

ASHEEP NEWS



Cattle Field Day: Value adding your calves

ASHEEP's Cattle Committee held their annual field day on 30th June 2021, with producers, industry and stock alike turning out to share strategies for value adding calves. Whilst it's doubtful how much detail the four-legged attendees took on board, they certainly appeared engaged. The day involved three farm visits and finished off with a WA Lot Feeders Association discussion panel.

First stop was to Waterhatch Farms, where David Cox took us through his system of agisting up to 2000 Friesian heifers for a corporate farm in Scott River. The animals arrive at 3 months old at 150kg and are taken through to depart as pregnant 2 year olds (using a fixed time AI program with no bulls) at 450kg plus. David described the agistment arrangement as a low-risk model.

David also buys in cattle to grass finish for Coles and we stopped by a paddock of good looking yearlings bought from sale-yards in December / January at 280kg - 300kg with the aim to sell in early Spring at 500kg plus (aiming for a carcass weight of 290kg). They graze barley and canola crops up to July and then transition in spring to pasture (grange barley & rye grass, vetch & capeweed, tagasaste) at high stocking rates.

One interesting discussion that came up during these stops was around strategies to avoid dark cutting, including the use of magnesium supplementation which some producers noted they had had success with. Worth a chat with your vet or advisor about whether / how this could benefit your system.

Farewelling David, the troupe moved on to Beef Machine, where Dr Enoch Bergman (Swans Veterinary Services & Bergman Cattle Company) is regenerating pastures from bluegums and winter calving.

Image: Yearlings at Waterhatch Farms join discussions at the Cattle Field Day. Article continued over page.

Highlights

Glen Valley Feedlotting - 4

Pasture Trials Update - 7

Winter Walk Wrap - 10

*Plant Mineral Deficiencies
Limiting Potential - 12*

Market Report: Wool - 15

Shearing Updates - 16

Preg Testing, Why? - 19

*Preg Scanning: Benchmarking &
Benefits - 22*

Vet Spot: PEM - 27

Export Stock Requirements - 28

Livestock Collective - 29

Continued.

The group heard from Enoch about the journey he has gone through to build up the pastures after the land had been in bluegums for 15 years. The land is leased from the Dohnts in an arrangement where Enoch reinstates infrastructure and pastures in return for stocking rights.

Enoch also detailed his May calving program, which he advocates for as a method of maximising stocking density, optimising milk delivery when digestible to calves, increasing re-breeding rates and to reduce the labour required in having to otherwise feed out hay. Calves are weaned early based on seasonal conditions - if it's tough they come off earlier to give the cows a break.

Last visit was to Greg Hard's, where we heard about growing and grazing lucerne, a program that he was looking to expand. Esperance Rural Supplies Agronomist Theo Oorschot gave valuable input, and the group discussed August as an ideal sowing time.

With that, the day of site visits and discussion was over and with the sun going down the crowd headed indoors for one last stop.

WA Lot Feeders Association Panel Discussion

Article continued by Anita Chalmer, ASHEEP

The evening saw the crowd descend on Lucky Bay Brewery where a panel discussion featuring Todd Fotheringhame (WALFA President), Trevor Hinck (Kerrigan Valley Beef & WALFA Past President), and Brett Page (A O'Meehan & Co Feedlot Manager) provided us with unique insight to the inner workings of a feedlotter's world.

It was noted by the panel that the key to success is communication between links in the supply chain. A feedlotter must balance the price of purchase and the price of inputs with the final sale to the abattoir to make a profit. Unexpected losses of production can have a significant impact on the bottom line. For example, the profit from five steers can be used up just to cover costs incurred from one mortality.

In recent years, the buy-in price has been high which means the cattle on feed are an increasingly valuable product and incremental losses are more apparent. Reduced performance or mortality once in the feedlot can have severe consequences to profitability and can be frustrating when the causes are preventable. Good animal welfare and improving mortality rates and performance benefits everyone in the supply chain. This process starts at weaning and continues through to final processing.



*Images: Top to bottom - Friesian heifers at Waterhatch Farms
Pasture rehabilitation from bluegums at Beef Machine
Sinead O'Gara (South Coastal Agencies) on animal health grazing green pasture
Lucerne at Greg Hard's
WALFA Panel discussion at Lucky Bay Brewery*

Continued:

Most losses in productivity can be prevented by diligent preparation of cattle prior to feedlot entry. According to Dr. Enoch Bergman, the gold standard of pre-feedlot preparation is as follows:

- Weaned for at least 1 month using yard weaning to acclimatise the calves to yards and humans.
- Transport direct from vendor rather than through saleyards to avoid unnecessary stress and disruptions to the rumen.
- Polled or dehorned at marking to avoid injury to other animals.
- Desexed correctly - meaning both testes are removed at marking.
- No pregnant heifers which will cause dramas in lost production and animal welfare risks.
- Vaccinated for (IBR) infectious bovine rhinotracheitis, Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), haemolytica.

In an ideal world, there would be a continuous supply of beef to consumers every week of the year. November to January can be difficult to find suitable cattle to enter the feedlot. Lot feeders usually get around this by manipulating rations to a maintenance level but it is not the preferred option if grain prices are high. Continuity of supply is always a challenge and producers targeting entry weights in times of peak demand are likely to be rewarded. Traditionally, a feedlot will operate from January to September but this is changing as more long fed options are being explored. There is an increasing trend of year round turnoff depending on new markets.

The feedlotters were keen to welcome producers to visit the feedlot to see how their cattle were performing compared with others in the same system, also encouraging producers to get the kill sheets and read them.

The Cattle Field Day was put on with thanks to the Cattle Committee chaired by Ryan Willing, site hosts, speakers and sponsors - including Ben Fletcher from Zoetis for making a contribution to keep the bar tab going!



Image: Trevor Hinck, Enoch Bergman and Ben Fletcher at the Cattle Field Day.

ASHEEP Committee Changes

The 2021 AGM saw three new additions welcomed to the ASHEEP Committee: Enoch Bergman (Swans Vet / Bergman Cattle Company), Nick Ruddenklau (Epasco Farms) and Josh Sullivan (Kalabity Moorna).

The room's thanks went to outgoing and long-serving Committee Members Basil Parker, Bob Reed and John Wallace.

The Committee have since met and re-elected Mark Walter as Chair, David Vandenberghe as Vice Chair and Alan Hoggart as Treasurer.

Courteney Pengilly joins the ASHEEP team

For those who don't know me, I am Courteney Pengilly. I am passionate about all things agriculture and livestock. I was brought into ASHEEP as a casual project officer and I am currently collecting the DNA tissue samples for the MerinoLink project.

I love that we can get the best out of our animals using historical data, livestock data, technology and continuously improving our management strategies. I hope that many of the people involved in the current project are enjoying and expanding their horizons with the possibilities that could come from this knowledge.

I'm probably not a new face to some but I'm new to ASHEEP, I was at Farm and General for 4 years as a merchandise sales manager focusing on animal health (even then I was keen to get people into traceability for their animals, in the form of EID tags) before heading out to be on the farm with my husband Thomas Pengilly and work in with him and his parents from early January 2020.

I'm excited to be able to help ASHEEP with this project and I can't wait to hear how this has changed the way that you are choosing your breeding flock and rams.

Courteney Pengilly
Project Officer, ASHEEP



Case Study: Ridley Plains / Glen Valley Feed Pens

ASHEEP interviews Scott Wandel

Scott and Jane Wandel farm across two properties out of Esperance - Ridley Plains at Mt Ridley and Glen Valley in Dalyup. Alongside their cropping program, the Wandels run Angus cattle and incorporate a confinement system to carry them through the drier months and meet the steer market when demand peaks. The majority of their stocking operation is run at Glen Valley, with Ridley Plains being utilised for summer feed on stubbles. Scott took some time to give us an insight into how their program runs.

Breeding program

The Wandels maintain a herd of around 550 cows, mated to Allegria Park and Coonamble Angus bulls. Mating starts early June and runs over 9 weeks (three cycles) with a ratio of 30 cows per bull. Annually they put around 100-150 of their heifers through an AI program and 3 weeks later back up with some of their own-bred younger bulls for 3-4 weeks. The AI program is timed to run a month earlier than the cows' breeding program.

The majority of the heifers calve in early-mid February. The heifers are brought in to calve in a 10ha paddock that has a laneway alongside it making oversight easy. As they drop, the calf is issued with a sheep tag to identify it and the pair are then moved across the laneway to an adjacent paddock. As soon as the first calf arrives a silage feeding program begins to bring up the heifers' energy. On the advice of the Wandel's vet, the silage is fed out in the afternoon around 4pm, a practice which Scott has been told results in an 85% correlation with calving in the morning and it has worked for them. The cows are lower-maintenance and start calving from early May. They require less oversight and are fed out hay depending on paddock feed availability.

Confinement Feeding System

Weaning occurs October-November with the steers / heifers run together and given access to the best quality feed. Around Christmas the mob is split up and the heifers (apart from those that are particularly light) are trucked to Ridley Plains, where they are put out onto stubbles. The steers are left behind at Dalyup and around mid-January the confinement program kicks off.

Scott explained that they split their mob of steers in half (under / over 330kg) as there is still some feed left in paddock that can be utilised. The lights go straight into the feed pens and the heavies (approx. 330kg - 380kg) are put out to fatten on grass in a couple of paddocks that have been kept locked up for the purpose. Those that have already reached the target weight of 380kg are sold. Scott aims to finish both the heavies and lights at the same time to sell in April / May when there is a shortage of animals on the market and a 10-15 cent price rise.

This season the heavies gained an average of 0.6 - 0.7kg p/d running on dry feed / ryegrass or kikuyu, which works for Scott given the low cost input. After 30-60 days, depending on paddock feed availability, they are brought into the feed pens to finish where they gain an average of 1.1kg p/day.

This year, the light animals that went straight into the feed pens were fed a ration that is mixed on farm made up of hay, straw, silage, legume screenings, wheat and barley. Scott calculated that they gained an average of 0.9kg p/day over the roughly 3 months that they were in the feedlot, a rate he would like to increase.

10 Tonne Feed Mixer - Ration Breakdown*

Tonnes	Feed Type	Estimated Water Content	Remaining Dry Feed Tonnage	Indicative Cost p/tn (Dry) - Sale price not production	Ration Cost
0.5	HAY	15%	0.425	\$350	\$149
0.5	STRAW	10%	0.450	\$300	\$135
5	SILAGE	60%	2.000	\$250	\$500
1.5	LEGUME SCREENINGS	10%	1.350	\$300	\$405
2.5	WHEAT / BARLEY MIX	13%	2.175	\$350	\$761
10			6.400	\$1,550	\$1,950

*All figures indicative / estimate only. Ration is approximately 36% water / 64% dry matter. Legume mix is peas, lentils, vetch.

Farm Snapshot

Location: Dalyup (west of Esperance) & Mt Ridley (north east of Esperance).

Av. Annual Rainfall: Dalyup 580mm, Ridley 375mm

Enterprise Mix: Cereals, legumes and cattle.

Stock: Angus - Average 550 cows, 100-150 heifers.

Continued.

Scott has run the figures to check that the system is producing the required results. He estimates that having an animal in the feed pens sits at about \$3 p/day for feed and wages. The profit margin is there, particularly given that they are able to meet the market when prices are higher.

Our thanks to Scott for taking the time to run us through this aspect of their farming system - very much appreciated.



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Shaping the future
of animal health



ASHEEP Pasture Variety Trials 2021

Article by India Warren-Hicks (South East Agronomy Research)

In 2020, ASHEEP engaged the services of South East Agronomy Research and formed partnership to research profitable pasture varieties in the Esperance Port Zone.



2020 saw the first year of the trials at three locations: Grass Patch (Vandenberghe), Salmon Gums (Guest) and Sandplain (Wallace). Unfortunately, with tough growing conditions in 2020 the Salmon Gums trial did not establish. The Sandplain site established well, however with two large wind events was blown away and outcompeted by weeds. A later resowing was agreed on, and provided information for producers on feed value at a later sowing (6th August). The sandplain site established and grew biomass well considering. The Ryegrass, Medic and Lucerne were the standouts. The Grass Patch site was the standout of the 2020 trials with a successful Spring field day visit. The 10 weeks after sowing dry matter cuts showed Leafmore Brassica powering at 850kg/ha dry matter, followed by Planet Barley at 550kg/ha and Tetila Ryegrass, Illabo Wheat, RM4 Vetch and Snail Medic at 200kg/ha of dry matter. This same pattern followed at the 17 weeks after sowing dry matter cuts.

Figure 1: Sandplain ASHEEP Trial Site 21st July 2021

The trial sites in 2021 have followed on, with some adjustments to the locations. A more favourable growing season has accordingly seen the sites establish and progress more successfully this year.

2021 ASHEEP Trial Sites	Grass Patch (David Vandenberghe)	Cascade (Simeon Roberts)	Neridup/Sandplain (John Wallace)
Trial Layout	15 varieties x 4 replications	15 varieties x 4 replications	15 varieties x 4 replications
Sown	20 th May	19 th May	13 th May
Sowing equipment	1.8m Single plot cone seeder with knife points and press wheels		
Moisture at sowing	Moist	Moist	Moist
pH (CaCl₂)			
Sowing Details	Cereals: 60L Flexi-N + 80kg Agstar Legumes: 50kg Big Phos + 10kg required Alosca	Cereals: 50L Flexi-N + 80kg Agstar Legumes: 50kg Big Phos + 10kg required Alosca Sparticus Barley treated with 1.5L/t Systiva	Cereals: 100L Flexi-N + 120kg Agstar Legumes: 50kg Big Phos + 10kg required Alosca Planet Barley treated with 1.5L/t Systiva
Varieties/Rates	Sulla @ 5kg Trigonella @ 8kg Express Grazing Oats @ 70kg Express Grazing Oats @ 50kg + RM4 Vetch @ 20kg Tillage Radish @ 6kg Snail Medic @ 12kg Leafmore Grazing Brassica @ 5kg Casbah Biserulla @ 6kg RM4 Vetch @ 25kg Mawson Subclover @ 6kg Cobra Subclover @ 6kg SARDI Grazing Lucerne @ 6kg Tetila Ryegrass @ 15kg BALL ThumpA Ballard Mix @ 20kg BALL SalinA Ballard Mix @ 20kg	Sparticus Barley @ 80kg RM4 Vetch @ 25kg Capello Vetch @ 25kg Express Grazing Oats @ 70kg RM4 Vetch @ 20kg + Express Grazing Oats @ 50kg Trigonella @ 8kg Tetila Ryegrass @ 15kg Cavalier Medic @ 12kg Snail Medic @ 12kg SU Tolerant Sultan Medic @ 6kg Casbah Biserulla @ 6kg SARDI Grazing Lucerne @ 6kg Cobra Clover @ 6kg Ball ThumpA Ballard Mix @ 20kg BALL SalinA Ballard Mix @ 20kg	Illabo Wheat @ 100kg Planet Barley @ 80kg Capello Vetch @ 25kg RM4 Vetch @ 25kg Tetila Ryegrass @ 15kg Express Grazing Oats @ 80kg Express Grazing Oats @ 60kg + Tetila Ryegrass @ 15kg SARDI Grazing Lucerne @ 6kg SARDI Series 7 Lucerne @ 6kg SARDI Series 10 Lucerne @ 6kg Casbah Biserulla @ 6kg Dalkeith Subclover @ 6kg Leafmore Grazing Brassica @ 5kg Franno Serradella @ 8kg BALL TearA Ballard Mix @ 20kg

Neridup (sandplain)

The sandplain site is typical of the non-wetting deep sands in the high rainfall zone. It has low N, P and K from the surface down to depth. The trial was sown into good moisture, and majority of the varieties established well. The three Lucerne species, Casbah Biserulla and Dalkeith Subclover were slow to establish and put on minimal biomass in the first 10 weeks post sowing. The plots of these species are beginning to be outcompeted by broadleaf weeds. All other varieties were cut for dry matter comparison at 10 weeks. At this point the sandplain site had 370mm of growing season rainfall. The Planet Barley is the standout of this trial for early establishment and growth with 1900kg/ha of dry matter at 10 weeks after sowing. Followed by the Express Oats and Tetila Ryegrass Mix, then the Tetila Ryegrass and Express Oats standalone. Interestingly, the RM4 Vetch has had a significantly greater establishment and put on more biomass than the Capello Vetch at this point in the season.

Grass Patch

The Grass Patch trial was sown into a sandy loam over clay soil type. The site has good nutrition and soil structure from surface down to depth. The trial got up and away with good soil moisture at sowing, and decent rainfall following. There has been 210mm of growing season rainfall to this point. At 10 weeks after sowing pasture cuts were taken and converted to dry matter kg/ha. All species established well and put on good biomass other than Sulla, which dry matter cuts could not be taken. The standout varieties from these cuts were Tillage Radish with 2250 kg/ha of dry matter, closely followed by Leafmore Brassica, Tetila Ryegrass, Express Oats and RM4 Vetch. In 2020 the standout varieties at 10 weeks also included Leafmore Brassica, Tetila Ryegrass and RM4 Vetch. In 2020 Tillage Radish and Oats were not varieties included in the trial.

Cascade

The Cascade trial site saw an excellent establishment with all varieties other than the Casbah Biserulla. The ASHEEP Winter Walk included a stop to Simeon Roberts to visit the trial. A great turn out and discussion in the paddock brought up the idea of mowing a section of the site to simulate grazing.

At 10 weeks after sowing pasture cuts were taken with growing season rainfall sitting at 250mm. The Sparticus Barley is the standout at this point in the trial with 1700kg/ha of dry matter. This is closely followed by RM4 Vetch at 1600kg/ha, and the mix of RM4 Vetch and Express Oats with 1500kg/ha of dry matter.

The next pasture cuts and subsequent dry matter calculations for all trial sites are scheduled for 16 weeks after sowing. It will be interesting to see what biomass has been put on from some of the slower growing varieties. Following the 10 week cuts all sites have had 150L of Flexi-N streamed onto the cereals, ryegrass and brassica plots. Keep an eye out for the next ASHEEP newsletter for the results from the 16 weeks after sowing cuts, and how the rest of the season plays out for these trial sites.



Figure 2: Tetila Ryegrass and Express Oats Mix at the Sandplain Site - 10 weeks after sowing.



Figure 3: Trigonella at the Cascade Site - 10 weeks after sowing.

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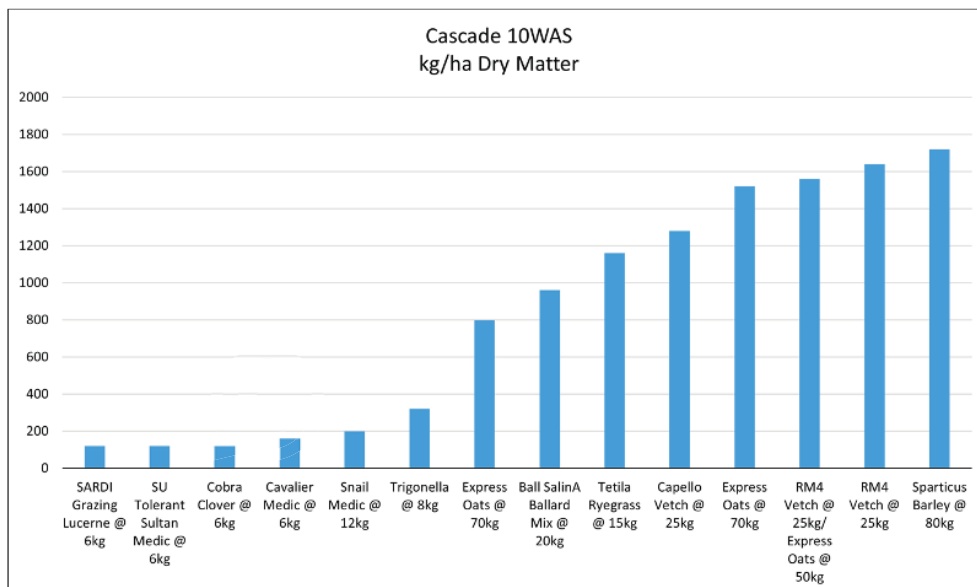
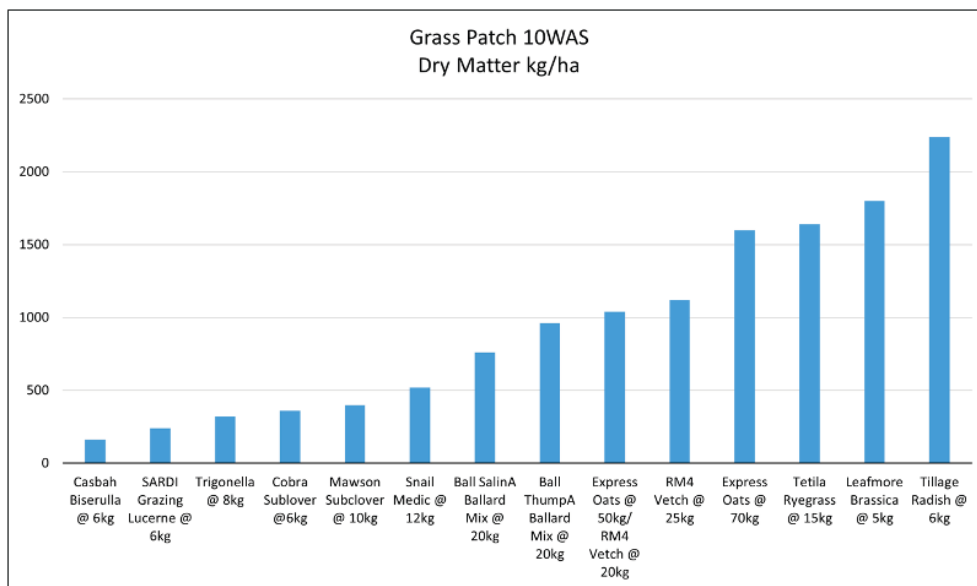
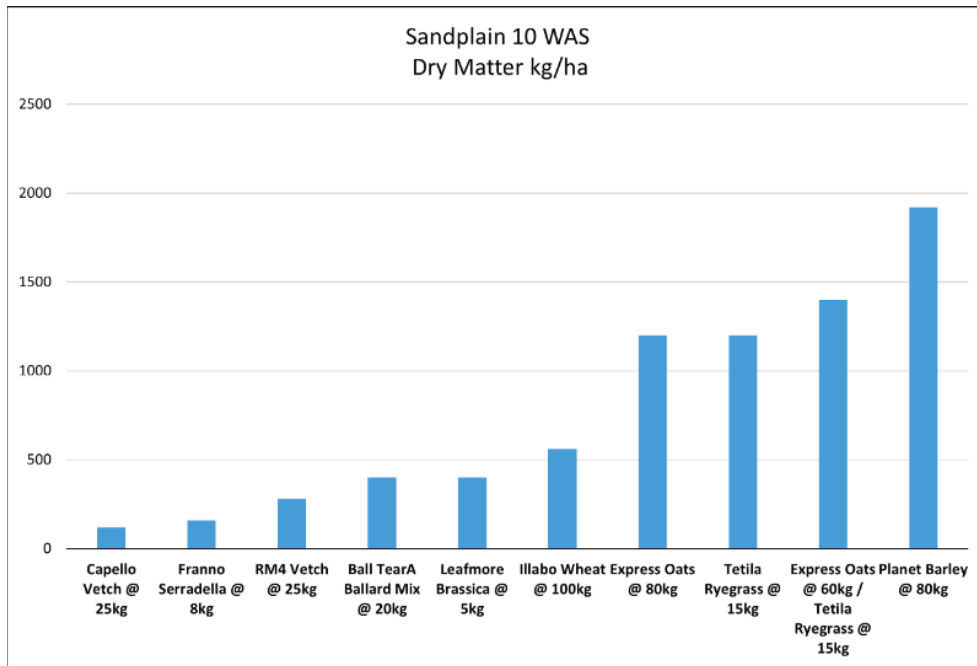
Text Sarah Brown on 0409 335 194 or email eo@asheep.org.au to be added to the group.

Project Lead Producer:

David Vandenberghe
 0427 786 040



Note: All varieties in each trial were sown at the same date, with some species in particular the vetch and clovers generally requiring a late April sowing date. Take this into account when looking at the dry matter (kg/ha) data below.





The Winter Walk We Survived

Article by Sarah Brown, ASHEEP

Perhaps the title is a tad dramatic but suffice to say that after a long day of wet, cold, windy weather (with the Executive Officer white-knuckle gripping the wheel watching the portable toilet slide back and forth in the side-views), we were glad to make it to the Casbar for a beer. Theo Oorschot (as shown above) was about the only one left with any sense of style, but let's start at the beginning.

First stop on the Winter Walk was to Westwood Farms in Cascade with Scott Welke. He led us through a 100ha paddock that had been deep-ripped in February and then planted to Illabo Wheat as an early feed option while pastures were establishing and to cover the ripping. With the season progressing well, he was left with ample feed after he'd had 600 ewes and lambs grazing it between the 15th May - 25th June. The paddock had previously been in Serradella (2019), but he chooses to top up N and considers anything that has been fixed via nodulation as a bonus.

We then moved on to Penrose Pastoral, where Thomas Pengilly showed us a paddock of Planet Barley that had been divided up with temporary electric fence and grazed at different stages. As the weather came in we took the opportunity to duck into their shearing shed to listen to Sam Horley detail how producers can benefit from using WoolQ - "a secure online platform where woolgrowers, classers, brokers and buyers can access digital tools to support all stages of the wool-growing and selling cycle" (www.woolq.com). The visit to the Pengilly's wrapped up with a comparison of difference varieties of vetch / mixed pasture and a paddock of Scepter Wheat.

The road was getting fairly slick as we slithered over to Lortleaze Farms where the Roberts are hosting the Cascade trial site in the ASHEEP / MLA Pasture Variety Trials. We had also hoped to see the impact of the previous year's Raptor application on a paddock of RM4 Vetch (with clear delineation in growth where Raptor had been sprayed) - but wet track conditions held us back.



Images: Top - Theo Oorschot (Esperance Rural Supplies), Luke Marquis (South East Agronomy Services), Mark Walter (ASHEEP Chair) and Neil Ballard (Global Pasture Consultants) at the ASHEEP / MLA Pasture Variety Trial Site in Cascade.

Bottom Left - Scott Welke's Illabo Wheat. Bottom Right - Thomas Pengilly's Planet Barley.

Continued.

On the positive side, the trial site looked good and we were fortunate to have Neil Ballard (Global Pasture Consultants), Theo Oorschot (Esperance Rural Supplies agronomist) and Luke Marquis (South East Agronomy Research / trial site manager) in attendance. A few snippets of the chat included:

- **Snail medic** for vigorous early growth, with a large seed that's like 'lollies' to sheep. Dave Vandenberghe is trialling this. It needs a higher sowing rate than the 12kg p/h in the trial as the seed is so large. The seed size also calls for careful grazing management for regeneration as sheep will easily eat them.
- **Vetches** are seen to be replacing medics, with dry sowing Jan / Feb / March, great for feed and regeneration. Can be a weed issue in following year's cereals.
- Tetraploid **Tetila ryegrass** looked good as a cheap feed that has a mild salt tolerance. Stays green longer than most plants and will outcompete Wimmera Ryegrass if you are trying to get rid of that. Good to mix with oats or cereals. Should be rotationally grazed - only has 3 leaves alive at a time with the first leaf dying when the 4th emerges, so make use of it.
- **Ballard mixes** - won't have an outstanding cut at 10 weeks but will take off down the track.
- **Trigonella** - new species from Dryland Pasture Legume System, very promising. Good vigour and will grow 'a hell of a lot' as season progresses. It should be available within two years commercially, if it comes through taste testing with its curry scent.
- **SARDI grazer lucerne** - new variety with a low crown so can be grazed harder.
- **Cavalier medic** - a prolific grower, a replacement for Circle Valley.



We sloshed out of the trial site and battled on to Mark & Liv Walter's, viewing Leafmore Brassica that they've been experimenting with. They've been pleased with results as a good feed source over multiple grazings, plus as lambing shelter.

With Theo in his drizabone the only one still with any pink in his face, we made our way on to the Casbar where all hard times were forgotten over a lamb chop and the pleasure of seeing the area having a good season, with good rain. A hardy crew and a great day out, thanks to all who came along and shared their experience.



Plant Mineral Deficiencies Limiting Crop Yield & Livestock Genetic Potential

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Esperance – Ravensthorpe – Salmon Gums

A gold standard cropping program implements regular plant tissue testing to identify, and therefore correct, nutritional deficiencies.

Plant tissue testing is one of the key activities involved in ensuring that the crop has the adequate nutrition to reach its yield potential at harvest. A nutritionally deficient plant will display visual symptoms on the leaves, roots, and biomass. These visual symptoms may include the discolouration or yellowing of leaves, wilting, spotting or poor root development. The symptoms displayed by a nutritionally deficient plant vary depending on what nutrient is lacking (for example, a nitrogen deficiency will cause the oldest leaves of the plant to turn yellow or change to ‘sickly green’).

In contrast to plants, livestock are not adapted to readily express nutritional defects through visual symptoms. As an evolutionary survival tactic, animals mask their vulnerability until the deficit becomes extreme and the body can no longer survive under suboptimal conditions. Subclinical mineral deficiencies are more common than initially foretold. Subclinical deficiencies reduce and limit the genetic growth and potential of livestock if left unaddressed and are regularly asymptomatic, flying under the radar until symptoms arise. It is at this point that the deficiency has dropped to critical low levels.

Pasture testing beyond the basics

It is vital to test DM%, crude protein, neutral detergent fibre (NDF) & acid detergent fibre (ADF) content to be able to assess the forage quality. Testing beyond these four measurements to identify the micronutrient status of the pasture is also essential

Can you visually identify the magnesium deficiency?

in identifying potential subclinical deficiencies that the animals may be suffering. Micronutrients that are within optimum plant threshold do not always align with ruminant requirements.

When to tissue test?

- Early in the day when the plant is not under heat stress
- Sample plants that have been grazed that have not senescent or rank

DO NOT SAMPLE POST FERTILIZER/CHEMICAL APPLICATION – results will be less useful, so wait a couple of weeks for the plants to get over the herbicide application or take up any fertiliser that has been applied.

<i>Pasture species</i>	<i>When to sample</i>
<i>Clover/medics</i>	Early spring before flowering
<i>Ryegrass</i>	2-5 weeks post grazing- early tillage
<i>Vetches</i>	Pre grazing
<i>Kikuyu</i>	2-5 weeks post grazing
<i>Barley</i>	Mid tillering
<i>Legumes</i>	Pre-flowering
<i>Grasses</i>	Pre grazing

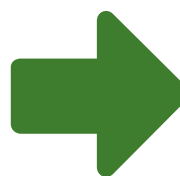
Example of the plant tissue test

The analysis indicates that the Potassium (K) levels are high in the plant and are adequate for the plant's nutritional requirements.

Magnesium (Mg) levels in the plant tissue sample are also adequate.

These levels of micronutrients are not ideal for livestock consumption, high levels of K can tie up and limit magnesium absorption. Current Mg levels in the plant do not meet cattle requirements (<0.2). Low levels can lead to issues as grass tetany or dark cutters.

Further supplementation of a high Mg supplementation would be recommended.



P (%)	0.52 high
K (%)	3.85 high
S (%)	0.28
Ca (%)	0.43
Mg (%)	0.17

Supplementation options

- Loose licks
- Block licks
- Water treatments
- Bolus capsules
- Injectable mineral supplementation

Pasture tissue testing is a useful tool for understanding the nutritional status of a ruminant's diet, and therefore address subclinical mineral deficiencies.

By correcting for subclinical mineral deficiencies, livestock will be more likely to reach full genetic potential. Cereal crops are tested annually to ensure of nutritional requirements are met to capture the highest yield, and this same practice should be implemented across livestock enterprises.

Common Micronutrients deficiencies and effects

Pasture nutrient in excess	Limiting absorption to induce deficiency	Deficiencies cause
Iron (Fe) >100:1	Copper (Cu)	Rough coat, stunts growth
Zinc (Zn)	Copper (Cu)	Rough coat, stunts growth
Calcium (Ca)	Magnesium (Mg)	Grass tetany, dark cutting
Phosphorus (P)	Calcium (Ca)	Hypocalcaemia, Ca:P ratio imbalance
Potassium (K)	Magnesium (Mg)	Grass tetany, dark cutting
Molybdenum	Copper (Cu)	Rough coat, stunts growth
Sulphur	Selenium (Se) & Copper (Cu)	Reduced growth, stiff gait, sudden death

Set up stock for summer or confinement feeding

Article by Marcia Devenney, WSD Agribusiness Pty Ltd



Preparation for moving stock into confinement feeding or a successful summer/autumn grazing period starts now. Farmers are faced with feed management decisions after harvest before moving animals onto stubbles. Especially with unpredictable weather, feed quality and feed costs, more focus is needed helping livestock combat stress factors and the environment.

- Vitamin E is one of the key ingredients that goes into any animal premix to make feed. Zagrosol ES and WSDA Keymin are high concentrate E supplements in addition to feeding grain/hay/straw.
- Water is always important for livestock, we have a complete range of water soluble supplements to help the animals. There is no need to drench or muster stock to ensure each gets a dose.
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Marcia Devenney
WSDA
0429 922 393

The following letter regarding the updated ESI for Zolvix Plus and Zolvix has been supplied by Elanco.

Please contact David Howey, Elanco, if you would like a copy of the updated product labels:
david.howey@elanco.com or 0439 988 953.



Elanco Australasia Pty Ltd

ABN 64 076 745 198

Level 3, 7 Eden Park Drive

Macquarie Park NSW 2113

www.elanco.com.au

17 August 2021

Dear Valued Customer,

Product Update – ESI Zolvix™ Plus (APVMA 69763) & Zolvix (APVMA 62752)

Elanco wishes to advise all customers that the ESI on Zolvix and Zolvix Plus has been reduced by the APVMA.

Effectively immediately, the **ESI for Zolvix Plus is now 21 days and Zolvix is 14 days**. This applies to all product, even though this is not yet reflected in the label. Copies of the newly approved APVMA labels for these products are attached.

Please advise your customers of these changes.

If you have any further questions regarding this, please contact your local sales representative or our Customer Excellence team on 1800 226 324.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn Humphries". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kathryn Humphries
Elanco Brand Manager – Sheep

Market Report: Wool

This market report is provided by Westcoast Wool & Livestock, summing up the situation in China from their agent's perspective. The report was written after sale F07, relevant information and a good insight into the other side of the business.



Wooltops RMB prices keep on dropping in domestic market with the rate between around 2.0-4.5% this week compared to those prices last week. The finer the mic the deeper the drop. With depressing pandemic news in China and around the world, confidence has been much affected.

The large withdraw and pass-in rate during last two weeks are causing much concerns in China. Some mills are beginning to worry that contain quality wool might be difficult to buy if sales continue with high withdraw and pass-ins. It is truly a dilemma for mill managers now, at one hand it is too early to predict how autumn/winter sales go, at the other that wool prices could go up when Europeans are back from holidays and when season coming nearer. They are self-mocking themselves as the type of people who are getting up earlier than a cock and staying up later than a dog, making a cabbage margin but worrying the same worries of a drugs dealer.

Expect super fine/finer merino types prices will continue dropping in the coming two to three weeks despite big drops in the past two sales. Economic grows slow down since July in China. With pandemic ending so far away in the horizon, desire for high priced high quality clothing could be weaker. Also prices for these types have gone up too much and mic gap is somewhat unreasonably larger. With small sale volumes in Aus and S.A. out of sale next week, price drops could be smaller and market could be supported by those types of medium mic merino types especially 21.0 and 19.5mic.



Contact:

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

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

ASHEEP Shearing School 2021 Results

Article by Sarah Brown, ASHEEP

Basil Parker has once again done the Esperance region a favour by volunteering his time to coordinate a shearing school, with the aim of providing a pathway into the industry for those interested in wool handling and shearing, and thereby bolstering staff numbers. This year's training was fully funded by Australian Wool Innovation, running between 5th - 16th July with trainers Kevin Gellatly, Todd Wegner and Amanda Davies.

Basil reported that this year's school has had a really good result, with the majority of participants already having a basic background / understanding of the wool industry prior to taking part. 13 participants completed the school, of which 11 are now working in the industry - 8 as shed hands and 3 as learner shearers (with an opportunity being developed for a 4th). The remaining 2 participants are expected to commence work in January, with positions waiting for them as learner shearers once they have finished schooling / studies.

Our thanks goes to Basil and to all those who supported him to deliver the school, including to Australian Wool Innovation for their funding. To Nick Ruddenklau, Jay Daw and the rest of the team at Epasco for hosting the school and doing their utmost to keep the sheep dry in what was a run of poor weather. To Steve Allison (Bay of Isles Shearing) for his encouragement of the school and the use of their busses in transporting the students. To Luke O'Shannessy (New Era Shearing) for putting out all the shearing heads.

Basil would also like to express thanks to Stuart Matthews (Elders) for his support of school, and to Danny Burkett and Mike Smithson (Westcoast Wool & Livestock).



AWI Shearer Learner Kits & Wage Subsidy

Australian Wool Innovation has advised that they have funding available for shearer learner kits and contractor wage subsidies for the Industry, to encourage and support learners & provide initiatives for Industry given such demand for staff.

SHEARER LEARNER TOOL BOXES

These tool boxes / learner kits will be available for learner shearers, with the following conditions & accountability:

- Learner shearers who are working in the Industry
- Preferably new entrants will have completed an AWI Novice shearing school
- Provided to the contractor until the learner can shear 75 sheep per day & the contractor is happy with the learners ability
- Learner shearers will OWN this tool kit, providing incentives and tools for trade to increase demand.
- An AWI Trainer/Mentor to assist with overseeing the tool kits – Value \$1500 (Basil to do this in the Esperance region of WA)

WAGE SUBSIDY

This wage subsidy is a pilot program that AWI will make available to Industry / contractors and assess the outcomes performance over this first quarter of 2021/22. Key points:

- Financial support for contractors to have learner shearers on stands, as a "Wage Subsidy"
- Provide the difference in income from being paid Wool Handler wages and shearing or the piece rate.
- Emphasis is on 'Quality' taking time to improve shearing skills – some learners will need 6 weeks support others may need 12 weeks.
- Providing support for Industry, with learners and shearing contractors are NOT out of pocket, so to speak.

If you are in the Esperance area contact Basil Parker for more information on 0427 751 149. Alternately, contact Craig French, AWI Program Manager, Wool Harvesting Training and Development on 0447 000 302.

Short on Shearers: Can we spread out when we shear?

Article by Sarah Brown, ASHEEP

With pressure on shearer numbers, members of the ASHEEP Committee have been speaking with local contractors and those in the industry to better understand the potential impacts.

This season, producers may need to be prepared to wait, particularly if we get a run of bad weather - keep in good communication with your contractor, find out how they are going and consider extra fly protection measures if needed.

One of the suggestions coming from discussions is that we need to encourage producers to spread the workload from the peak in September - October to reduce the load on contractors. For example, if you are able to adjust the time of year you plan to shear dry sheep, lambs or ewe hoggets, it may be worth having a conversation with your contractor to see if this would be helpful to them.



Effect of Shearing Prime Lambs on Growth Rate - Is there one?

Article by Sarah Brown, ASHEEP

According to the Meat & Livestock Australia / Australian Wool Innovation *Making More from Sheep* program, "there wouldn't be a lamb producer who hasn't been told to "knock the wool off" their lambs by agents, neighbours and traders to increase growth rate."

So, it may surprise you that when Professor Bruce Allworth (Charles Sturt University) delivered a *Making More from Sheep* webinar in 2017 on the effect of shearing prime lambs for increasing growth rate, his opening remarks were that **"In most cases, shearing lambs will not result in an increase in growth rate."**



www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au/webinars.html

According to Prof. Allworth, what shearing does do is to stimulate an increase in feed intake by around 40% for about 4-6 weeks post-shearing. Disappointingly, he goes on to explain that **most, if not all of that extra feed intake is used in the extra energy required for the sheep to thermoregulate - stay warm or cool - rather than increased growth.**

But you can see that lambs take off after shearing? The increased gut fill may be the reason for the visual appearance of sheep bulking out and visually appearing fuller.

Noting all this, there are definitely other benefits to shearing your lambs - e.g. managing grass seeds, fly control, and delivering on contractual requirements from abattoirs, but increased growth rate may not be one of them.

Summary: If you are purely shearing lambs to increase growth rate and have no other management-based reason, take a listen to the recording of Prof. Allworth's webinar to get the full story and weigh up how the science stacks up for your system.



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Preg Testing - Why?

Article by Dr Enoch Bergman, Swans Veterinary Services

The preg testing season is nearly upon us... the bulls, the AI technician, or both have worked really hard, now it is time to find out how they did! Sarah, our fantastic EO has asked for some preg testing bench marking data. Over the next preg testing season we will collect as much information as we can, but in the meantime, perhaps we should talk a bit about preg testing. Why do we do it? Do you think pregnancy testing is expensive? If so, odds are that you haven't really thought about why you (or your neighbors) do it in the first place!

Profitable production systems sail close to the wind. They strive to capitalize on all of their resources with the goal of optimizing their return per hectare. Pregnancy diagnosis isn't just about measuring the success of your bulls, predicting your next calf crop, or injecting cash flow into your enterprise. Preg testing is about ensuring that every cow on your property is working as hard as you are!

In essence, pregnancy diagnosis is about identifying empty cows and heifers earlier than they would have been otherwise. What is the advantage in this? Quite simply, empty animals can be removed as early as nine months sooner than they would be if alternatively identified by wet/drying at calf marking! This translates into saved feed or opportunities for other breeders to take their space.

Smart producers budget on removing up to 10% of their breeders annually from each management group at pregnancy testing, usually before the pinch of the close of the season.

Let's do some simple modelling...

If a producer's cow running costs are \$10 per week, or \$520 per year, $\frac{1}{4}$ of the input costs from each empty cow could be salvaged by preg testing! Essentially, each empty diagnosed could save the producer up to \$390! At 10% empty, that equates to as much as a \$39.00 return on investment from each cow preg tested!

Lets look at it another way...

If a beef property typically enjoys a 90% conception rate, they could run as much as an additional 7.5% breeders and budget to turn off an additional 6.75% calves by preg testing routinely! At a currently conservative value of \$1500 per weaned calf, this equates to a return of over \$100 per cow preg tested! Wow! Heck it might be worth preg testing them twice!

Is accuracy important? Absolutely. If a retained empty cow tears up \$520 in feed, then every 1% error misdiagnosing an empty as pregnant can cost the producer \$5.20 per head preg tested. If calves are worth \$1500, then every pregnant called empty costs the producer \$1500 minus \$520, or \$980. Every 1% error misdiagnosing a pregnant animal as empty would therefore cost the producer \$9.80 per head preg tested! No matter which way you slice it, inaccurate preg testing costs far more than the actual cost of skilled preg testing!

If you still think pregnancy testing is expensive, perhaps you should read through this article again... with over a 1000% return on your money, pregnancy diagnosis is perhaps the best investment beef producers can make!

As an added bonus... we can talk cow business, and your breeders get a health check too!



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Preg Scanning: Benefits & Benchmarking

Article by Sarah Brown, ASHEEP

It's well known that increasing lamb survival rates is a major area of potential profit for sheep producers. Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) and Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) are strong advocates for using pregnancy scanning and the tech available in that space as a tool to make gains. They are currently funding a project aiming to increase national lamb marking percentages by two percentage points and the survival rates of twinborn lambs by five percentage points – or an extra 700,000 lambs weaned a year in Australia.

According to Associate Professor Forbes Brien, a Research Fellow with the University of Adelaide's School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, who is leading the research, "We estimate around 40–50% of the Australian flock is being scanned, but some producers may not scan every year." [1]

"The relatively low level of adoption of scanning technology by producers is one of the key factors preventing good nutritional management of pregnant ewes. Only around half who are using scanning are looking at how many lambs a ewe is carrying in addition to whether ewes are pregnant or not."

Forbes says there is a strong case to be made by scanning for single/multiple lambs and subsequently managing twin-bearing and triplet-bearing ewes according to their nutritional requirements. "Studies on twin-bearing Merino ewes have shown if you can get the ewe to lambing with a condition score of 3.2 compared to 2.3, you increase your lambing percentage from 115% to 142%. The survival of twin-born lambs from birth to marking also increases when the ewes were in better condition, from 57% to 71%."

Not all properties are set up to manage multiple flocks during lambing, particularly as paddocks have become larger to accommodate cropping. Some producers are getting around this with temporary electric fencing and have been surprised by its ease of use and effectiveness. Hamish Thompson, Moojepin Merinos, spoke at ASHEEP's recent livestock conference about his initial scepticism around electric fencing but has since been converted and says they can run out 1km fencing in an hour to divide up their grazing crops / pastures for lambing.

MLA's concern is that "producers who don't scan for single/multiple lambs will end up providing the same levels of feed to a flock that has different nutritional needs".

In addition to scanning for multiples, Forbes notes that there are also gains to be made through the use of foetal ageing, "There are advantages in knowing what's going to be born early or late, particularly when allocating limited resources. If you can organise the flock within a two-week window, you can manage the lambs more appropriately for marking and weaning and streamline management and welfare outcomes."

References: [1] <https://www.mla.com.au/news-and-events/industry-news/why-scanning-makes-sense/#> (accessed 26/8/21)

Scanning: The local picture

To get a better understanding of how people are using scanning technology locally, and the results they are getting, ASHEEP spoke to Johnno and Ash Thurn of South Coast Stock Scan:



South Coast Stock Scan began operating in 1999, at a time when the sheep industry in Esperance was thriving, but Pregnancy Testing was something new and some were hesitant to see the benefits. Over the years, farmers have recognised the benefits of pregnancy testing, which has led to an increase in scanning across the district.

60% of our clients, use single scan, while 40% twin scan.

Twin scanning has increased every year since operation began, with farmers recognising that caring for twin bearing ewes is beneficial to their production. **The average twinning percentage in the Esperance zone would be 145-150% in lamb.** **The average wet and dry percentage in the Esperance zone would be 87-92% in lamb.** But these statistics can vary greatly depending on the season. A small percentage of farmers also like to scan for foetal age in their ewes.

2018 was the biggest year for scanning in Esperance, but since then we have seen a small decline in numbers due to dry conditions and high demand of livestock over east.

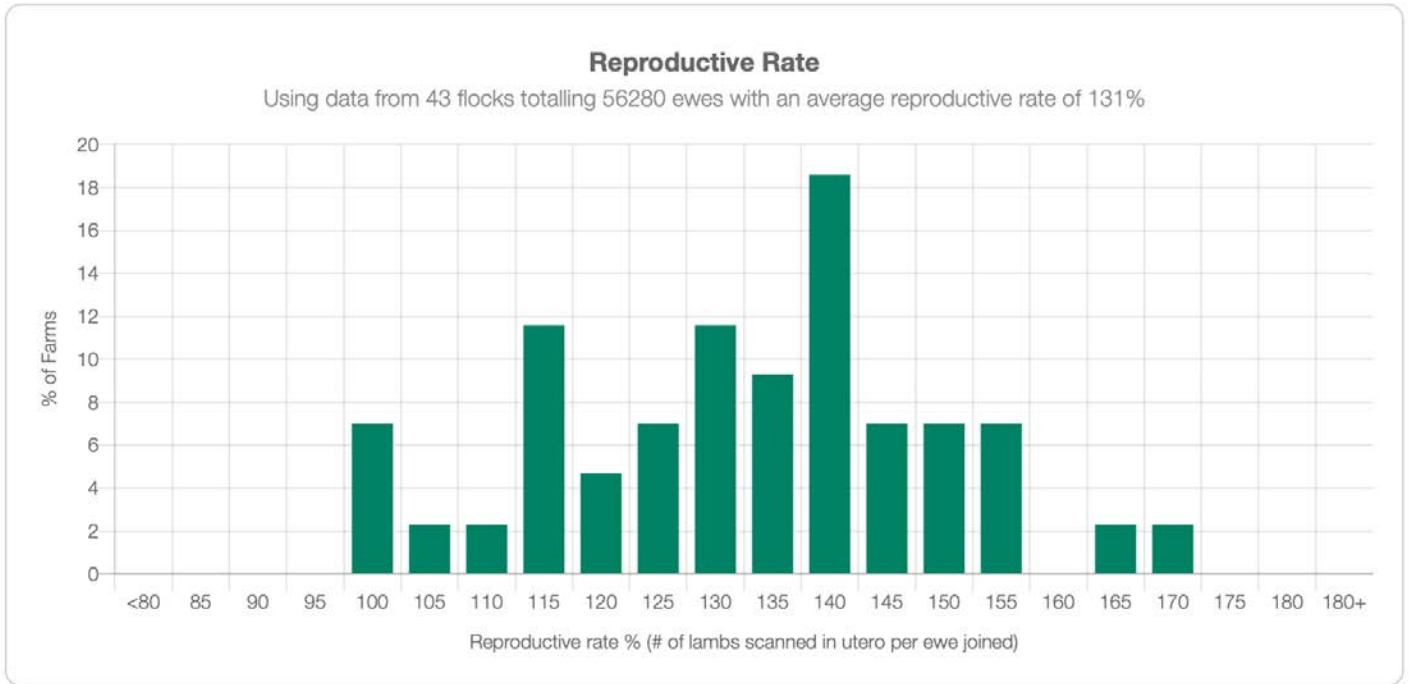
We cover a large area, including the Esperance region, through to Lake King, Lake Grace, Varley and right down to Albany.

Contact South Coast Stock Scan: Johnno & Ash Thurn, stockscan@bigpond.com

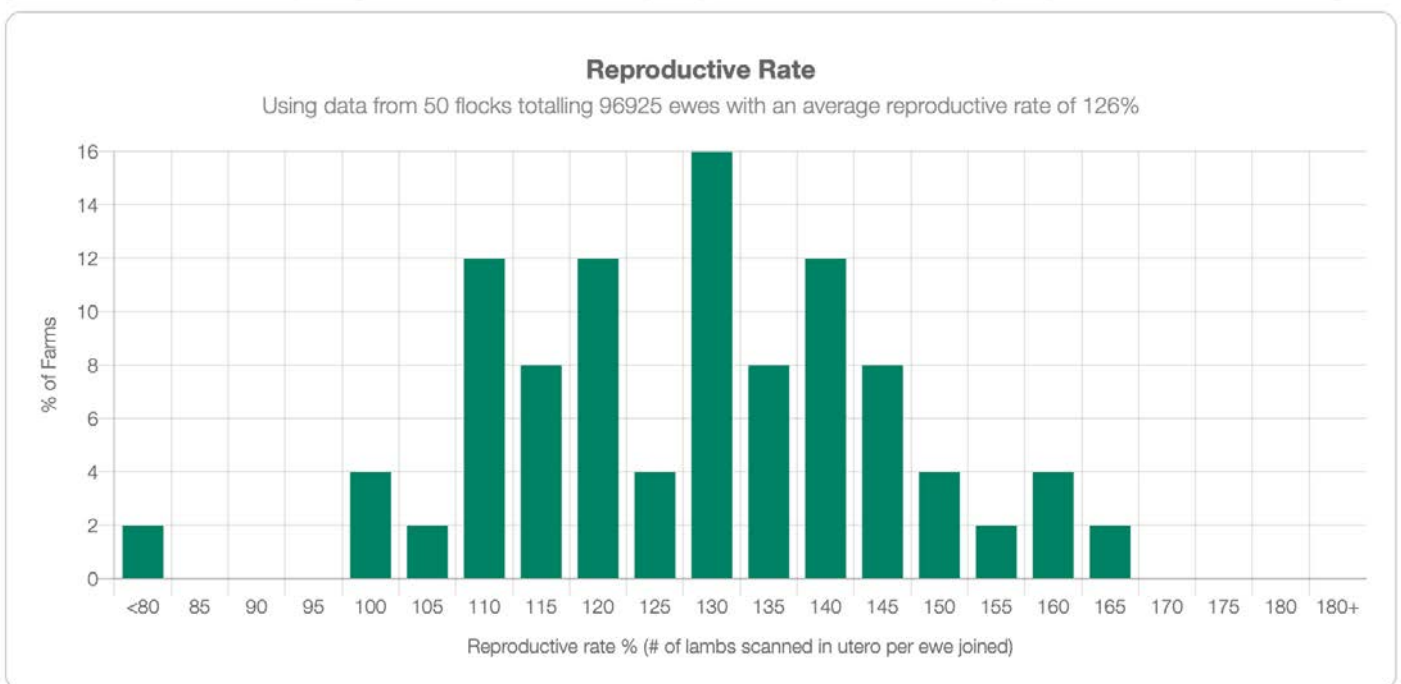
DPIRD's Pregnancy Scanning Benchmarking

DPIRD conducts an annual survey of the WA sheep flock, with the results used to make pregnancy scanning benchmarks available. Their website includes an interactive tool where you can adjust graphs to get break down benchmarking rates between 2016 - 2020, selecting for merino / meat breeds, time of year, and region (Cereal Sheep Zone or Medium Rainfall Zone). Two examples are shown below. You can also input your own results to directly compare.

Reproductive Rate, 2020, Merinos, across all months in the Cereal Sheep Zone (Geraldton area in the north west to the Esperance region in the south east - wheatbelt).



Reproductive Rate, 2020, Merinos, across all months in the Medium Rainfall Zone (whole south west, from the Perth area in the north, to Albany in the south).





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Esperance Sheep Surveillance Network: Report out

Article by Sarah Brown, ASHEEP

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) have released their July report from the Esperance Sheep Surveillance Network. 75% of properties reported no signs of illness vs 25% of properties with signs of illness, with the highest number of reports being for lameness and photosensitisation. The report notes that the quality of the data will benefit from more producers getting involved in the project and we encourage ASHEEP producers in the Esperance area to take part - contact Kristine Rayner, DPIRD, on 0459 880 384 or at Kristine.Rayner@dpiird.wa.gov.au.

DPIRD's report includes background on the potential causes of diseases and connects producers to follow up issues. The report also provides a Sheep Health Forecast, warning producers about potential upcoming issues. The July report includes warnings about lameness caused by infectious and / or non-infectious agents. An extract from the report detailing the common causes of lameness is as follows:

Potential causes of lameness include:

Infectious causes

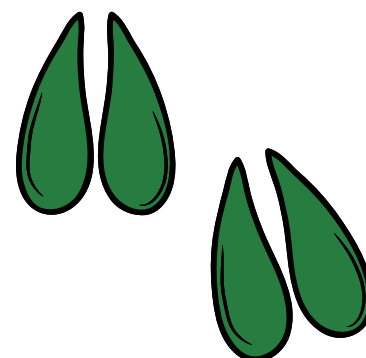
- **Foot Abscess** generally affects heavier animals as more pressure is being put on their feet, though it usually only affects one foot on a small number of animals. If conditions are wet and the feet are in mud or water for extended periods of time, this can affect the skin of the foot, allowing bacteria to enter and cause an infection. The foot or leg will then become very painful for the animal. Signs can include lameness, swelling, pus and foul odour. If it is severe enough, it can stop the animal grazing.
- **Ovine Interdigital Dermatitis (OID)** is often also referred to as foot scald and is the infection of the skin between the toes of sheep. It is most commonly seen in wet conditions with good ground cover. Signs include the skin between the toes being swollen, red and having a white exudate (moisture/weeping). There is no damage to the hoof wall or the sole but the tenderness of the feet can cause lameness.
- **Arthritis** there are three primary causes of arthritis, Erysipelas spp., chlamydia spp. and pus-forming bacteria. Signs include hot and swollen joints, hardening of joints and animals being reluctant to walk and stand. Different causes of arthritis may have different treatments so diagnosis is important.
- **Benign Footrot** is caused by the bacterium *Dichelobacter nodosus*, the same as Virulent Footrot. The two types of footrot cannot be distinguished without a laboratory test. Benign footrot ranges in severity but will usually self-resolve when the weather becomes warm and dry. Signs include lameness, redness of foot with hair loss and moisture between the toes. It is often accompanied with a foul odour and affects more than one foot on multiple animals.

Infectious causes (reportable diseases)

- **Virulent Footrot** is caused by the bacterium *Dichelobacter nodosus*. It is a reportable disease in Western Australia and is a significant disease concern. It can invade the feet of sheep after an injury or if the sheep's immune system is already weakened by foot scald or abscess. Signs can range from mild redness and dampness between the toes to severe lameness and separation of the hoof wall. It commonly occurs in multiple sheep of feet and affects multiple animals. If you suspect Virulent Footrot, please contact your local vet or biosecurity officer.
- **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)** is an exotic viral disease, causing fever and blisters in one or more locations such as the tongue, teats, coronary band. These may present as lameness or drooling where the feet or tongue is affected. If you see these signs in sheep, you must report this to your private or government veterinarian immediately.

Non-infectious causes

- **Shelly Hoof** is caused by not properly maintaining the feet. The horn becomes overgrown causing a cavity between the horn and hoof. In wet conditions, the material that gets trapped in the cavity can cause inflammation and infection. Signs include lameness usually on one foot. It can be easily fixed by paring and cleaning out the foot if there is no infection, otherwise footbathing is recommended.



Super Copper Zinc Moly – it's all about distribution

Article provided by CSBP

Ever since the development of a range of super and trace element recommendations for new lands by West Australian Agriculture Department (now DPIRD), Super Copper Zinc Moly has stood the test of time.

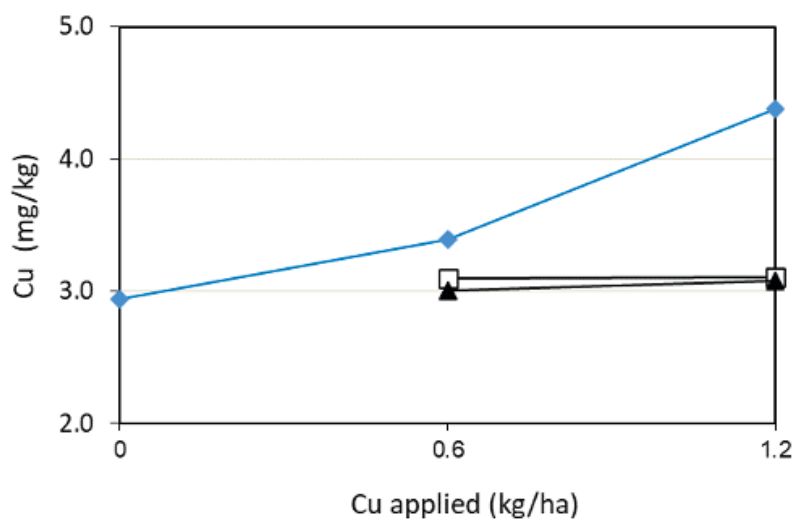
It is the most effective granular source of trace elements available to growers. Why? Because of the high number of active sites.

The effectiveness of immobile trace elements such as copper and zinc has more to do with spatial distribution than rates applied. The more active sites, the better.

The graph to the right shows the copper concentrations in sub clover from a trial comparing the effectiveness of Super Copper Zinc Moly to a more concentrated copper zinc moly source in a compounded PS fertiliser product to a concentrated PS fertiliser with copper and zinc blended in.

It's all about distribution.

Contact:
 Nevill Earle
 District Manager Esperance
 0429 106 154
 Nevill.Earle@csbp.com.au



◆ Super CZM □ PS Granule CZM ▲ PS Granule + CZM blend

	Typical Analysis (w/w%)						Bulk Density t/m ³
	P	S	Ca	Cu	Zn	Mo	
Super Phos Extra	9.1	10.1	19.0	0.10	0.10		1.15
Super Copper Zinc Moly	9.0	10.1	19.0	0.60	0.30	0.060	1.15
Super Phos	9.1	10.5	20.0				1.15

ASHEEP Spring Field Day 16th September 2021

Bring your best nods for Alosca's #showusyournods competition.

Register: www.asheep.org.au/events



Vet Spot: Polioencephalomalacia (PEM) Alert

Dr. Scott Jackson. BSc DVM, Swans Veterinary Service

Polioencephalomalacia (PEM) as a cause of neurological syndrome and sudden death in **sheep and cattle**.

Polioencephalomalacia (or PEM) is one of the common causes of neurological symptoms and sudden death in ruminant production systems. It is a disease that results in necrosis (or death) of cortical brain tissue and has a range of underlying causes. These include thiamine (vitamin B1) deficiency, lead poisoning and sulfur toxicosis. Thiamine deficiency is responsible for the majority of cases in sheep and cattle and will therefore be the focus of this article.

Rather than a primary nutritional deficiency of thiamine (vitamin B1), destruction by thiaminase producing bacteria in the rumen is the most common cause of PEM in Australian sheep and cattle. The increase of thiaminase producing bacteria is caused by changes in the rumen flora, most commonly due to high starch and low fibre diets (for instance, in feed lots where animals are being fed high concentrate feeds with inadequate roughage). Mass fatalities due to PEM appear to be most prevalent in feed lot animals; however it may also present sporadically in individual or multiple thrifty animals grazing lush pastures. We have observed twice this winter in the Esperance region where weaned lambs have been found dead on lush pastures. Significant Disease Investigations (SDI's), into both cases confirmed lesions in the brains of these lambs consistent with PEM. Less commonly, the ingestion of poisonous plants such as Bracken fern and sulfur containing feeds such as distillers grain have also been linked to cases.



Above: Lamb with PEM, presented as blind, aimless, separated from mob and pressing head against fence.

In the early stages of the disease, affected animals will appear depressed, blind, separate from the mob, wonder aimlessly and stand in corners/press their heads against dead ends. As the disease progresses, they will then become recumbent and adopt an opisthotonic posture (this is the signature "star gazing" posture, whereby the animal will become rigid on its side and extend its neck towards the stars). Animals may also paddle their limbs from seizures and inevitably die without intervention. Groups of animals may simply be found dead if the early stages of the disease go unobserved. Other diseases which may present similarly and should be ruled out before treating for PEM include enterotoxaemia (pulpy kidney), listerial meningitis, lead poisoning, water deprivation/salt toxicity, pregnancy toxaemia and TSE (TSE is an exotic and notifiable disease in Australia).

Treatment of affected animals involves the aggressive supplementation of vitamin B1. In severe cases where the animal is already recumbent and stargazing, vitamin B1 is best administered intravenously, however, the prognosis for survival is poor. In moderately affected animals which are still standing, farmers can treat with twice to three times daily 10-15mg/kg injections of vitamin B1 into the muscle for at least 3 days or until symptoms resolve. Our treatment protocol for sheep is a 10ml injection of 125mg/ml vitamin B1 into the muscle followed by three times daily 4ml injections until symptoms resolve.

Careful dietary management is an important preventative strategy against PEM. Feedlots should slowly introduce high concentrate diets to new animals and ensure free access to good quality roughage. Thiamine can also be supplemented in concentrate rations and on a per-animal basis with the injectable preparation. Restricting access to thiaminase implicated plants (Bracken fern), sulfur containing substances (alkaline drinking water, brewers grain etc.) and lead (old car batteries, paint etc.) will also limit the risk of PEM.

Any cases of sudden death or neurological syndrome in multiple animals is reason to call a veterinarian, whereby the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's fees will be subsidized to the producer on a case by case basis.

Dr. Scott Jackson
08 9071 5777
scott.j@swansvet.com

Supplying livestock for domestic and export markets: farm impacts on the supply chain

Dr Holly Ludeman, Corporate Governance and Compliance Officer, Emanuel, spoke at the recent ASHEEP Livestock Conference. We asked her to share some of the key take-aways from her discussion.



Emanuel is a long-standing livestock supplier for export and domestic markets and remains committed to our company goals, rural communities, and stakeholders in the WA sheep industry. As a family business we are proud to have provided protein to families around the world for over 50 years. Good animal welfare outcomes are the core of our business operations. Emanuel believes there is a positive future that includes both domestic processing and live export industry with Australia as world leaders in animal welfare, technology, and innovation.

The significant improvements implemented by the live export industry in the last 3 years has demonstrated an industry that is viable and sustainable. In the current COVID19 environment we are seeing how important this trade is for international food security.

Key Messages - Livestock Orders

- Preference for merino wether lambs 35-42 kgs, young wethers 42-50kg, wethers 50kg +. Additional types subject to ongoing orders including; mixed sex crossbred lambs and mixed sex dorper lambs.
- Sheep must meet commercial order specifications. Emanuel has a declaration that must accompany NVDs. Current, correctly filled out NVD must accompany livestock.
- On farm selection and inspections are an important critical control point for setting up the success of domestic or export programs. On farm selection by livestock buyers is not the final inspection of livestock.
- Onus under the new WA Animal Welfare (Transport Saleyards and Depots) (Cattle and Sheep) Regulations 2020 mean producers or their representative are responsible for final inspection before loading off farm.
- Australian Standard for Export of Livestock (ASEL) standards are higher than domestic "fit to load" requirements. Specifically, producers should be aware that Pinkeye and Scabby mouth are not eligible for export and are a major reason for rejection on delivery for export consignments.

Key Messages – Compliance, animal health and welfare

- Voyage and feedlot mortalities have strong "line effects" with 90% of issues linked to 10% of vendors.
- Major reasons for rejection include sheep arriving "unfit to load", pinkeye and scabby mouth
- All export markets are sensitive to scabby mouth, and Emanuel encourages all producers to have an annual scratching program and records in line with LPA requirements.
- Clostridial diseases and arthritis continue to be seen in the supply chain and can be effectively managed by good vaccination programs.
- All producers should have records of animal treatments under LPA. Batch numbers and expiry dates are an essential part of treatment records and required for verifications for market access.
- All producers should have a biosecurity plan under LPA. If trading sheep National Health Declaration is a good way to manage biosecurity and records for market access
- Sheep must be tagged in accordance with NLIS and BAM Act requirements. Sheep arriving without tags will be charged to vendors.
- Sensible curfews should be discussed with transporters. Extended curfews are not required for any sheep Emanuel are buying for delivery to Peel Feedlot.

For queries or questions around livestock orders and specifications please contact your agent or Emanuel buying team - Warren Gray 0428 888 938.

The Livestock Collective: A collective voice fills the void

Article by Amelia Nolan, The Livestock Collective

Our Purpose

The Livestock Collective has a vision for every person to have a shared connection and understanding of agriculture. As a not-for-profit organisation we aim to promote a collaborative, united livestock sector which provides visibility, communication and engagement to the wider community thus ensuring an increased understanding of and connection to agriculture more broadly.

With proven success in building public trust by addressing some of agriculture's most difficult topics such as live export, our results speak for themselves. The initiative of the Livestock Collective is to provide information about the whole supply chain rather than just a specific section and is invested in safe-guarding the future of the industry by igniting positive discussions to fill the void of information.

Our Projects

Bridging the gap between rural and urban populations means our content needs to appeal to a wide range of audiences. The authenticity and transparency from those who have already passionately shared their story from The Sheep Collective days has only increased the appetite our audience has for real supply chain stories and demonstrates just how much trust we could build in the wider community.

The past twelve months have seen our Livestock Leaders professional development workshops go national. Building the leadership capacity of current supply chain advocates and providing them with opportunities to share their own stories has also been an instrumental part of spreading The Livestock Collective message and uniting the supply chain. We are grateful to have 140 and counting passionate Livestock Leader alumni all over Australia.

As with every success comes a challenge, and one of the major roadblocks for us and so many others in the industry are the well funded lobbyist groups that exist purely to campaign against agriculture. While this can be disheartening at times, especially with limited funding in comparison, it only inspires us to continue doing the work we do and to stand up for those who are part of the global supply chain by sharing their stories.



Above: Amelia Nolan & Holly Ludeman, The Livestock Collective, attending ASHEEP's Annual Livestock Conference & Dinner.

Our Future

We need your continued support to ensure our projects can be the strongest voice that fills the void of information and attempts to bridge the urban rural divide. If we unite and ignite positive conversations in our industry we can forge a compelling future for agriculture.



5 steps to support The Livestock Collective:

1. Follow us on social media! We are active on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn
2. Buy our merch and wear it loud and proud!
www.thelivestockcollective.com.au/shop
3. Get in touch and we will send you a car bumper sticker
4. Support us through a donation!
<https://thelivestockcollective.com.au/support-us>
5. Collaborate with us on a project

Amelia (Milly) Nolan - Events Manager
E - events@thelivestockcollective.com.au
M - 0497 282 590

Buying Sheep or Cattle? Ask for a National Animal Health Declaration

What's the easiest way for your stock to pick up footrot, Johne's, lice, brucellosis and a delightful array of other pests and diseases? Buy them in.

If you are looking to purchase, reduce your risk by asking for a National Animal Health Declaration - it's available for both sheep and cattle. It's an important step in your biosecurity plan.

The declarations are a way for producers to provide information about the animal health status of their flocks and herds. Buyers should ask for a copy and use the information provided to determine the health risks associated with the animals offered for sale.

Use of the form is compulsory in South Australia, but currently voluntary in other states. You can download what you need from www.farmbiosecurity.com.au. If you are using electronic National Vendor Declarations (eNVD) - www.mla.com.au/envd - the form can be completed as you go through the process.



Download the forms for SHEEP & CATTLE at:
www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/declarations-and-statements/

NATIONAL SHEEP HEALTH DECLARATION July 2019

Property Identification Code (PIC) of this property
 This MUST be the PIC of the property that the stock is being moved from

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Attached to accompanying NVD/Waybill No.

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SECTION A – Biosecurity Information

1. All consigned sheep are from a Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) accredited property?* Y N
2. The number of different sources of sheep that have been introduced onto the consignment property in the last 5 years is:
 0 (closed flock) 1-5 6+ Rams Only

SECTION B – Animal Health Information

3. All consigned sheep are from a flock that is free of virulent footrot?* Y N
4. All consigned sheep are from a flock that is free of benign footrot or scald?* Y N
If (N) please provide further information below
5. All consigned sheep are from a flock that is free of lice?* Y N
6. All consigned sheep are from a flock in an ovine brucellosis accreditation scheme? Y N
 If Yes, Flock Accreditation No. (except Qld) _____ Expiry Date ____/____/____
7. All consigned sheep are Johne's disease (JD) Approved Vaccinates?* Y N
 If Yes, I have been continuously vaccinating all retained lambs in the consignment flock against JD for _____ years. (Vendor-bred sheep only)
8. All consigned sheep are from a SheepMAP flock?* Y N
 If yes, Status _____ Year commenced _____ Certificate Number _____

*See explanatory notes on back page for further information

EXAMPLE ONLY - PAGE 1 OF 2

9. All consigned sheep are from a flock with a negative test for JD?* Y N
 If Yes, which test? _____ Date of test ____/____/____
10. Any other JD management practices carried out on the property?

11. Any other relevant health information

SECTION C – Treatment Information of Consigned Sheep

Treatment type	Product	Date of last treatment
External Parasite Treatment		
Internal Parasite Treatment		
Other treatments		
Vaccination (other than JD)		

Declaration (see explanatory notes for further information)

I, _____
(Full name)

(Address)

(Town/suburb)

(State)

(Postcode)

Tel. No. () _____ Email _____

declare that, I am the owner and/or person responsible for the husbandry of the sheep in this consignment and all the information on this Sheep Health Declaration is true and correct:

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Producers are advised to retain appropriate records to support this declaration. Persons making false statements may be liable under fair trading and other relevant state legislation.

Upcoming ASHEEP Events

The year is coming to a close as harvest nears, but we still have the **Spring Field Day on 16th September** before the machines start rolling.

The Cattle Committee is also working on holding a **Sire Evaluation Event** just prior to the bull sales.

ASHEEP's Cattle Committee

Chair

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

Members

Enoch Bergman
Amy Forrester
Simon Fowler
Wes Graham
Ian McCallum
Nicholas Ruddenklau
Matthew Ryan

WALRC Newsletter



Subscribe to the WA Livestock Research Council newsletter.



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admin@walrc.com.au
0418 931 938

• **OCTOBER** •

Next ASHEEP Committee Meeting is scheduled for mid October 2021.

Contact a committee or staff member to raise an item.

YOUR ASHEEP COMMITTEE & STAFF

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