

## **BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Newsflash – 24/4/09**

This Newsflash email is funded by [Australian Wool Innovation](#) and [Department of Primary Industries](#).

Have you visited the **Tools Tab** on the [BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB website](#)? Please do to find out the latest tools available to help with your calculations.

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### [\*\*Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program – Applicants Required\*\*](#)

BWBL is again sponsoring two candidates for the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program this year, as a way of investing in the leadership capacity within the wool and lamb industry.

The program is to be conducted from Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at the Marcus Oldham College, Geelong. Participants in the program develop their skills in teamwork, future vision, communication, public speaking, negotiation, interpersonal relationships, goal setting and community leadership.

The scholarship covers all program costs including accommodation and meals. Candidates are selected on the basis of their potential to contribute as a leader in the industry and are selected by a three-member panel of the BWBL Advisory Committee. Applications close on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009. To find out more about the program visit the website [www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au](http://www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au)

**If you are interested in applying phone Annette Taylor on (03) 5355 0531**

### [\*\*Farm Day – May 30 & 31\*\*](#)

An apology must be made for the mistake in the BWBL newsletter "Information Exchange" where the wrong phone number was quoted. The number below is the correct number to ring if interest in hosting a family.

Farm Day is an event that is designed to breakdown the rural urban divide in a day of "fun, friendship & understanding". In basic terms it allows insight for the city family to witness first hand what goes into producing their food and fibre.

**If you would like to host a family call 1300 36 70 36**

### [\*\*Electronic Sheep Tags Down to a Dollar\*\*](#)

The Brumby Government is providing further assistance to Victoria's sheep and goat industries to assist them move to the enhanced National Livestock Identification System (NLIS - sheep and goats).

Agriculture Minister Joe Helper said the price of electronic NLIS (sheep) tags would fall from \$1.35 to \$1 per tag effective immediately.

"The Brumby Government is taking action to support Victoria's sheep producers by reducing the price of electronic tags which have dropped from \$2.50 in September 2008 to today's low price of \$1," Mr Helper said.

"These electronic tags will strengthen Australia's reputation on the international export market, boosting future job opportunities within industry and provide better protection for Australia against sheep-borne diseases.

"The sheep industry now recognises that enhancements are needed to the NLIS (sheep & goats).

"As a result, the industry lead body responsible for food safety policy in Australia's red meat industry, SAFEMEAT, has recommended that mob-based movement recording and transaction identification be introduced throughout Australia from July 1, 2009."

Mr Helper said for producers, transaction identification may impose inconvenience and additional expense because it means that each owner in the life of a sheep will need to attach an additional visually readable ear tag.

"SAFEMEAT however has agreed that if an electronic NLIS (sheep) tag is used by the breeder and the tag is scanned and the movement recorded on DPI's database, then the purchaser will not need to attach an additional tag, when that sheep is again sold," he said.

"In addition, wool growers and sheepmeat producers will still be able to apply for a Brumby Government dollar-for-dollar grant of up to \$2500 until June 30 to assist with the purchase of readers, software and technical support if they chose to use electronic NLIS (sheep) tags as a flock management tool.

[SafeMeat website](#) for more information about SafeMeat. **Media contact: Matthew Hillard 0458 387 538**

### [Second-Hand Safety Push](#)

The Victorian Government is testing a quality-control campaign to make the sale of second-hand farm equipment safer.

Known as Sellsafe, the trial campaign involves a vendor declaration documentation process, aimed at educating vendors of second-hand equipment so they understand they have a duty of care to ensure safety standards are maintained.

WorkSafe executive director, John Merritt said too much machinery was being sold in a dangerous condition, putting users and other people at risk.

### [Beware the "Green Drought"](#)

Stock producers often look at putting their stock back out onto pastures as soon as there is a green tinge, but Department of Primary Industries (DPI) District Veterinarian Dr Paul Beltz advises against this.

Early on, pasture can be up to 90% water in its first flush of growth and at this stage, it's impossible to get enough 'dry matter' into the guts of sheep or cattle to provide adequate nutrition.

"Nutrition is based on the dry matter, digestible content of the feed supplied. If it's almost all water, the stock cannot get enough value out of it."

The pasture should be left to mature, until it is about four inches high or 800kg/ha, before stock are put on it.

At this time, it can provide the best possible nutrition and there's enough growth to cope with being grazed. The growth in the pasture will occur even more rapidly if stock have been removed while there was still vegetation over more than 80% of the paddock.

The usual warnings apply to stock due to the change in diet.

"Producers need to make sure the livestock have a full belly prior to being released, are closely observed for the first few days and even removed from the pasture after a few hours," Dr Beltz said.

"There is also a risk of sheep and cattle succumbing to pulpy kidney with the lush feed," Dr Beltz reminded.

"Look at boosting their immunity to pulpy kidney by vaccinating them when the first green tinge appears.

This will give enough time for the vaccination to work prior to the stock being released," Dr Beltz said.

The message to producers is to remain patient, continue to feed out to livestock in a stock containment area or sacrifice paddock until there is good pasture re-establishment and growth. This will benefit your livestock for the entire growing period.

**For more information, contact Dr Paul Beltz at DPI Horsham on (03) 5362 2111.**

### [May Deadline For Diazinon Close](#)

After May 2009 it will be illegal to use diazinon for dipping or jetting sheep unless a permit has been issued to the user by the APVMA.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) suspended the use of products containing diazinon for dipping or jetting sheep in May 2007.

After May 2007 any newly manufactured products containing diazinon that were registered for use on sheep were required to have the following label statement 'DO NOT USE THIS PRODUCT FOR DIPPING OR JETTING SHEEP'.

However, the suspension permitted a two year cooling off period for the use of existing stocks of diazinon that were, at the time, registered for dipping and jetting sheep. These included products such as 'Coopers Di-Jet Sheep Dip/Jetting Fluid, Cattle And Pig Spray' and 'WSD Diazinon For Sheep, cattle, goats and pigs'. For further information on the suspension of diazinon for dipping or jetting sheep, contact your local rural merchandiser, relevant product manufacturer or local **Chemical Standards Officer at the Department of Primary Industries on 136 186**. For more information about Lice on sheep visit the [DPI website](#)

### [National Agricultural Scholarship Program](#)

Here is a great opportunity for young people working or studying in the agricultural sector to participate in a national agricultural scholarship program.

The scholarship is a comprehensive fully funded 12 day behind-the-scenes program for 20 to 30 year olds with Woolworths. It gives people the opportunity to hear from leaders in the food supply chain. Highlights include discussions with senior Woolworths executives and decision makers within the company - as well as participating in lectures, tours of supermarkets and the distribution centre.

The scholarship program costs are all covered by Woolworths and includes course fees, accommodation and flights (to and from Sydney).

The scholarship is open to anyone between the ages of 20 and 30 who are either employed in the agricultural or horticultural industry or in their second or further years of study in an agricultural or horticultural faculty. **The application form is available at [www.wowcareers.com.au](http://www.wowcareers.com.au) or by calling Amy Keating at Woolworths on 02 8885 3516.**

Run in conjunction with the University of Western Sydney and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, the program is held from 10 August - 21 August 2009 and applications close on 15 May 2009. 60 people have participated in the program over the past three years.

### [Increase Lambing Rates For Spring/Summer Joinings?](#)

The hormone Melatonin affects day length perception in animals. For sheep melatonin can be supplemented during periods of long day length using Regulin™ (sustained release implant containing melatonin). It helps to trigger ewes during Spring-Summer to ovulate at similar level as they would naturally in short day length. There is opportunity to increase the number of lambs born and concentrate the lambing period which can influence the husbandry activities & sale of these lambs.

Groups interested in demonstration projects with Regulin™ are being sought. The demonstrations can look at factors such as ovulation, conception & lambing rates, scanning, breed effect, management & economics. Regulin™ for the demonstration ewes, training & technical support will be supplied for free. While 3 groups are being sought, there may be opportunity for more. The demonstrations are likely to start from July.

**If your group is interested or you would like more information contact Kylie Roberts (Ceva Delvet) on 0429 381 534 or [kylie.roberts@bigpond.com](mailto:kylie.roberts@bigpond.com)**

### [Multiplying and Marketing Merino Lamb Chops](#)

Consumer demand driving higher market prices for lamb has seen many traditional wool producers diversify into sheepmeat production, now the latest research has shown that dual purpose flocks can profit by selecting ewes with higher reproductive levels.

Visit the [GetFarming website](#) to read about the research.

[Climate Extremes and Agriculture](#)

Projections suggest that climate change will increase the risk to agricultural productivity from weather extremes. Read more about [Livestock and the Environment](#)

A site worth visiting [Sheep](#) is a general information site on sheep designed by a youngster as a 4H project.

Hope it rains in your part of the state this weekend, Annette  
BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Administrator