

BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Newsflash – 3/7/09

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

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[You're Invited to Dinner](#)

The South West Prime Lamb Group has extended an invitation for all interested prime lamb producers to attend their mid-year dinner in Hamilton, at which David Thomason, Meat and Livestock Australia's General Manager of Marketing, will be the guest speaker.

David has spent over 30 years in sales and marketing roles within the Australian food industry. In 1998 David joined MLA to develop and implement a marketing plan to grow consumer demand for Australian beef and lamb. The plan encompassed improving meat quality, revitalising lamb as a product, identifying and developing nutritional opportunities for red meat, and improving retail promotion and education. David is responsible for MLA's lamb advertising including the high profile and popular Sam Kekovich advertising program.

David is a very engaging and informative speaker and well worth coming to hear on a cold winter's night. The dinner is to be held on Thursday 16th July at the Grange Burn Motor Inn, Hamilton at 6.30pm and will cost \$30/head (members) or \$40/head (non members). **RSVP by Monday 13th July 2009 to Kate Joseph on 0428 541 158 or email primeag@westvic.com.au**

[Pick of the Draft - A Free DVD](#)

Do you know how much poor shearing preparation is costing you? What about lice infestation or dark and medullated fibre contamination? Will employing another person in the shearing shed pay off? What's the most cost effective bale weight?

Find out what buyers and processors are looking for from your clip and how you can get the best price.

The DVD Pick of the Draft produced by AWI and the Australian Wool Exchange, shows how you can save thousands of dollars by taking simple steps to improve the quality of your next clip.

Call the **AWI Hotline on 1800 070 099** or visit www.wool.com.au to have your free copy of the DVD sent to you.

Split Joining *Farming Ahead Jun09*

According to recent research coming out of Evergraze - More livestock from perennials, Merino producers will achieve greater flexibility and reduce risk in their ewe operations by adopting a split joining strategy.

- Split joining reduces risk and provides greater options in a variable climate
- A split joining strategy allows targeted feeding and management of winter-lambing ewes and a uniform line of lambs for sale
- During a shorter spring, de-stocking can occur to provide pasture for later lambing ewes, winter-drop lambs can be sold early as stores and under extreme conditions ewes can also be sold
- During an average spring, lambs can be held on longer to better utilise pastures and achieve heavier weights
- Dry ewes from the summer joining can be rejoined during autumn to lamb during spring, while under performers are identified and culled

For a fact sheet on split joining, visit the Evergraze website at www.evergraze.com.au

Enjoy the Incentive to Save Energy

Do you know about the Victorian Government's Energy Saver Incentive? The incentive promotes a number of energy saving actions to help reduce the costs of making your home more energy efficient; reducing your electricity and gas bills into the future.

There are many ways to improve the energy efficiency of your home. This ranges from weatherproofing your windows and doors, to choosing an energy efficient fridge or freezer or using energy efficient light globes around your home. Visit www.saveenergy.vic.gov.au to learn about the businesses that can offer you a financial incentive to make these and more changes.

'The Great Idea Bank' Workshop

You are invited to a workshop evaluating 'The Great Idea Bank', a resource put together by older farmers and others from across Australia who are looking to understand more about what happens as we get older, how to make farm work easier and ultimately to be actively involved for as long as we chose to.

WHEN: Tuesday 21st July

TIME: 7pm - 9pm

VENUE: Strathbogie Hall

FACILITATOR: Alistair Cameron

Dinner is provided **RSVP to the Hume Corridor Community Health Service on 5736 6366**

New Code of Practice to Prevent Heritable Diseases *Dr Steve Tate, Bureau of Animal Welfare*

Agriculture Minister Joe Helper released the new *Code of Practice for the Responsible Breeding of Animals with Heritable Defects* last week. The code will present a framework for animal breeders and industry groups to follow in order to reduce the welfare risk to animals from heritable defects that cause disease.

Heritable defects causing disease include polycystic kidney disease, folded ears in cats, hereditary cataracts and Von Willebrands disease in dogs. These defects can cause serious welfare consequences for affected animals and their offspring. The *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* and this code require that no animal with a heritable defect that causes the diseases listed in the Act can be sold or transferred to another person without advice on the disease in the animal.

Dogs Victoria, Cat Protection Society, Australian Veterinary Association, Genetic technologies and the Australian National Kennel Council (Australian Canine Eye Scheme experts) were all key partners in the development of the code.

[ATV Tag & Safety isn't Easy](#)

According to Farmsafe Australia, about 10 people die every year from all-terrain-vehicle associated accidents, with most deaths occurring in agriculture and horticulture. Riding an ATV requires a vastly different approach to riding a motorcycle.

According to the WorkSafe Victoria handbook for ATVs on farms, rollover is common. The risk is increased if the ATV is traversing a slope, travelling at high speed, towing an implement or carrying a heavy or unstable load or if tyres are under inflated.

Farm safety groups are also backing a call by the Victorian Coroner for quad bike manufacturers to cease marketing them as all-terrain vehicles. Coroner, John Olle recently said, to describe a quad bike as an all-terrain vehicle was a "serious overstatement of its capabilities".

The WorkSafe handbook for ATVs on farms is available at worksafe.vic.gov.au.

[Insect Explosion](#)

Comments from Paul Horne, Director and Entomologist, IPM Technologies, "Regarding latest reports of insects in cropping and pasture paddocks, it is most important not to over-react."

Consider the following questions before making any spray decisions:

- Are there really more pests or is it weather conditions changing pest populations this year?
- Will the next rains promote plant growth to get them past the worry stage?
- If an insecticide is applied will it make things better or worse?
- If you kill all the predators and half of the pests, where would that leave you?
- Are you looking at just this crop or the next 3 years crops in the same paddock?
- Could the decision to spray an SP be delayed a week and re-assess?
- If you spray an SP, will it work?
- Is the problem because this was the decision made in previous years and beneficial species have been killed?

For further information visit www.ipmtechnologies.com.au

[Wool World Stands United](#)

WOOL growers and processors stand united behind the natural fibre's new marketing plan and Australia's ongoing research into animal welfare.

Australian Wool Innovation CEO Brenda McGahan spoke at the International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO) conference in Frankfurt, Germany and was pleased with a new mood of collaboration and co-operation to sell more wool, despite the tough global economic conditions.

"IWTO is a major assembly of our customers through the supply chain so it is vitally important to communicate with such a meeting. I was pleased to receive endorsement for AWI's Operational Plan; to live within our means, maximise funds for R&D and leverage precious marketing funds with retail partners behind the Woolmark, supported by brands such as Australian Merino," she said.

IWTO president Gunther Beier added; "I applaud the stance taken by Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) to commit further funding to the concept of business to business to consumer (B2B2C) marketing with the Woolmark as the leading brand."

Meredith Sheil's presentation on sheep welfare at the request of IWTO was welcomed also. Dr Sheil also outlined the key role the National Wool Declaration played in giving the world's wool buyers the chance to access unmulesed wool.

IWTO has agreed to support AWI in helping to communicate the message of high welfare standards of Australian sheep producers and the strong progress in developing welfare improved flystrike prevention practices.

[Strategic Alligator Weed Eradication](#) *Erin Cox, Julie Graham, Fran Hausmann, FSV*

Victoria currently has a significant number of alligator weed infestations, with the majority found in metropolitan Melbourne. There are also two known regional isolated infestations in Bendigo and Warragul. Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) is a state prohibited weed and a weed of national significance. It is highly invasive, spread by fragmentation. It grows in both aquatic and terrestrial habitats. It can quickly cover water bodies; impacting on flora, fauna and recreational activities.

For more information on weeds visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au click on agriculture, then crops pasture and weeds, then weeds and then A to Z of weeds

Have you been to science works - I was introduced to the many wonders today with my grandson's - visit the website to see what it's all about <http://museumvictoria.com.au/scienceworks/>

Have a good weekend, Annette
BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Administrator