21 to 288,000 tonnes, despite a 5 per cent fall in the number of sheep shorn. This reflects the positive impacts of the good season on sheep condition and wool yields. As the overall levels of wool production grow, with a forecast rise in overall production of over 20 per cent by 2025/26, concerns may arise that this could lead to a build-up of supply in the system, increasing domestic stockpiles to the levels where they could cause a structural correction in the market, where falling prices cause many producers to move away from wool sheep. Optimistically, however, the current forecasts also indicate that wool exports are likely to continue to grow at the same strong rate as production, limiting the levels of end stock.

FALL IN BALES OFFERED AT AUCTION LED TO SHARP RISE IN PRICES



Source: AWI, ANZ

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 Regional Business Banking
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MerinoLink Project Update

Article by Jan Clawson, ASHEEP

For those participating in the MerinoLink Project, planning is underway for this year's workshop which will be on the 11th or 12th August 2021. At this stage it will be an afternoon workshop. **We will hold a dinner afterwards which will be open to anyone interested in learning more about the project and the benefits of targeted genetic selection or simply to get an ASBV refresher.**

This year is also the year we repeat the Flock Profile Testing. Participants can expect a call from Anita Chalmer, ASHEEP Project Officer, in the next few weeks to arrange a time to take tissue samples. It has been decided that we will aim to test the lambs from your maiden ewes as these have your newest genetics. With this in mind; testing can be done at marking or weaning. We aim to have all testing complete by October. Now is also a good time to check your ram information is up to date in RamSelect.

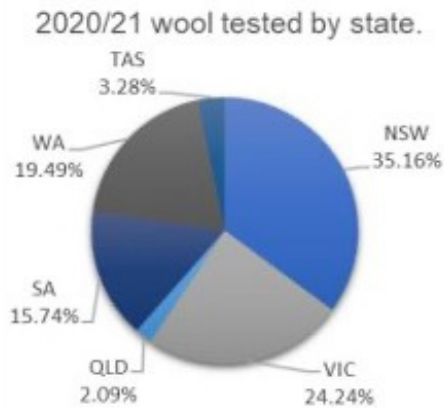
We intend to hold the final project workshops in the second week of March 2022. This is when we will get the second test results.

The ASHEEP committee would like to know if there is interest in continuing the project format i.e. Flock Profile testing every 4 or 5 years, annual planning and information workshops and using the RamSelect tool.

To register your interest please call Jan Clawson on 0407 990 497 so that we can add you to the list.

Australian Wool Innovation Update

Thanks to Ellie Bigwood, Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) Industry Relations Officer, for providing the following snapshots of current resources from AWI.



AWI Wool Market Intelligence – May 2021

Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) provides weekly and monthly information on wool production forecasts, retail and trade market reports, consumer insights and trend monitoring, along with fiber market research to woolgrowers and partners. The monthly market intelligence review for May 2021 is now available.

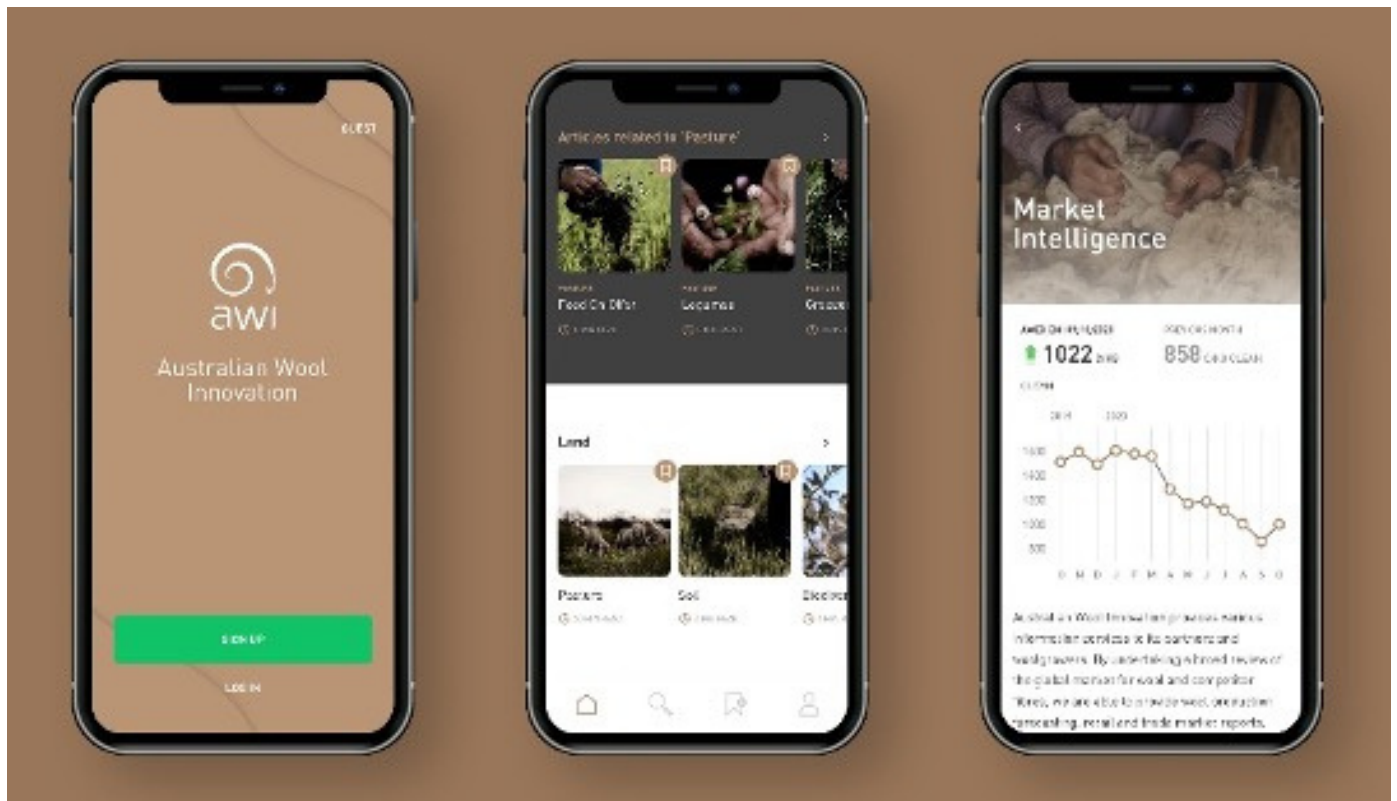
New Season Wool Products – Winter 2021

With winter approaching, Australian Wool Innovation has compiled for Beyond the Bale readers this special preview of a selection of quality wool and wool-rich products that will be available from Australian brands this season. Discount offers are available on selected products, exclusively for Australian woolgrowers. Find the latest edition here: <https://www.wool.com/about-awi/media-resources/> Happy shopping!

AWI Grower App – a new way to get the latest wool industry updates

Australian Wool Innovation has launched a new mobile phone app for woolgrowers and anyone interested in the Australian wool industry. The AWI Grower App allows users to customise and prioritise the information they receive from AWI. Popular updates include regular market reports, production forecasts, industry news, podcasts plus research and are easily accessible at the forefront of the app.

The app is compatible with all iOS and Android phones and can be downloaded via Google Play and the Apple App Store, or visit <https://www.wool.com/growerapp-download/>



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The New Gold Standard Sheep Vaccine

GlanEry® 7 in 1 B12 will protect your valuable asset and maximise on farm profits

Article provided by Zoetis.

Zoetis Australia is proud to announce that the new innovative sheep vaccine, **GlanEry® 7 in 1 B12**, will soon be available in stores near you. This product is a new formulation that combines the market leading proven protection of Glanvac® 6 B12 and Eryvac® into one convenient vaccine.

GlanEry 7 in 1 B12 will be the new gold standard of sheep vaccines as it will protect sheep and lambs against 7 endemic sheep diseases in Australia; **Erysipelas arthritis, Cheesy Gland (CLA)** and the **5 main clostridial diseases** (pulpy kidney, tetanus, malignant oedema, black disease and black leg), all in a **convenient 1mL dose**. According to the MLA, these diseases collectively **cost the Australia Sheep Industry approximately \$90M annually** [2].

Dr Kelly Graham, Associate Director of the Zoetis Livestock Veterinary Team is really excited about the addition of Erysipelas protection into the Zoetis Glanvac 6 in 1 range. Kelly indicated that, *'Erysipelas arthritis, caused by the bacteria Erysipelas rhusiopathiae, is the most common cause of lame lambs on farm and results in significant losses both on farm and at the abattoir. Losses on farm are due to culling, poor growth rates and reduced trading options if animals are unfit to load, and abattoir losses are associated with trim, reduced carcass weights and potential carcass condemnations.'*



There are 3 common bacteria associated with arthritis; Erysipelas, Chlamydia and pus-forming bacteria, all of which are commonly found on the sheep's skin, and in the soil and the environment. Although it is difficult to isolate the causative bacteria when investigating arthritis, recent survey work in southern Australia by Joan Lloyd [3] (2016) found that 57.6% of culture positive samples included Erysipelas. In a Western Australia study, Paton et al [4] (2003), showed that 100% of culture positive cases included Erysipelas. In a southern NSW survey, Ferguson and Munro [5] (2014) showed that 86.3% of culture positive samples included Erysipelas. **This research confirms that Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae is the most common cause of bacterial joint infections in Australian lambs.**

Arthritis causes significant loss of production as a result of poor weight gain and reduced wool production in lame lambs, and failure to thrive in lambs with chronic arthritis. An abattoir study [1] showed that lambs with arthritis **had a reduction in total carcass weight of (HSCW) 1.2 kg** compared to healthy lambs without arthritis. This does not include the losses due to trim which have been estimated at approximately 3kg per carcass [6]. In Western Australia, Paton et al [4] (2003) also estimated that 1.4% of lambs born, died before weaning or are culled due to arthritis.

When asked where these bacteria come from, Kelly said *'Erysipelas is found all over Australia and it can persist for a long time in the environment, including in water. It is carried on to a farm by many ways; from introduced sheep i.e. sheep that are chronically infected, by feral pigs, and a variety of other native animals, in fact over 30 species of wild birds and at least 50 species of wild mammals are known to harbour Erysipelas, as well as cattle, dogs, kangaroos and mice. All these animals and birds provide an extensive reservoir, as a source of environmental contamination. So, given this bacterium can survive in the environment and is carried by a range of animals, contamination on any farm can change from year to year, therefore if a farm doesn't experience infection one year it does not mean it won't experience problems in subsequent years.'*

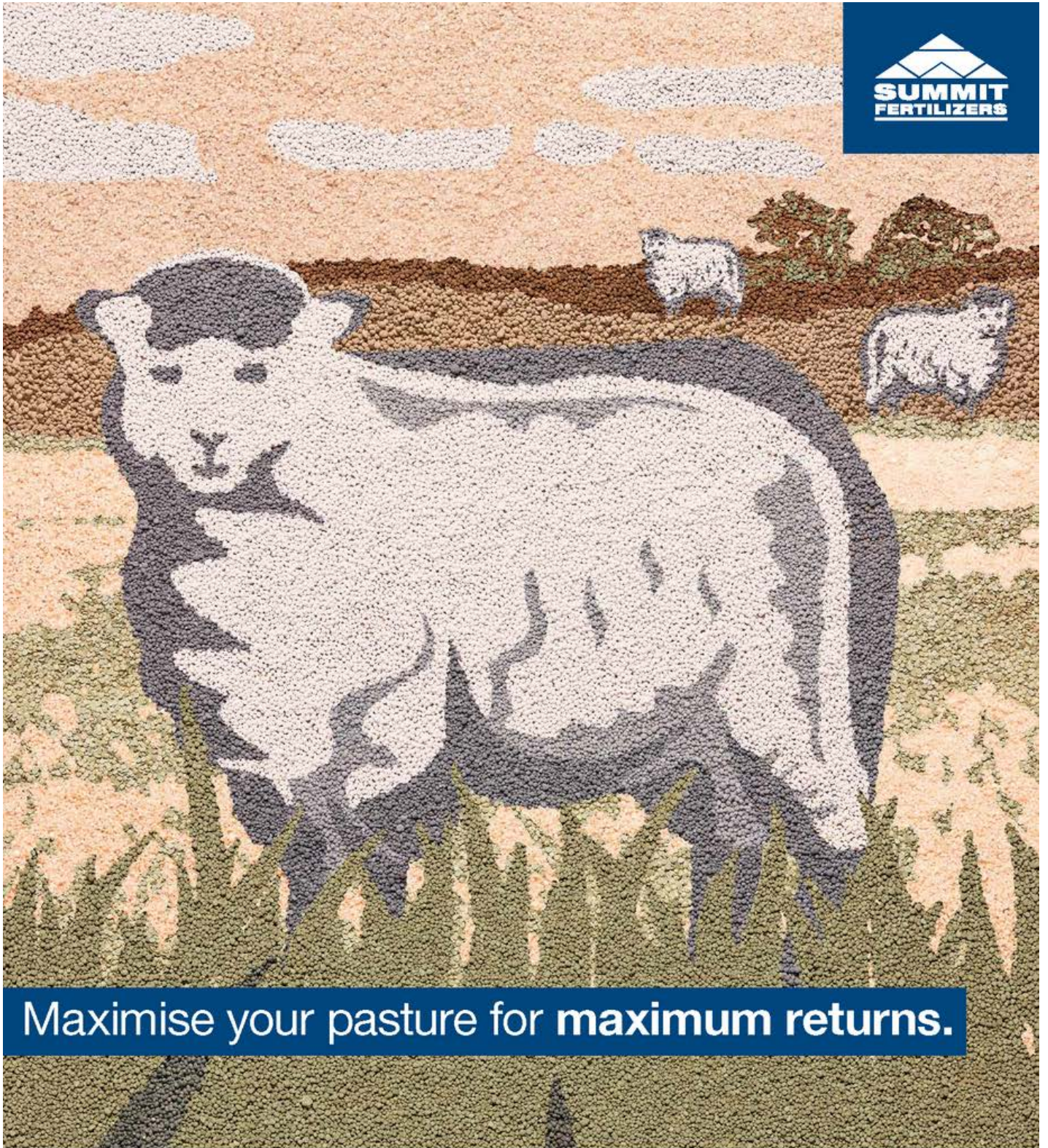
The most recently published annual report (2018 – 2019) from the National Sheep Health Monitoring Project [7], representing the abattoir findings of approximately 8.7 million sheep inspected across Australia, showed a high percentage of sheep lines had evidence of arthritis. **Erysipelas arthritis is a significant issue in Australia.**

GlanEry 7 in 1 B12 has been developed in Australia and is manufactured in Melbourne, Victoria. **GlanEry 7 in 1 B12** provides the convenience of 2 vaccines in 1 with premium disease protection, so will save time, labour and cost whilst making sheep vaccination simple and easy.

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	13.7	10.5	17.0	1.11

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Low Stress Livestock Course

Article by Sarah Brown, ASHEEP

Esperance Livestock Transport once again teed up to bring down Low Stress Stock Handling Trainer Grahame Rees for a school in Esperance this March, in collaboration with ASHEEP. It was great to be able to give farmers and stock handlers in the region the opportunity to learn more about a method of handling sheep and cattle that has a wide range of benefits including to animal health, production targets and safety.

A huge thanks to John and Lisa Mitchell for their continued support of the livestock industry in our region by facilitating this course in Esperance. John has a passion for using Low Stress Stock Handling methods and has seen the benefits it can have to both livestock transport and farming. This commitment extends to ensuring that young people starting out in the industry have a chance to take part and it was great to see a solid group of agricultural students supported to go through the course. Our thanks also to the team at Wongutha CAPS for hosting the school again this year.



Case Study: Lagrae Fixed Time AI



Article by Dr Enoch Bergman, Swans Veterinary Services



West of Salmon Gums, Lagrae was allocated to Laraine and Graeme Doney in 1967. They immediately commenced clearing their new land block, growing crops and raising sheep before buying their first two cows in 1995. Over the next 25 years they have steadily built their herd up to 250 cows. In 2017 Graeme and Laraine, since joined by their son Ross and his wife Janine, volunteered to participate in the ASHEEP/Swans Veterinary Services, Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) Producer Demonstration Site (PDS) focused on demonstrating the value of integrating FTAI utilizing “curve bender” sires into commercial heifer mating programs. “Curve Benders” are sires with Expected Breeding Value’s (EBV’s) for both superior calving ease and growth. The program was run on ten Esperance properties with variable annual participation over three years for a total of 15 sites.



“The farm was my 21st birthday present from my husband, who wanted nothing more than to clear a bush block and turn it into a farm. It has been a long hard slog, we’ve built a good cow herd and a better family.” Laraine said.

In the first year of the PDS, the Doney’s had already hand selected 49 of what they considered their best potential replacement heifers in preparation for natural mating. For the trial, 25 of them were randomly selected and redirected into a synchronization program culminating in them being artificially inseminated. On the same date they were AI’d, their siblings were introduced to the bulls which the Doney’s had already selected. Ten days later the two groups of heifers were commingled and remained with the bulls for the duration of the mating program.

At pregnancy testing, Lagrae’s FTAI integrated heifers demonstrated a modest 0.5% better conception rate than their naturally mated siblings. However, once calving commenced, the heifers enrolled in the FTAI integrated group on average calved well in advance of those enrolled in the strictly naturally serviced group as expected and as the intervention was intended.

“Enoch talked us into giving AI a go, thanks to the MLA-funded PDS. We weren’t sure how it would go, but once we started calving, it became obvious to us it was worth continuing with.” Laraine added.

The advantages afforded by a higher proportion of the pregnancies being sired by AI from proven AI sires with exceptional calving ease EBV’s was also abundantly evident to the Doney’s once the dystocia (or calving trouble) statistics were compiled on their farm, demonstrating a massive relative reduction of 85.5% in dystocia, 66.7% in calf mortalities, and 100% in heifer mortalities amongst the heifers enrolled in their FTAI program.

Rebreeding statistics were collected from each farm enrolled in the PDS after the heifers were remated after calving. 100% of the Lagrae heifers which had been enrolled in the FTAI program as heifers were pregnancy tested in calf after their second joining, similarly, 21 of the 22 naturally mated heifers also fell pregnant at their subsequent joining.

	FTAI Integrated	Naturally Mated
Dystocia	4.5%	31.8%
Calf Mortality	4.5%	13.6%
Heifer Mortality	0.0%	9.1%

The value of synchronizing the heifers to be AI’d on the mating start date extended beyond improving rebreeding rates, as the weaners from the FTAI Integrated heifers were consistently heavier than those from the naturally mated group at Lagrae. The calves born from the FTAI Integrated group were a whopping 19.3 kilograms heavier as a result of their improved calving pattern and the superior growth EBV’s amongst the AI sires used. “They were the best calves we had ever raised and the buyer rang us up especially wanting more!” Laraine exclaimed. “That really sealed the deal for us, confirming our own opinion of the calves, so we decided to continue AI’ing our heifers in the future.”

In consultation with Esperance producers both participating and observing the PDS, some economics were applied to the findings of the PDS. Having accounted for all of the AI mating costs to each cooperating producer for semen, pharmaceuticals, technician time, and travel, the average cost to each producer would have been \$22.66 more to AI and back up at 2% bulls than to naturally join all of their heifers to bulls at 3%. The Doney’s calculated FTAI integration costs, due to their potential to halve their bull requirements, were only \$4.76 extra per pregnancy to integrate AI over their entire budgeted replacement heifer population of 49 animals. Additional expense in the form of producer labour was estimated at 40 hours at \$30 per hour per 100 heifers AI’d over the course of the average AI program in the trial.

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The return on investment per pregnancy for the Doney's was modelled using 2018 values. For modelling purposes, pregnant heifers were valued at an additional \$100 per animal compared to empty heifers diagnosed at pregnancy testing. Dystocia events were estimated to average \$200 in labour and/or veterinary costs per case. Deceased calves were valued at \$500 and deceased heifers at the point of calving in 2018 at \$1500. Kilograms of calf weaned were valued at \$3.00 per kilogram live weight in 2018. Lastly, empty 2nd calvers were devalued by \$750 per animal should they be empty at their second pregnancy test. An estimate of the return on investment for the Doney's from their data from the first year of the PDS is summated below.

	FTAI Integrated	Syndicate	Difference	Potential Value	Totals
Average Mating Cost	\$161.21	\$156.45	(\$4.76)	(\$4.76)	(\$4.76)
Labour Costs in Man Hours Per 100 Head AI'd	40 Hours	0.00	(\$40.00)	\$30.00/hr	(\$12.00)
Heifer Empty Rate	12.00%	12.50%	0.50%	\$100.00	\$0.50
Dystocia Events	4.50%	31.80%	27.30%	\$200.00	\$54.60
Calf Mortality	4.50%	13.60%	9.10%	\$500.00	\$45.50
Heifer Mortality	0.00%	9.10%	9.10%	\$1,500.00	\$136.50
Weaning Weights of Calves (Average over 2 Years)	305 Kg	285.7Kg	19.3Kg	\$3.00	\$57.90
Rebreeding Empty Rate (1st Calvers)	0.00%	4.50%	4.50%	\$750.00	\$33.75
Profit Returned to Lagrae Per Heifer Pregnant in AI Group Not Including Genetic Improvement:					\$311.99

Recognizing the potential to reap a reasonable financial return on the process of integrating FTAI and the use of bulls with appropriate EBV's into their heifer mating program, coupled with a far less stressful calving, the Doney's decided to pull out of the PDS after the first year in order to implement the integration of FTAI into their entire heifer mating programs for their foreseeable future. It isn't hard to argue the logic when they appear to have benefitted in the first year of the trial by over \$300 per pregnancy!

"We couldn't see any reason to stay in the trial after the first year, we had already figured out what we needed to do!" Laraine concluded.

Dr Enoch Bergman - YouTubing and Podcasting



If you're after digital content it's worth keeping an eye on local veterinarian and member of the ASHEEP Cattle Committee, Dr Enoch Bergman.

Enoch set up a YouTube channel "Enoch the Cow Vet" that is well worth a look. He has a rapidly growing pool of subscribers, currently at around 23,000.

Enoch takes you through a huge range of stock related encounters, dealing with anything from prolapsed uteruses to post-mortems, to foot trimming, investigating lost pregnancies, preputial injuries and dealing with abscesses (always a high click rate).

Enoch also recently travelled over to BEEF 21 - a week-long beef expo in Rockhampton - where he presented on the ASHEEP / Swans Veterinary Services / Meat & Livestock Australia Fixed Time AI Project. Whilst there he was tapped on the shoulder to take part in the Te Mania Angus RawAg Podcast where he chatted about his background and how to ramp up reproductive targets.

Many of us have had the opportunity to hear Enoch speak at field days. He is a wealth of knowledge and has a huge passion for sharing that knowledge and for pushing production targets in the beef industry. Look him up!



YouTube
www.youtube.com
 Search "Enoch the Cow Vet"



Podcast
www.temaniaangus.com/rawag
 Episode 18
 "Ramped up rebreeding"

The Legal Duties of Persons Involved In Shearing

Article provided by WA Shearing Industry Association (WASIA)

Shearing is a physical occupation with workers therefore at an increased risk of work-related injury and illness, so it is of critical importance for industry to improve safety standards. The Wool Industry needs to reduce the likelihood of injuries and accidents occurring in shearing sheds to increase entry, retention and longevity of staff, as well as industry productivity and profitability.

Action to improve health and safety in the industry is not only a responsible step to take in terms of human health; duty-of-care is a legislated responsibility under Work Health and Safety Acts and Regulations in each State. For all these reasons, it is good business sense to manage safety and reduce the high cost of injury.

The primary responsibility to ensure effective controls of risk are implemented lies with the person conducting the business or undertaking (PCBU) which includes the owner-manager or employer. Employers or a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) - woolgrowers, managers and shearing contractors - have responsibility for the safety of all workers (including shearers, shed hands, cooks, wool classers and wool pressers, contractors and visitors). The duty-of-care of a woolgrower extends to contractors and their employees as though they were the woolgrower's employees.

The farm owner/ manager and the contractor must work together with all workers to meet health and safety responsibilities. This extends to the workplace and all facilities and accommodation provided for employees.

The best way to reduce the high number of injuries that occur in and around shearing sheds is for all those who take part in wool harvesting to work together towards achieving a greater sense of safety all year round.

SafeSheds - the Shearing Shed Safety Program

SafeSheds should be implemented by the grower and the contractor using the SafeSheds guide and self-assessment tools.

In addition to the document and paper checklists there is also an app that provides the SafeSheds checklists in a mobile, digital, interactive format. The SafeSheds iAuditor tool allows woolgrowers and shearing contractors to self-assess their wool harvesting workplace and work together to identify and rectify safety hazards from their mobile device. It allows you to add photos; create tasks and record actions based on improvements needed; record and document the assessment results with date and time stamps; share reports and track changes over time.

The Guide can be downloaded and sign up to the app from www.wasia.com.au/services/safesheds and hard copies can be ordered from AWI by calling 1800 070 099.

Quick Tip - Flooring

Have your shearing shed floors seen better days? This checklist comes from SafeSheds.

- Are your floors & battens throughout the shed sound and well maintained?
- Floors & battens throughout the shed should be even, without steps or gaps for tripping hazards.
- Secure raised or warped battens to achieve a smooth walking surface. There are no large tin patches, sagging tin or raised edges.
- Changing floor levels must be eliminated or highlighted with stripes of bright paint.
- Check and repair missing, rotting, warped, loose, slippery flooring or flooring made of high friction material (e.g. melwire).
- Check for protruding nails & screws.
- Floors must be dry & secure - ensure all wet areas and spillage are mopped up.



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Esperance Shearing School

We are pleased to see that the Esperance Shearing School is running again this year and wish to thank Basil Parker and ASHEEP for your continued commitment and support to assisting new shearers to enter our industry.

ASHEEP is a group member of the WA Shearing Industry Association and full details of WASIA services are available from the website www.wasia.com.au or you can contact the WASIA office by calling 0412 227 252 or emailing to admin@wasia.com.au.



Tech Spot: LIVEstock Pricing App offers insight into sheep and cattle market prices

Article by Sarah Brown, ASHEEP

LIVEstock Pricing is an app released in 2019 offering live sheep, cattle and goat prices around Australia. The app was developed by Konjonup-based Robert Kelly, who, coming from a farming background, saw a need for greater visibility for farmers on stock prices. Since then, the app has developed significantly and offers users free, live information on price grids from buyers across the country.

Chatting to Rob, he says that the app is most well utilised in the Eastern states but has a strong following in Western Australia too. Scrolling through the app you can find prices from V&V Walsh, WAMMCO, Beaufort River Meats, and more, plus interstate buyers. It can be set up to give you alerts on price updates, saleyard reports (including wool) and market news. There is no charge for users to download, view or list prices on the app; it generates revenue through advertising, sales of some advertised products, and in future will include a subscription option for premium services. It's available on both Android and iOS (Apple) platforms.

The aim of the app's design was to build a more efficient way for producers, agents and buyers to communicate. Rob points out that many producers use the price information the app provides to form part of the conversation with their agent rather than to leave them out of the picture. If producers are better educated on the market, it improves their ability to discuss the best deals and be aware of the options on the table. Not all buyers are advertising via the app and there is the possibility that you will be able to negotiate better prices based on scale or via an agent.

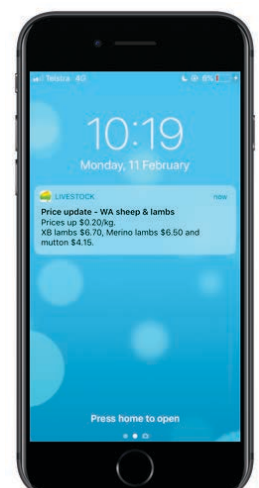
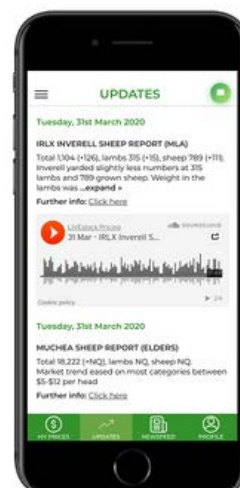
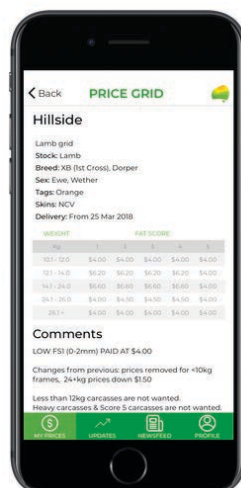
So, all in all, this could be a great app to add to your tool kit to keep you better informed of stock prices and the buyers in the market.

Be aware though, that there is more to the picture than what is listed in the app and you may want to consider it as one of a range of sources available to you when you are planning to sell stock.

Find out more:

www.livestockpricing.com.au

Download via Google Play or the Apple App Store





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Upcoming ASHEEP Events

We've lined up the following ASHEEP events:

- **Cattle Field Day** - June, date TBC shortly
- **ASHEEP Shearing School** - 5th - 16th July
- **Winter Field Walk** - 20th July
- **MerinoLink Workshop & Dinner** - August, date TBC
- **Annual Conference, AGM & Dinner** - 17th August
- **Spring Field Day** - September, date TBC

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Cattle Committee Update

The ASHEEP Cattle Sub-Committee welcomes new Chair Ryan Willing, with thanks to outgoing Chair Simon Fowler. The Committee also welcomes Nick Ruddenklau and Amy Forrester to the team, replacing outgoing Committee Members Karl Witt and John Sharpe. The Committee express sincere thanks to Karl and John for their contribution.

CATTLE COMMITTEE

Chair: Ryan Willing, 0447 075 650, ryan.carnigup@gmail.com

Members: Simon Fowler, Wes Graham, Enoch Bergman, Ian McCallum, Matthew Ryan, Amy Forrester, Nicholas Ruddenklau.

JUNE

Next ASHEEP Committee Meeting is scheduled for late June 2021.

Contact a committee or staff member to raise an item.

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