

## **BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Newsflash – 13/3/09**

This Newsflash email is funded by Australian Wool Innovation and Department of Primary Industries.

What's happening in the BWBL groups - check the website to read about coming activities in the groups across the state and coming events organised by the program.

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#### [Climate Policy and Sheep Production National Webinar](#)

**WHEN:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March

**TIME:** 1.00pm to 2.15pm

This free national webinar will provide sheep producers an understanding of climate policy issues that may impact on agriculture as well as on farm carbon sequestration and enterprise management for a variable climate.

The program includes

1.00pm - Mick Keogh, Executive Director, Australian Farm Institute talking about 'Carbon emissions trading and what it means for sheep producers'

1.40pm - Andrew Dufty, Farmer "Melville Forrest" South West Victoria talking about 'On farm carbon sequestration and managing climate variability'

**WHAT IS A WEBINAR:** It is a seminar in which you can participate without leaving home. You participate while sitting at your desk in front of your computer and using a nearby phone.

**HOW DO YOU REGISTER:** Go to <https://leadingsheep-events.webex.com> to register

For more information & support contact Amanda Hicks on 07 4620 8125

#### [Thinking of Putting in Some Lucerne this Season?](#)

DPI will be running an introductory level information session on Lucerne establishment and management at the Ararat office coupled with a site visit to a local property. Topics that will be covered:

- History of Lucerne; where did it come from and traditional use
- Establishment and management of Lucerne pastures
- Winter active vs summer active varieties (newly released varieties)
- Companion species and landscape
- Insect and weed pests of Lucerne
- Take home messages

Followed by a site visit and discussion with local landholder on personal experience with Lucerne

**WHEN:** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March

**TIME:** 1.00pm to 3.30pm

**WHERE:** DPI office Ararat, Shire Hall, Barkly St

**For further information contact Alistair Stephens on 5355 0540 or 0427 525 455**

### [Australian Federation of University Women – Vic Scholarship Program 2009](#)

The scholarships listed below are offered only to female students who are enrolled at Victorian universities, or at the Victorian campuses of the Australian Catholic University. Applicants are asked to demonstrate that they are or have been experiencing disadvantage in the pursuit of their studies.

**William and Elizabeth Fisher Scholarship** \$3000, two Bursaries \$1250 each and International Scholarship \$2000 for female students enrolled in 2009 in a postgraduate research degree.

**Yvonne Aitken Scholarship** \$2000 for a female student enrolled in 2009 in a Postgraduate Diploma of Education (DipEd).

**Philippa McCall Scholarship** \$2000 and two Bursaries \$1000 each for a female student enrolled in 2009 in a postgraduate coursework degree. Mature age will be a preferential factor.

**E.D. Daniels Scholarship** \$2500 and two Bursaries \$1000 each for female students enrolled in 2009 in an honours year of an undergraduate degree. The Madeleine Capicchiano Bursary will be awarded to a female student enrolled in an honours year of an undergraduate degree who is conducting research on human rights and/or social justice issues at the local, national or international level.

**Marilyn Godley Scholarship** \$2000 for a female indigenous student resident in Victoria enrolled in 2009 in an undergraduate degree course at a Victorian university.

Full details including application forms, referee guidelines and answers to frequently asked questions may be found on our website at [http://www.afuwvic.org.au/main/page\\_scholarships\\_scholarships.html](http://www.afuwvic.org.au/main/page_scholarships_scholarships.html)

### [Impending Closure](#)

AWTA Ltd intends to close its Sydney Raw Wool Testing Laboratory by the end of the 2008/09 wool selling season. The volume of Australian wool tested has almost halved since production peaked in the early 1990's. The decline in Australian wool production means that it is no longer viable to operate three wool testing laboratories. The work currently performed by the Sydney laboratory will be redistributed between the remaining two laboratories located in Melbourne and Perth.

### [New Fishing Rules](#)

The new fishing rules are designed to help sustain Victoria's fish stocks and to give fishers a fair opportunity to catch fish. They include changes to catch limits and minimum sizes for popular species as well as requirements for the aquaculture industry.

The new regulations commenced on 2 March 2009. Recreational anglers are encouraged to obtain the new 2009/2010 Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide, which summarises all of the rules fishers need to know. Guides are available free of charge from good fishing shops and DPI offices, or by ringing the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186 . **For more information visit [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing)**

### [Preventing Falls for Older Farmers](#)

Accidental falls account for about 30% of injury-related deaths in Australia. Farmers are at extra risk of injury because of the dangers of the physical work they perform. A few simple changes such as installing more steps and grip rails can significantly reduce the risk of falls.

A guide has been developed to help identify risk and to take steps to prevent falls. To obtain a copy of the guidelines Preventing Falls for Older People visit the web site [www.aghealth.org.au](http://www.aghealth.org.au)

### [Farm Nutrient Loss Index \(FNLI\)](#)

The [Farm Nutrient Loss Index \(FNLI\)](#) is a decision support tool to assess the risk of nutrient loss from the paddock to the off-farm environment that is in the format of a user-friendly computer program.

The FNLI brings together the current knowledge of phosphorus and nitrogen loss processes and is designed to assist farm advisors, in conjunction with farmers, to make informed nutrient management decisions.

The FNLI addresses the pathways of nutrient loss relevant to Australian pasture-based industries:

- Runoff across the soil surface
- Drainage past the root zone
- Lateral flow through subsurface layers in the soil profile

- Emission of gases significant to exacerbating the 'greenhouse' effect

The [FNLI User Manual](#) provides supplementary information on how to use the FNLI software, how the FNLI calculates risks, and background scientific information on land features, nutrient and pasture management practices that influence nutrient loss from pastures.

### **Bare Breech Alternative Promising**

With the impending phase-out of conventional mulesing during 2010, one of the alternative control measures will be selective breeding of Merinos for resistance to breech strike. Researchers are using flock trials to evaluate the impact on breech strike incidence of selectively breeding animals using a suite of traits known to indicate resistance to breech strike.

Results to date are promising but it remains to be seen whether they are consistent across years. Trials have another two years to run and researchers will continue to monitor seasonal variation. The trial has so far shown that selection on breech strike resistance traits could offer a similar level of protection from breech strike as mulesing (that is in the unselected control). Although this observation is based on only one year of data, it could be reasonably expected that performance of animals selected on indicator traits might improve with a longer selection period. Visit the CSIRO website for more information

<http://www.csiro.au/csiro/search/CSIROau.html?query=bare+breech&area=all>

**And from Albert Einstein** "Imagination is more important than knowledge.

Have a good weekend, Annette

BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Administrator