

BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Newsflash – 17/7/09

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

Make yourself familiar with the BWBL Forum page on the BWBL Website - because soon you will be invited to add comments to the posted forums (when I return from leave)

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Building Business Resilience Program

This program provides rural producer with a structure to improve business resilience through the development of enhanced business skills and business planning.

RIST extends an invitation to all farm business owners to attend a one day workshop on Building Business Resilience. The workshop is designed to maximize the growth potential, prosperity and sustainability of your farm through the enhancement and access to information and advice that will secure and grow your business through improved business skills.

This workshop is ideal for any rural producer interested in either designing a business plan linked to business resilience or who would like to fine tune their existing plan.

The Building Business Resilience program provides opportunities for a maximum of 20 businesses (2 persons max per business) per workshop, to participate in an interactive training opportunity designed to improve your business skills.

Key features of the one day workshop are:

- A positive and interactive series of training sessions (during the day) linked to improved business planning
- An opportunity to listen and learn from a range of key note speakers
- Develop a better understanding of how to set realistic targets for your business
- Useful tools and tips to improve your business performance
- Small group activities designed to maximise learning
- An opportunity to refine your business plan at the end of each session (during the day)

Total Course Costs: \$55.00 (per business) includes catering and course materials.

Approximately 3-4 weeks after the 1 day workshop there will be an opportunity for you to return for a 3 hour review session to refine your business plan.

Contact Leigh or Jan at RIST phone 5573 0943 or free call 1800 883 343

Mulesing Issues

It was apparent in discussions at the IWTO meeting in Frankfurt that there is an increasing number of requests / inquiries for wool from non-mulesed sheep and concerns about supplies after 2010.

Marks & Spencer recently distributed a letter to their fabric suppliers confirming their "non-negotiable": intention to only source wool products from 2011 on which are made from wool from non-mulesed sheep or from other sheep on farms which had ceased mulesing. They also expressed concern about the possibility of customer boycotts in their letter.

A letter was received from the Sunshine Group in China this week advising that they are experiencing an increase in requests from their international customer for products made from wool from non-mulesed sheep. There seems little doubt that we will see increasing requests for wool from non-mulesed sheep in the near future, as there is an expectation among many retailers that mulesing will be phased out after 2010.

Australia has a good story to tell. New technologies and different breeding strategies are available and the National Wool Declaration provides information on the availability of wool from properties where mulesing has ceased or a "pain-relief" product as been used during mulesing.

Avoid the Pitfalls of Pregnancy Toxaemia

Pregnancy toxaemia, or twin lamb disease, usually occurs in pregnant and stressed ewes, often carrying twins or triplets, who receive insufficient feed in the last four to six weeks of pregnancy.

Pregnancy toxaemia can also be induced in late pregnancy by poor appetite in fat ewes, bad weather causing reduced grazing, disease such as footrot, foot abscess and handling and mustering and shearing resulting in time off feed.

If the ewe is not offered enough quality feed to provide sufficient energy for herself and the unborn lamb, she will run short of glucose and will break down her own body tissues; resulting in accumulation of high levels of ketones and a loss of body condition. Sometimes, there is an underlying disease problem such as foot abscess that can reduce the ewe's ability to graze.

Initial signs of pregnancy toxaemia include dullness and depression, loss of appetite, lack of coordination and weakness, progressing to blindness, fine muscle tremor and grinding of teeth. Later signs include recumbency, convulsions and coma.

These signs progress over a course of two to eight days. Death is very common unless treated very early in the course of the disease. If the ewe is in the later stages of the disease then humane destruction is recommended as treatment is not often successful.

For ewes showing early signs of pregnancy toxaemia, provide good shelter and nursing care and administer *Glycerol* or *Propylene glycol* orally twice daily as an energy source, as well as administering *Calcium borogluconate* under the skin. Repeat treatments with *Glycerol* or *Propylene glycol* twice daily until the ewe's appetite returns.

If pregnancy toxaemia is occurring in the flock, it is usually a sign that the nutritional plane is inadequate. Other ewes may be affected, but not showing immediate outward signs of the disease.

The longer term impact may be low birth weight lambs, poor lactation in the ewes and lower lamb survival. Supplementary feeding of a sufficient quality and quantity of feed should be undertaken to avoid further losses.

For more information, contact your nearest Animal Health Officer.

Shaping the Future in a Changing Environment Invitation

AWiA recognises the importance of building the leadership and representative skills of young women for the future of our primary industries given the challenges of a changing environment. AWiA's *Shaping the Future in a Changing Environment* training program will help build upon participants' current leadership skills and strengthen the networks of young women in rural Australia.

AWiA is pleased to be able to offer training and networking opportunities to women aged between 18 and 30 who are entering or are involved in agriculture, fisheries and/or forestry industries who want to shape their

own and their industry's future and who are keen to develop personal and professional leadership knowledge and skills.

This program is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry under its Australia's Farming Future program.

The program, which will include a workshop in Canberra, a networking dinner and two online follow up sessions, will cover the costs of training and training materials, accommodation and food during the workshop. To increase accessibility to a diversity of young women from across Australia, economy air fares from major centres are included. Childcare needs can be discussed with the Committee.

Participants will be committed to attending the training session and the follow up activities during which participants will be supported to pass on or apply their training by key AWiA contacts and an online post workshop training session. They will also be supported when reporting on how they have used the training within their industry or rural community.

The workshop and a networking dinner will be held in Canberra from 5.00pm on Thursday 13th August until Saturday 15th August. There will also be an opportunity for participants to build relationships with members of AWiA during the AWiA AGM and Annual Conference.

Contact: Val Lang on 03 5596 2014 or Dr Patricia Hamilton on 08 8843 2042 **OR Download information and application form from www.awia.org.au APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON FRIDAY 17th July at 5.00pm**

[Fact Sheet - Shows Oil Mallee Biodiversity Benefits](#)

The biodiversity benefits of oil mallees are explained in a new fact sheet recently released by the Future Farm Industries CRC. The fact sheet is the first in a new series that will help make current research findings readily available to land managers.

Find the Fact Sheet at www.futurefarmcrc.com.au/documents/Biodiversitybenefitsofoilmallees_000

[Victorian Livestock Health Surveillance Projects](#)

Four DPI key projects will deliver a range of economic and social benefits to industry

- Knackery Surveillance project - will be undertaken over a three year period at 4 knackeries across Victoria - a necropsies will be performed to determine cause of death
- Early Detection of Emerging and Exotic Diseases in Sheep and Goats - Abattoirs and saleyards will be visited by Animal Health staff to inspect for unwell and recently deceased sheep and goats - a necropsies will be performed to determine cause of death
- Sentinel Flock Project - aims to identify the causes of mortality in sheep and goats and identify diseases which have impact on production, as well as measuring financial effects on production systems due to these losses
- Lamb and Kid Mortality Surveillance Project - staff will be working with producers to diagnose causes of lamb and kid deaths

For more information visit the DPI website www.dpi.vic.gov.au or call the Customer Service Centre 136 186

[Natural Nitrogen - Microbial BioFertiliser](#)

WHEN: Monday 10th Aug at 3.30pm to 4.30pm

WHERE: DPI Horsham, Grains Innovation Park

Richard May will be the guest speaker and will cover the following

Yield increasing microbes for agriculture

Natural nitrogen for all plants

Understand your soil resources

Further information contact [Greg Antonoff](#) on 5362 2111

[Climate Change Green Paper Regional Forums](#) - *Andrew Dolling, Climate Change in Agriculture*

The Victorian Government has released a Climate Change Green Paper for public comment. Feedback from individuals and organisations on the ideas put forward in the Green Paper will be critical to the Victorian Government's task of developing a comprehensive new climate change strategy for Victoria.

The Green Paper outlines in detail the climate change risks facing our state and the likely impacts of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. It proposes ways Victoria can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change and become a leading low carbon economy.

Submissions close on 30 September and can be sent via mail (Premier of Victoria, Climate Change Submission, GPO Box 4912, Melbourne VIC 3001) or online at www.climatechange.vic.gov.au (external link).

A series of public forums will be held in

- Bendigo (17 July)
- Melbourne (21 July)
- Geelong (22 July)
- Benalla (18 August)
- Box Hill (20 August)
- Morwell (28 August)

For more details about the public forums or information about the Green Paper visit

www.climatechange.vic.gov.au or call 1800 463 684.

Grassland Society Celebrates 50 Years

Grassland farmers are invited to help the Grassland Society of Southern Australia celebrate 50 years of fellowship, information sharing and innovation at its annual conference at Geelong on August 6 and 7.

The extensive list of topics on the program include: how climate change could impact south eastern Australian pasture systems; new livestock grazing systems for southern Australia; getting the right mix of perennials; converting grass to product; facts on seed cleaning, availability and price; and better fertiliser decisions. Conference convenor Maryanne Holt said scientists, agronomists, consultants and some of southern Australia's best farmers would be speaking to help farmers make informed decisions.

The program will include a Young Graziers Summit on technology, training and employment, which will involve discussions about advances in new technologies for grazing industries.

A tour of Melbourne Water's Werribee Farm and other bus field trips in the region are also planned as part of the conference.

For further information call the GSSA office on (03) 5480 3305, email office@grasslands.org.au or visit the website www.grasslands.org.au

Dial P for Pain

Orthopaedic surgeons are reporting a new condition dubbed "mobile phone elbow". People who hold their mobiles to their ears for extended periods can overextend the ulna nerve causing pain. Other symptoms include hand weakness and difficulty typing or using instruments.

RSI Move Over

E-RAGE, punching and kicking computers is landing bad tempered Victorians in hospital emergency departments. Between 2004 and 2008, 169 people have attended emergency departments for acute computer related injuries. A Monash University study reported that 8% of these injuries resulted, from angry or frustrated users punching or kicking their computer. The other common causes of injury were bumping or dropping the computer on a foot (37%), being cut or pierced (21%), tripping over computer (12%) and electrocution (11%). Two thirds of these accidents happen at home. A more detailed US study showed a 732% increase in acute computer related injuries from 1994 to 2006, more than double the increase in the rate of household computer ownership. However this study showed it trending down since 2006, as the heavier cathode ray tube monitors were replaced with lighter monitors

I am on leave for the next 4 weeks, Jane Court will be delivering the Newsflash whilst I am away

Have a good weekend, Annette
BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Administrator