

ASHEEP News



a s h e e p

Esperance

The Return of High Oestrogen Clovers Causing Infertility in Sheep



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN
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Dr. Kevin Foster. School of Agriculture and Environment. UWA.

Professor Graeme Martin. School of Agriculture and Environment. UWA

Lyn Dohle | Senior Consultant – Soil and Land Management. Rural Solutions SA | Primary Industries and Regions SA - PIRSA

Many forage legumes contain phytoestrogens, compounds that can cause infertility and other reproductive disorders in grazing animals. The compound in subterranean clovers (formononetin) can cause temporary infertility in sheep that is resolved after the animal is removed, as well as the permanent infertility commonly known as 'clover disease'. However, the syndrome also includes a range of 'disorders' including maternal dystokia (difficult births), uterine prolapse, increased death rate of ewes, and post-natal mortality of lambs. Often there are no visual signs of permanent infertility because the ewes show normal oestrous cycles. As a consequence, the condition often goes unnoticed by producers, especially in Merinos and Merino crossbreeds. The problem was thought to be largely resolved in early 1990s, although one million ewes affected by 'sub-clinical' clover disease that might have caused a 10% increase in non-pregnant ewes. However, a recent report from a producer of low ewe fertility in Merinos (65% lambing percentage overall; only 35% in maidens) with the cause identified as clover disease (Lyn Dohle per comm).

Identification of subterranean clover cultivars in the field over the 2015-16 winter seasons by UWA researchers, showed that many pastures across southern Australia contain, or are even dominated by, older high-oestrogen cultivars such as Yarloop, Dwalganup, Geraldton and Dinninup.

At recent field days in South Australia and Victoria, we found all four of the highest oestrogenic cultivars in one paddock, unbeknownst to the producer. In every subsequent paddock visited, high oestrogen cultivars were present and were often dominant in the sward; in one case, they were the only cultivars present. Producers were surprised (as were consultants) at the diversity of the cultivars in their pastures and were unaware of how the subterranean clover cultivar and content can impact ewe fertility.

It should also be noted that naturalised variants of subterranean clover have evolved locally (from natural crossing events) and may also occur widely; some of these are also highly oestrogenic (e.g. Eden Valley in SA and Book Book in NSW). The levels of oestrogens in other variants are unknown. The vast majority of meat producers surveyed had also not resown a paddock to one of the newer varieties in the last 20 years, explaining the strong presence of oestrogenic clovers in the medium to high rainfall zones.

It is clear that many producers unaware of the situation and are not planning to renovate with newer varieties (for low oestrogens, increased yield, or improved disease resistance). The low fertility of sheep is often overlooked, there is a significant economic loss (up to 8% of whole farm profitability) and an animal welfare issue is emerging. *Cont. over page*

Save the Date

ASHEEP Spring Field Day

21st September 2017

The Return of High Oestrogen Clovers Causing Infertility in Sheep

The negative impacts on reproduction and health from high oestrogenic clovers were promoted for decades by State departments and the Universities throughout Australia but, over the last 10-15 years, the once close relationship between these institutions, agronomists and producers has been eroded.

Failure to address the presence of high-oestrogenic cultivars and variants in today's pastures is now causing loss of reproductive potential in the sheep meat industry - with consequences for farm profits and animal welfare. In discussions with consultants and agronomists, it was clear that none were able to identify subterranean clover varieties in the field or advise clients with confidence on issues of 'clover disease' in sheep.

There is a need again to provide clear guidance to producers and consultants on the effects of high-oestrogen subterranean clovers on ewe fertility and on measures to control them in pastures.

For more information contact Kevin Foster

kevin.foster@uwa.edu.au



GERALDTON
 (Distinctive Features. Narrow, triangular, distinctly spaced leaflets, hairy runner, red calyx, band leaf mark and often brown flush midrib)



DWALGANUP
 (Distinctive Features. Crescent with white arms, leaf often has a fold, hairy runner, slight pink calyx, brown flush in winter, early flowering.)

kevin.foster@uwa.edu.au




YARLOOP
 (Distinctive Features. No crescent only white arms, green calyx to 1/4 tube, brown flush midrib, hairless runner and leaf, cream/amber seed)



DINNINUP
 (Distinctive Features. Full Crescent with distinctive flush pattern and thin line surrounding leaf mark, hairy runner, red calyx on half tube)

kevin.foster@uwa.edu.au



For colour copies of the above guides please see ASHEEP's website www.asheep.org.au or contact Emma on 0457937774

Farmer Case Study– Pastures from Space

Brad Wooldridge

Location– Arthur River & Albany

Rainfall– 200-500mm growing season

Farm Size– 500ha Arthur River & 230 ha Albany

Enterprise– 50/50 sheep & crop at Arthur river, 100% sheep at Albany. 2100 Composite ewes. Crops are Oats, Barley, Lupins and sometimes Canola.



By Emma Graham

Brad Wooldridge is a mixed livestock and grain farmer from Arthur River. In 1999 Brad was one of 30 farmers who were involved with the testing of the initial CSIRO Pastures from Space program to firstly determine if the system would work, and secondly to calibrate the imaging to increase the accuracy of output. Since then, Brad has used the current program, developed by the WA government and the University of New England, in his own business.

Pastures from Space uses the satellite imagery derived Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NVDI) to measure Feed On Offer (FOO), pasture growth rates and overall dry matter production. The program can combine this data with local climate, rainfall and evaporation to help farmers with management decisions such as stocking rates.

Brad says the most useful aspect of Pastures from Space is the access to 12 years of historical NVDI data. Brad uses this data to determine how the current season is expected to progress and based on that information, key management decisions are made.

Brad recognises that decisions need to be made early in the year to manage livestock through poor seasons. Pastures from Space gives Brad the ability to make a call in March on how the season is likely to go and manages his program from there. The current season is a good example of how this strategy works. In February Brad could see the season was going to be tight based on historical comparisons in Pastures from Space. Brad knew he would have a high amount of twin bearing ewes whose energy needs could not be met from supplementary feeding of grain alone, green feed would also be needed. Based on that stubbles and oats were locked up from as early as February to preserve pasture for lambing.

For Brad, that ability to make early decisions is a benefit that far outweighs the cost of subscription to the program.

Brad did acknowledge the program is not perfect. Stubble loads and frost damage does interfere with results and biomass measurements of Kikuyu can also be inaccurate.

The introduction of hand-held, real-time biomass readers & phone apps is an exciting development however Brad believes they are a tool that should be used in conjunction with satellite imagery and the historical data available in Pastures from Space. As a stand-alone tool, real-time readers may not make it easier for farmers to make those early management decisions that are so important.

The data for the app that comes with the real-time biomass estimators is crowd sourced, this means that the more people who use, the more accurate results they will get. This technology has been available for years but uptake has been slow as there are some intricacies involved with its operation, you need to be able to tell when it's working and when it's not.

The Pastures from Space Program is a subscription service with a one-off start-up fee of \$99. The ongoing annual subscription fee differs based on farm size, but ranges from \$200– \$820 for up to 15,000 ha. Farmers receive a 15-50% discount when subscribing for more than one farm. There is the option for a free trial.

For more information see the Pastures from Space website- <https://pfs.landgate.wa.gov.au/>

Thanks to Brad for volunteering his time & information for this article

Lambing planning goes mobile

Planning for lambing has gone digital with the popular paper-based tool, the Lambing Planner, now available as an award-winning mobile app.

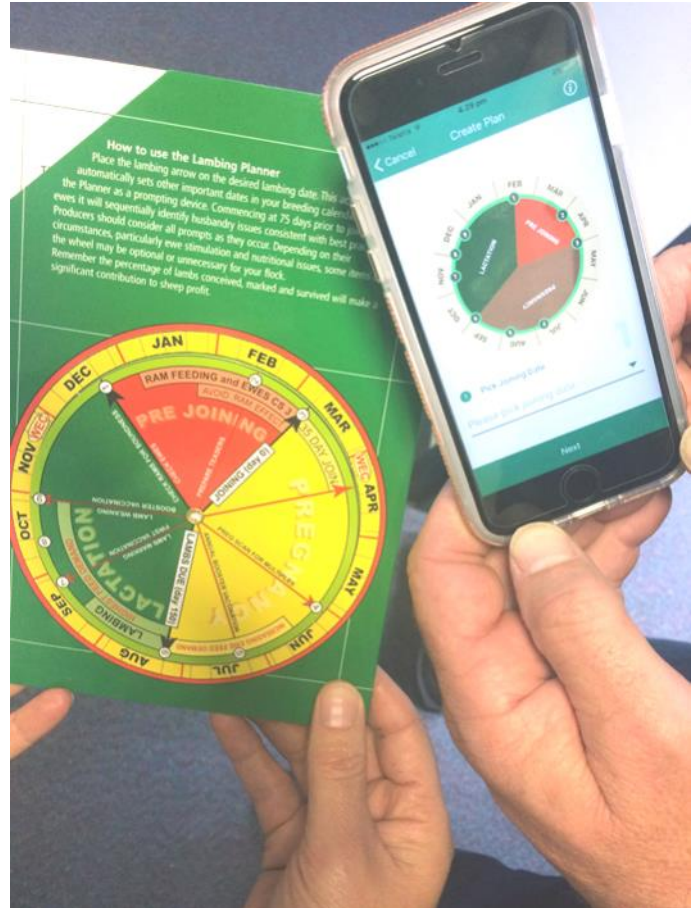
The Lambing Planner is a best practice guide for lambing, developed by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and Esperance-based farmer group ASHEEP.

Department senior development officer Mandy Curnow said the Lambing Planner had been one of the department's most popular tools.

"It is a simple tool that allows producers to change a lambing date or a joining date to see the impacts of that on other key times in the reproductive year," Ms Curnow said.

"It has had strong uptake as a hand-held, paper-based tool and is now available as an app in both Android and iOS formats."

The Lambing Planner calculates other key milestones in the reproductive year based on producer entries and sets out key management operations that make up the breeding cycle, providing information on ewe and ram nutrition, condition score targets at different stages and reproductive management.



The calendar displays the stages of pregnancy or lactation and current recommended activities with more detailed information at the click of a button.

The lambing planner app recently won gold at the 2017 TECH Design Awards.

ASHEEP committee member Bob Reed said he appreciated efforts to convert the planner into an app, after the success of the paper-based tool.

"ASHEEP's original intention with the planner was to sequence a system that made 100 percent lambing outcomes an expectation rather than a surprise," Mr Reed said.

"Such outcomes are now becoming a reality for many Esperance farmers."

The app is free to download on Android and iOS and more information can be found at agric.wa.gov.au/management-reproduction/lambing-planner.

Paper-based copies of the Lambing Planner remain available, from the department's Katanning office, by contacting katanning.customerservicecoordinator@agric.wa.gov.au.



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NEW CLiK[™] EXTRA
EXTRA STRONG
 30% extra active ingredient than CLiK[™]
EXTRA LONG
 Up to 5 weeks extra protection against flystrike than CLiK[™]

CLiK Extra gives you even greater peace of mind that your sheep have the very best protection against blowfly strike because:

EXTRA strong

CLiK Extra is a unique formulation that contains 30% more active ingredient than CLiK. It utilises the same proven suspo-emulsion technology as CLiK.

EXTRA long

CLiK Extra is the only product that protects sheep against flystrike for up to 29 weeks. That's up to 5 weeks longer than CLiK.^{*}

EXTRA protection against breech strike

CLiK Extra is applied to the breech area using a two-band application technique for sheep >30 kg liveweight. This improves coverage and protection against breech strike, the most common site of blowfly strike in typical years.

EXTRA protection against development of resistance

CLiK Extra will help reduce selection pressure for resistance where it remains above the minimum effective concentration (MEC) throughout the entire season and until flies are no longer active. This will also reduce the need for repeat treatments within the same fly season.[†]

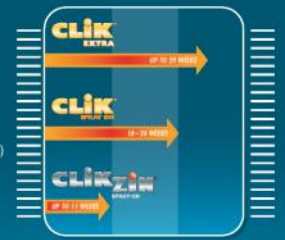
EXTRA peace of mind

CLiK Extra gives you extra peace of mind that your sheep have the longest protection available against flystrike, particularly with unpredictable fly seasons.

Pick your CLiK

The CLiK family provides proven protection against flystrike in all management systems:

- **CLiK Extra** gives you extra peace of mind that your sheep have the longest protection against blowfly strike available (up to 29 weeks). Apply from four weeks after shearing.
- **CLiK** provides reliable season-long protection (18–24 weeks) against flystrike. Apply off-shears or any wool length.
- **CLiKZIN** provides robust medium-term protection (up to 11 weeks) with short withholding periods and minimal ESI. Apply from three weeks after shearing.



	CLiK[™] EXTRA	CLiK[™] SPRAY ON	CLiKZIN[™] SPRAY ON
Length of protection	Up to 29 weeks*	18–24 weeks*	Up to 11 weeks*
Prevents body strike	✓	✓	✓
Prevents breech strike	✓	✓	✓
Prevents poll strike	✓	✓	✓
Protects marking wounds	✓	✓	✓
Protects mulesing wounds	✓	✓	✗
Application timing	From 4 weeks after shearing	Any wool length	From 3 weeks after shearing
Wool Withholding Period	3 months	3 months	1 month
Meat Withholding Period	14 days	28 days	7 days
ESI	9 weeks (63 days)	60 days (long wool) 120 days (6 weeks wool or less)	21 days
Storage life	2 years	5 years	3 years

For full product details, contact Elanco Customer Service on 1800 226 324 8 am–5 pm EST Monday to Friday.



Elanco Animal Health
 A division of Eli Lilly Australia Pty Limited
 ABN 39 000 233 992
www.elanco.com.au
 1800 226 324

Reference: 1. Insecticide resistance in sheep blowfly larvae: http://www.fishbase.com.au/files/paper/headers/insecticide-resistance/Resistance_060616.pdf
^{*}CLiK Extra Spray On contains 65 g/L of deltamethrin. CLiK Extra is registered for the protection of sheep against fly strike & ticks (coupling for up to 29 weeks) and for the protection of marking and mulesing wounds on sheep against fly strike & ticks (coupling during the wool shedding process). CLiK Spray On contains 10 g/L deltamethrin. CLiK is registered for the protection of sheep, other off-shears or with any length bands, against fly strike & ticks (coupling for 18 to 24 weeks) and for the protection of marking and mulesing wounds on sheep against fly strike & ticks (coupling during the wool shedding process). CLiKZIN Spray On contains 12.5 g/L of deltamethrin. CLiKZIN is registered for the protection of sheep against fly strike & ticks (coupling for up to 11 weeks) and for the protection of marking wounds on lambs against fly strike & ticks (coupling for up to 11 weeks). Elanco, CLiK[™], CLiKZIN[™] and the Elanco logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Elanco and Company, its subsidiaries or affiliates. ©2017 Elanco, a division of Eli Lilly and Company. LSH1747_160316020005

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New Direction for the WA Shearing Industry Association and Life Membership awarded to President Darren Spencer

The WA Shearing Industry Association (WASIA) transitioned to a new direction at its AGM in June when it farewelled their retiring Executive Officer of fourteen years Vikki Gates and welcomed their new Administrative Officer, Valerie Pretzel.

The appointment of Valerie brings a wealth of experience to WASIA relevant to this direction, and the digital age, which will serve WASIA members into the future with improved use of technology and communication.

Valerie introduced herself to members present at the AGM and has prioritised getting in touch with members and potential members, communicate ideas for the advancement of WASIA and address member needs as an integral part of the Shearing industry. Valerie's initial primary focus is modernising the way information is relayed about the work WASIA is doing, strengthening the membership base, industry communications and marketing.

Valerie has already developed a new member benefit card, initiated a WASIA Facebook page (search for WA Shearing Industry Association to like and follow), and is in the process of redoing and simplifying the WASIA website.

During the meeting long time member and current WASIA President Darren Spencer joined a small and very elite group by being awarded Life Membership for his outstanding service to WASIA, the shearing Industry

in general, and contributions to rural and regional WA.

Mr Spencer was appointed President of WASIA eight years ago and operates Spencer Shearing Services in the districts around Lake Grace and Lake King, along with Lake Grace transport and an agency for WestCoast Wools.

Mr Spencer was presented with his life membership by former WASIA President and Life Member Mr Peter Letch and WASIA Life Time Observer Mr Doug Kennedy. "You could knock my socks off. I have a lot of passion for the industry. It has given me everything I have ever got." Mr Spencer said. "It is an awesome industry and the people here are testament to that. I am just doing what I think is right for the industry and thank you for recognising that."

As a group member of WASIA, ASHEEP has spoken about concerns that members have around worker's compensation and we are in the process of arranging for WASIA President, Darren Spencer to visit and speak to ASHEEP members.

ASHEEP members are welcome to contact WASIA at any time on 0412 227 252 or at admin@wasia.com.au



Photo (L-R) Former President and Life Member Peter Letch, President Darren Spencer with his Life Membership, Lifetime Observer Doug Kennedy and Nominator Rob Carter

Pain Relief at Lamb Marking

Producers are urged to consider using pain relief for tail docking, castration and mulesing at lamb marking. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is using pain relief for tail docking and castration on unmulesed lambs at its Katanning Research Facility as part of its commitment to best practice. The Australian Pest and Veterinary Medicine Association (APVMA) have registered products in the below table for pain relief at lamb marking.

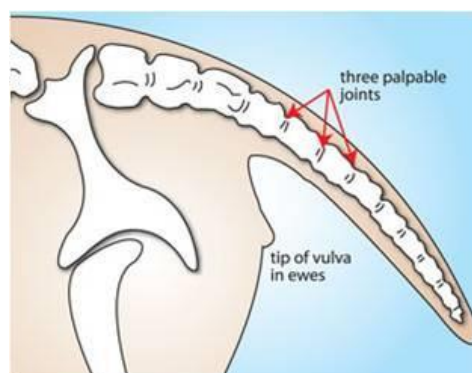
Mulesing may not be necessary on some properties that are in a low risk area, and on properties where producers actively select and breed for fly and worm resistance. Animals that are sold for slaughter prior to the high flystrike risk period may not need to be mulesed.

Lambs should be tail docked at the third joint (or to the tip of the vulva in ewes and to the same length in wethers). Docking at the third joint will reduce the risk of flystrike and other health problems such as rectal prolapses and cancer in ewes. DPIRD recommends producers use rubber rings or a hot gas knife when tail docking. The hot

knife method is preferable for tail docking on lambs that are mulesed.

Lambs should be marked before they are 12 weeks of age, with the youngest lamb being at least 24 hours old so a maternal bond can be established. They should also be vaccinated with a 3-in-1 or 6-in-1 vaccine. Vaccinating against scabby mouth is recommended, especially if they are likely to be sold into a live export market or finished in a feedlot.

For further information on best practice lamb marking please visit agric.wa.gov.au and search for 'best practice marking of lambs'.



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Product	Description & use	Veterinary prescription needed	Meat withholding period (WHP) (days)	Export Slaughter Intervals (ESI) (days)
Tri-Solfen®	Pain relief following mulesing, tail docking and castration. Post-operative gel spray providing local anaesthetic and antiseptic	No	90	90
Buccalgesic®	Alleviation of pain and inflammation for castration and tail docking. Pre-operative liquid administered orally.	Yes	10	10
Metacam 20®*	Alleviation of pain and inflammation. Pre-operative subcutaneous injection.	Yes	11	11

*Lambs must be older than 14 days

Tri-Solfen® cannot be used when using rings to castrate and tail dock. Buccalgesic® and Metacam 20® can be used for both ring methods and knife methods but require a veterinary prescription. Tri-Solfen can now be purchased over-the-counter without the need for a veterinary prescription. It is essential that producers follow all label directions when using pain relief products, and off-label use is not permitted without veterinarian approval. For more information, please visit the [APVMA website](http://www.apvma.com.au).

New Sub-Committee to Tackle Local Shearing Industry Issues

A new shearing industry sub-committee has been formed under the leadership of Basil Parker with Bob Reed, Mark Walter and Vicky Hempzell assisting. A main aim being to provide opportunity and encouragement for young people to go through a program of training, upskilling and mentoring with a clear pathway through to full employment in our industry. This could embrace all the typical skills of shearing, wool handling and wool classing initially targeting young people of around school-leaving age, be they male or female.

Basil & Bob have recently visited the Esperance High School farm and discussed the above with the High School Farm Co-ordinator and Farm Manager. This was a very productive discussion with the School Farm being very keen and interested to see their trainees find full-time employment in the farm services or farming sectors. Of particular interest was that the students (years 11 & 12) are already receiving shearing and shed handling training at the School Farm from expert trainers provided seasonally by AWI. Unfortunately, some of the most promising and keen young trainees have been unable to secure full time work in our local shearing industry.

So, the issue to be resolved is how to best get these keen and well trained young people into our local shearing industry that is desperately in need of a new generation of young, professional shearers and wool handlers.

To the above end Basil has been in discussion with our local shearing contractors (and we only have about four). The contractors acknowledge the difficulties being generated by an inability to attract new and young trainees as permanent employees due to the seasonal nature of the shearing industry in our region. Their (and our) opinion is that if we could get a better spread of work throughout a calendar year then they would take on trainees on a permanent type basis. In this way, our industry could be providing them with a career rather than being a part of a seasonal mad rush between August and November followed by a mix of intermittent shearing work with periods of unemployment and occasional casual work.

We as regional farmers can potentially play a big and vital role in changing the above if we step up to the plate and consider some options-

- Do we all need to shear between August & November or in a tight Autumn period?
- Is shearing on 12-month intervals still best practice for all? For example, what is your optimum wool length?
- Is it possible to move your dry sheep shearing (weaners, wether & rams) to the more quieter periods of the year?
- Do we all provide a full days shearing under cover?
- Do the amenities we offer our shearing teams match those we would expect ourselves?

A decline in the professionalism of some shearing crews in the past few years is possibly, if not probably, related to an inability to hold onto the role models- the true professional shearers and wool handlers, due to our inability to offer them continuous work here.

If we could revamp our structures and create a flow of continuous work for regional shearing contractors then they could operate with less, but more professional, staff. This could be a win for the contractors and a win for the farmers. Of paramount importance is that our trainee shearers would get learner pens and full-time work as would shed staff. This is essential to the future of our wool industry.

This sub-committee will be continuing our discussions with both the School Farm and the town based training providers to see how we can best assist them. We are heartened by their enthusiasm to see young trained people find meaningful work and there must be more ways we can assist and provide incentives. In this regard, we would welcome feedback from our regional farmers. This subject warrants a wide dialogue and your ideas & suggestions on matters commensurate with the content of this article could be forwarded to our Executive Officer Emma or direct to a sub-committee member. In the meantime, we will also be maintaining a continuing dialogue with the contractors.

Your Shearing Industry Sub-committee Bob Reed, Basil Parker, Mark Walter & Vicky Hempzell.



WEEKLY
WOOL
MARKET
REPORT

18 August 2017

BUSINESS came in the end, late last week and in good volumes, so this week it was inevitable for prices to rocket again. Exporters are selling at market each day, so it's like adding fuel to a fire.

The WMI was up another whopping 74c to 1680 and the EMI was up 64 to 1614. The USD EMI was up US60c to 1281 due to our dollar spending some of the week over US79c again.

The dollar is very volatile due to tensions in the US over the riots and different views on the US economy. We also have to factor in "The Don", as every time he opens his mouth something topical comes out and the USD reacts swiftly.

We sold over two days this week and Wednesday was by far the biggest kick, with yesterday a little subdued. It's difficult to know what to expect. One type last night sold 30c/kg over the closing quote.

All microns were affected and now Xbds are finally lifting as well – 28 to 32 micron lifted approx. 50/60c, which is quite significant for these microns.

It's interesting to note that the NZ coarse Xbd market is also now lifting, so the Merinos are dragging all wool sectors out of the doldrums.

The only sector that astounds us with its lack of enthusiasm is the short carding market. Once again it did nothing this week compared with all other sectors. The big question is whether it will finally follow or will it wait for the combing wools to correct.

We have no WA auction next week, so the actual wool

on offer is well reduced. This should be enough to support present prices, but sometimes, when the offering is at its lowest, we see some price corrections. 21s at 1665 on the MPG is quite remarkable and just shows how much demand there is for this mid micron, due to the demand for the "fur-like" fabric. Let's pray this demand continues.

The last thing we want is for a sharp correction, as this will cause all sorts of issues both contractually and quality wise.

We've all witnessed an amazing run this year and the last thing we need is for some blood to be spilt with dramatic price corrections.

If you have some wool, our advice is to sell it so you can take advantage of this current market. It might be a good idea to keep an eye on the forward market as well, with opportunities starting to present in the next couple of months.

Good luck.

For more info see West Coast Wools Website.

MARKET INFORMATION FOR FORWARD THINKING GROWERS BY EXPERT ANALYST WILLIAM DAVIDSON

This wool report contains information about [subject matter] ("the information"). The information is not advice and should not be treated as such. The information is purely our views and opinions and may vary from others. You must not rely on the information in any way. We do not represent or warrant that the information is correct, accurate or complete. We will not be liable to you in respect of any loss caused or contributed to by the use or reliance on the information. You must not reproduce or redistribute the information to any person or organisation.



Rabobank Market Outlook- *Is the run of strong wool prices set to continue?*

By Rabobank commodity analyst, Georgia Twomey

Strong demand from processors saw the 2016/17 season deliver solid returns for Western Australian merino producers. The Western Market Indicator averaged 1452c/kg (clean) for the season – up some 25 per cent on the five-year average – demonstrating the significant gains for all merino types throughout the season.

It was also a season which saw China's imports of Australian wool rise strongly. Notably the volume of wool finer than 23 microns shipped to China in the eleven month period to May 2017, was up by 17 per cent on the same period last year. This seemingly insatiable demand to replenish the pipeline helped the wool market close the 2016/17 season at its highest level on record and left merino types at, or close to, the 100th percentile (for the period 1995 to 2017).

The supply backdrop makes some of the wool price performances even more impressive, with the overall national volume of wool lifting four per cent to recover some of the six per cent lost during the previous season. Seasonal conditions in Western Australia contributed heavily to this national increase, with the state's production lifting by an estimated nine per cent through the 2016/17 season.

While superfine prices were certainly buoyed by the first decline in the supply of wool finer than 17.5 micron since 2010/11, the strength of mid-micron markets in the face of a 12 per cent lift in wool tested for the year, really highlighted the strength in demand. Nonetheless, the improvements in the superfine markets saw premiums for fine wool open to levels not seen since 2011.

Looking out to 2017/18, the question remains 'how long will this demand strength be maintained?' While supply doesn't appear to be raising many headwinds, early production forecasts are steady and the dry winter in the

west and also south-east of the country, may yet impact both the profile and size of the clip.

The recent strength and short-term outlook for the Australian dollar may also be an issue. Wool prices in USD terms have risen considerably since their five-year lows of 2015, with the Western Market Indicator for 19 micron and 21 micron, up some 53 and 34 per cent, respectively.

While stocks in the pipeline were reported to be low in early 2017, encouraging the strong imports of merino wool seen through the last 12 months, pull-through demand from retail will be needed to maintain prices at the current levels.

Rabobank will be releasing their full wool outlook in mid-August – via the RaboResearch podcast channel

https://research.rabobank.com/far/en/sectors/regional-food-agri/AUNZ_podcasts.html

For further information on Rabobank's research please call Rabobank Esperance on 08 9076 4200.



Rabobank



*Rabobank commodity analyst,
Georgia Twomey*

New ASHEEP website

ASHEEP's new website has now gone live. You will be able to register for ASHEEP events, read previous newsletters and catch up on the latest ASHEEP news. The address is www.asheep.org.au



Welcome to ASHEEP Esperance

ASHEEP is the Association for Sheep Husbandry, Excellence, Evaluation and Production. We are a group that was formed over 10 years ago in 2003 to address a number of issues in the sheep industry such as declining sheep numbers, the lack of young people in the industry and the role of sheep in the farming system. We are based in the Esperance area covering a wide variety of rainfall zones and soil types. Recognising the renewed confidence in the cattle industry, ASHEEP has expanded to include cattle producer's in its focus. ASHEEP aims to produce and extend relevant information to livestock producers through field days, newsletters, social media and workshops.



South West Study Tour

12-15 September 2017

After the success of ASHEEP's New Zealand Study Tour earlier in the year, we are now planning a domestic study tour. A bus will leave Esperance on the morning of the 12th, heading to Katanning, then Bunbury and returning to Esperance on the night of the 15th. The stops on the way will include-

- Katanning Sale Yard tour on sale day
- Southern Dirt Techspo
- V & V Walsh tour
- Feedlot enterprise south of Bunbury
- Mixed farming operations near Kojonup & Jerramungup
- High rainfall, intensive livestock & fodder production operation



Approximate cost will be \$200 per person which includes accommodation and bus hire. All meals, drinks and extra expenses will be at your own cost.

Numbers will be needed **by the 21st of August 2017.**

Contact Emma Graham 0457 937 774 or eo@asheep.org.au

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