

BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Newsflash – 22/5/09

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

NB: The Phil Holmes meeting with the Maryborough Regional Group and other members as advertised in the "What's Hot" section on the [BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB website](#) has been postponed until further notice.

In this edition you will find

[1. BWBL FEWETURE Farming Conference – Maintaining the Momentum](#)

[2. Regulin Information Seminar June 17th in Bendigo](#)

[3. Regulin Demonstration Farms](#)

[4. Report Lamb and Kid Losses](#)

[5. Worksafe Double Dipping?](#)

[6. Wool Industry Survey & Cost/Benefit Analysis](#)

[7. Sowing Depth Just as Important at Sowing Time](#)

[**BWBL FEWETURE Farming Conference – Maintaining the Momentum**](#)

The invitations went in the mail today to the annual BWBL FEWETURE Farming - Maintaining the momentum Conference. If you missed it last year here is your opportunity to see what everyone is talking about.

This year's conference on Thursday 18th June at the Bendigo Exhibition Centre will highlight Paul Swan - Reinvigorating the Wool Mark brand and future plans for AWI, Rob Banks - Sheep Genetics, Past, Present the Future and Andrew Fisher - Future of Animal Welfare, why it is not just a flash in the pan as the keynote speakers. These speakers will be followed by 10 concurrent sessions which will be run three times so that participants can see at least 6 sessions out of the 10. These sessions include

- Impact and economics of sheep in a no till cropping system - Cam Nicholson
- Identifying the cause of lamb deaths - David Rendell
- Capturing sheep performance using EID, making genetic progress within flock - Charlie de Fegely & Mark Copeland
- Analysing the economics of lamb finishing - Gary Hallam
- Improving the density of drought affected pastures how to fill the bare spaces - Lisa Warn
- Parasites - new drench coming? Eradicating lice - possible? - David Rendell
- Rotational Grazing Management, what to monitor to make it work for you - Graeme Hand
- Feeding Efficiency - Getting 20 miles/gallon from your lambs - Nick Linden
- Integrated pest management - Cam Nicholson
- Making sure pregnancy scanning ewes pays - Jason Trompf

A dinner at the All Seasons Bendigo will proceed the conference with Nuffield winner David Jochinke as the guest speaker. This enables those who have to travel a long way the opportunity of a lovely three course meal and guest speaker for \$20 and reduced accommodation rates at the All Seasons Bendigo then a not so early start to get to the conference on time.

Admission is **FREE** to group members - \$30 for Associate members - \$50 for General Admission (Sign up for free associate membership on the day and pay only \$30)

Registration is essential phone 03 5355 0531 – registrations close Friday 5th June

[Regulin Information Seminar June 17th in Bendigo](#)

Why not head to Bendigo earlier on the 17th June & learn more about Regulin, the Melatonin implant for ewes. Learn about how Regulin works, when, how & why to use it. Find out how you can increase lambing percentages by up to 20%.

Linton Staples, one of the original developers of Regulin, & Stephane Floch, Ceva Sante Animale Reproduction specialist, will present. All are welcome.

When Wednesday 17th June, 3-5 pm All Seasons Resort, McIvor Hwy Bendigo

RSVP to Kylie Roberts by 10th June. Mobile 0429 381 534. Email kylie.roberts@bigpond.com

[Regulin Demonstration Farms](#)

Don't forget, there is the chance to have a demonstration project in your group using Regulin. Run the same number of ewes with up to 20% improvement in lambing percent - more lambs for sale in the spring.

If you are interested contact Kylie Roberts (0429 381 534 or kylie.roberts@bigpond.com)

[Report Lamb and Kid Losses](#)

Each year the Victorian sheep and goat industry faces significant productivity and economical losses due to lamb and kid mortality.

As part of a new project that will focus on determining the causes of mortality, DPI is encouraging all producers to report lamb and kid deaths to their local DPI Animal Health Officer.

DPI District Veterinary Officer John Ryan said a pilot project, conducted in north eastern Victoria in 2008, identified the causes of mortality in participating flocks with lambs from birth to weaning using post mortem and laboratory investigations.

"One finding from the pilot project was that though predation was found on all properties, over 80 per cent of predated lambs were already dead or dying, therefore the crows and foxes were cleaning up the paddocks," Dr Ryan said.

"The pilot project identified that further surveillance is needed and would assist in monitoring emerging diseases."

Over the next three years DPI Animal Health staff, with assistance from the DPI Meat and Wool teams will be involved in this and other surveillance projects aimed at increasing productivity on farms.

"The Lamb and Kid Mortality Project will be looking at lambs and kids aged between two weeks and weaning," Dr Ryan said.

"Investigations will be free of charge to the producer and they will receive written reports within 10 days of the final laboratory report."

For more information please contact District Veterinary Officers.

[Worksafe Double Dipping?](#)

WorkCover Authority recently issued a directive to the WorkCover Agents that the hearing aid component of an industrial deafness claim requires a new medical expenses only claim to be lodged. Historically the payment for hearing aids has been made on existing accepted hearing loss claims and the statistical case estimate (SCE) has been calculated to take this into account. The new procedure will require employers to meet the \$564 Medical and Like excess on the initial hearing loss claim and the subsequent Hearing Aids claim. As well both claims will attract SCEs.

This makes it imperative for employers to, in industries that can be noisy, to have prospective employees undertake audiometric testing before employing them and have an active Noise Management Plan. **For assistance call WorkComp 1800 330 136.**

[Wool Industry Survey & Cost/Benefit Analysis](#)

Mick Keogh gave presentations on the Survey results and Cost / Benefit Analysis this week in Sydney, Fremantle and Melbourne.

Some Key Overall Points: The Survey questions related to the need, or not, to centralise beyond the current selling system where wool is sold in five centres.

The survey was sent to 104 buyers, sellers, private treaty merchants and 25 "Other Stakeholders", e.g. AWTA, AWEX and woolgrower organisations, who were also invited to make submissions.

- 63 buyers / sellers / private treaty merchants completed the survey, while 7 "Other Stakeholders" made submissions.
- As expected, views varied enormously on most issues and were often quite polarised. But, that data is now quantified.
- The majority of respondents thought the current situation needed change, but varied in their views about what change is needed.
- Greater centralisation based on current flows into the auction would create logistical problems in some weeks that would need to be addressed for change to be successful.
- A number of companies thought that greater centralisation would produce benefits for industry, but not necessarily for their own businesses.
- The Cost / Benefit analysis identified that overall savings could be achieved through greater centralisation.
- However, a consequence of greater centralisation is that the process would create some winners and some losers.

Sowing Depth Just as Important at Sowing Time

Sowing depth of barley is just as vital as planting the variety on time, to achieve initial optimum growth during crop establishment.

With seasonal variability occurring across the southern regions of Australia where there has been a limited seasonal break and low subsoil moisture, it is important to sow barley on time and at the ideal sowing depth, between 25mm to 40mm.

John Stuchberry and Associates' Senior Consultant, Kate Burke said results from the NSW component of the Eastern Barley Agronomy project suggest that the variety Hindmarsh can be sensitive to sowing depth due to the short coleoptile length of the variety.

Consequently, if Hindmarsh is sown too deep, emergence can be substantially reduced.

Hindmarsh is also sensitive to triadimenol seed treatment and consequently the emergence of Hindmarsh can appear sluggish.

Therefore it is highly recommended that growers and independent seed dressing operators strictly adhere to the label rates of triadimenol.

Observations from the 2008 season on Hindmarsh crops showed they were at least two to three days slower emerging after sowing compared to Schooner, Baudin and Gairdner crops.

It is not until the 4-6 weeks growth stage of the crop that growers start to observe the rapid growth of Hindmarsh.

For further information contact Mary Raynes at DPI in Horsham on (03) 5362 2111.

This company has a sense of humour and a great computer programmer <http://producten.hema.nl/>

Have a good weekend, Annette
BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Administrator