

BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Newsflash – 14th August/09

This Newsflash email is funded by [Australian Wool Innovation](#) and [Department of Primary Industries](#). If you have missed a Newsflash check the BWBL website to see all past Newsflashes

In this edition you will find

[Producer Demonstration Sites - Southern Beef or Lamb and Sheepmeat applications](#)

[Intro Sessions to Environmental Management Systems](#)

["Making Dr Rod Manning's practices work on your farm"](#)

[Whole Farm Planning](#)

[Food, farming and health conference](#)

[Maarten Stapper days](#)

[Lamb Deaths](#)

[Hypocalcaemia warning](#)

[Want to hear a Pobblebonk's call?](#)

[Whats Cooking - Lambs Tails](#)

[Producer Demonstration Sites - Southern Beef or Lamb and Sheepmeat applications](#)

Applications close: Close of business 28 August 2009

Producer demonstration sites replace the old Producer Initiated Research and Development projects (PIRDS), They enable producer groups across Australia to partner with research organisations and focus specifically on trialling MLA supported R&D and must address specific regional research, development and extension issues identified in the Strategic Plan.

What focus areas should Producer Demonstration Site projects address?

Grazing land management (northern projects)

Pasture and grazing management (southern projects)

Weed management

Improving liveweight gain

Improving reproductive performance

Animal health and welfare

Enhancing enterprise efficiency

Funds can be used for direct project operating costs, external project support and facilitation, communication and adoption activities and some capital costs associated with project establishment. Further info - www.mla.com.au/producersupport Contact: Richard Apps Phone: 02 6773 3773 Email: <mailto:rdyer@mla.com.au> rapps@mla.com.au

[Intro Sessions to Environmental Management Systems](#)

Australian Landcare Management are holding a number of free 2 hr intro sessions on Environmental Management Systems. An environmental management system aims to identify, monitor and to control the effect of what you do on the natural environment. Australian Landcare Management group (ALMG) is a not for profit group run by farmers who aim to assist other landholders to achieve certified EMS status. Tony Gleeson of ALM will run the introductory sessions and explain government funding covering the majority of the cost of full training. This EMS thru ALM is one of the only 3rd party audited schemes in Australia.

Intro sessions will be held at:

Sale Tues 25th Aug from 4- 6 pm @ South East Australia Training ,2 Desailly St Sale .

Hamilton - Wednesday August 26 from 6- 8 pm @ Hamilton Race Club, Coleraine Rd , Hamilton

This EMS as it is designed to cover all enterprises on farms (of note Merino Advantage Pool clients with an approved EMS will have a premium applied to their wool).

RSVP/Enquiries (and possible other venues?) contact Eamon Timms eamont@lfl.com.au 0419 308129

["Making Dr Rod Manning's practices work on your farm"](#)

Thursday 20th August, 2009

Dr Rod Manning is a retired vet running an expanding beef enterprise near Mansfield. Well known as progressive thinker, he has spoken about his farming operation in many parts of Australia. Taking on considerable risks, he has doubled the size of his operation every 7 years. The 2006 drought brought into

focus the need to manage both farming and financial risks, and Rod has since reviewed every part of his farming system to ensure its survival and growth.

Location - Laverton, NSW

Time - 9:30-4:00pm Register with Jeff Hirth on jeffhirth@bigpond.com or 03 5726 5270 by Friday 14th August 2008. More information Please contact Marcus Richardson on 02 6041 2085

Whole Farm Planning

Farmplan21 is a nationally accredited whole farm planning course currently being piloted in the North Central and Wimmera Catchments. Topics covered include creating a farm vision, soil management, biodiversity and catchment management, farm water supply, farm design and computer based mapping. Participants receive aerial photography of their properties and have the opportunity to learn to use computer based mapping software. The course is typically conducted over six four-hour sessions (delivered weekly); however session times and course structure can be tailored to a group's requirements and availability. Farmplan21 is **free** to landholders located in the North Central and Wimmera Catchments who enrol before September 30, 2009. All course materials and notes are provided. For further information or to register your interest, please contact Nicholas Bate (DPI Bendigo) on (03) 54304497 or email nicholas.bate@dpi.vic.gov.au

Food, farming and health conference

The "Nurture the land, nourish the people...." conference explores the connections between food, farming and health. The conference will be held on October 6 from 9.15am to 4.30pm at the Arts Centre on the corner of Albert and Smith Streets, Warragul. The event features an amazing line up of speakers and afternoon workshops where regional case studies are presented and the challenges and opportunities are explored.

Contact Jenny O'Sullivan 5663 2386 or osulliva@dcsi.net.au

Maarten Stapper days

The federation of Biological Farmers Inc are hosting 3 days in September with Dr Maarten Stapper.

Maarten Stapper was a scientist with CSIRO and now has moved into the promotion of biological farming and reducing reliance on fertiliser and chemicals. The days will cost \$50 for non members and will run at Glenormiston September 1 (all from 10am -3pm)

Warragul September 2

Nagambie September 3

More info contact Noel Horan 0429 933 438

Lamb Deaths

DPI's Sentinel Flock Project is up and running across the state. The main causes for lamb deaths investigated so far have been as expected from previous survey work. Still born, dystocia (in one flock) and predation have been diagnosed in the cross bred flocks and mismothering and starvation the major cause in the Merino flocks. The aims of DPI's surveillance projects are to monitor disease trends, look for new (emerging) diseases and confirm the absence of any exotic diseases. This information aids in maintaining and protecting the sheep and goat industries' access to export markets between flocks have been. Another project being conducted by DPI over the next three years is the Lamb and Kid Mortality Survey. This project investigates the cause of death in young animals between the age of two weeks and weaning. DPI Animal Health staff conduct free post-mortem and laboratory examination. For more information, contact your local DPI office, Dr John Ryan on 5723 8680, or Dr. Robert Suter on 5557 5812.

Hypocalcaemia warning

Further to that, the most frequent diagnosis DPI field staff have made (in nearly 25% of cases) in the past month has been hypocalcaemia in ewes, with the diagnoses being made throughout the state. At least one of these cases was suspected to be due to exposure to oxalate containing plants (such as Sour-sob)

Prevention: make sure ewes aren't stressed, have access to quality feed, and if too lush or being held off pasture, at least provide some hay.

Want to hear a Pobblebonk's call?

(described as an explosive, musical note producing a resonant "bonk", repeated every few seconds!)

Go to the Amphibian Research Centre website (www.frogs.org.au) and click on the Frogs of Australia section. It has descriptions, distributions, images, breeding calls, and more for every frog in Australia. This website is a great tool to help you identify the frogs you might be hearing. (NESSI newsletter)

Whats Cooking - Lambs Tails

Ever considered lambs tails on the barbie when out lamb marking? I found this in an old Poll Dorset cook book! After marking a flock of lambs, gather up the tails in a bag. Light the barbie and spread the tails on the glowing embers. Lift the tails off when all the wool has been singed and allow to cool briefly. Bite the skin and tear off like skinning a snake. Enjoy the delicacy. P.S. It helps if you have had a few beers beforehand. PPS I have a recipe for Dorset oysters also if anyone is interested!

And that - said Jane - is that - have a [wet](#) weekend
BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB