

## **BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Newsflash – 25/9/09**

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

Notes from "Annual Weed Control and Animal Health Issues" phone seminar are on the BWBL website under Events/Phone Seminar

In this edition you will find

- [1. BWBL Phone Seminar - "To Cut or Not to Cut?"](#)
- [2. BWBL Chairman Retires](#)
- [3. Woolpoll 2009 Is Upon Us](#)
- [4. EverGraze Field Days](#)
- [5. Irrigated Cropping Field Day](#)
- [6. Are Your Herbicide Records Clear and Up-To-Date](#)
- [7. New Cost of Production Calculator](#)
- [8. Be the Change You Want to See in the World](#)
- [9. Community to Lead the Way for Gorse](#)
- [10. Take A Fascinating Trip Into Victoria's Future](#)
- [11. Breeding Tool Launched to Help Beat Flystrike](#)
- [12. What's Your Poison?](#)
- [13. Warning Falls On Deaf Ear](#)
- [14. Financial Planning for Women](#)
- [15. Weeds Information For Wary Gardeners](#)
- [16. Money Making Mums](#)

### [BWBL Phone Seminar - "To Cut or Not to Cut?"](#)

The next BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB (BWBL) phone seminar will be held at 1pm on Friday, October 2. (That's right NEXT Friday)

Dale Grey, Farming Systems Agronomist and David Shambrook, Industry Development Officer both with DPI will be discussing the why and how of cutting crop or pasture for hay or silage.

Should a crop or pasture be cut for hay or silage? This is a question many croppers are asking when the dry spring and winter persists. How do you tell when the likely crop yields and returns will be less than returns from cutting the crop (and relative merits of hay versus silage)?

For those in wetter parts of the state who may be in a position to consider cutting pastures for hay or silage - how do you decide whether or not to cut at all (eg having surplus spring feed versus restricting stock to feed back later on) and any other issues related to relative merits of hay versus silage.

**To register for this phone seminar please call (03) 5355 0531**

### **BWBL Chairman Retires**

BWBL Chairman Jamie Ramage has retired. Jamie has served on the BWBL Advisory Committee for seven years and for the last four as the Chairman. His contribution has been outstanding over this time, he has guided to program through some difficult times with commitment and dedication.

The BWBL Advisory Committee praised his determination to achieve a better working program.

Jamie has handed over the Chairmanship to Jason Trompf. Jamie said that the program needs young, innovative people to lead it into the future and feels Jason is a talented younger person who can guide the program further.

### **Woolpoll 2009 Is Upon Us**

September 25 will be a defining moment in the future of the wool industry.

WoolPoll 2009 gives all growers a chance to vote on how much of their wool income will go to Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) over next three years.

Voting is easy. Information kits will be sent to eligible growers and you can also vote online at [www.woolpoll.com.au](http://www.woolpoll.com.au)

The poll closes on Friday, 6 November, 2009.

Did you know that the average producer pays \$1,500.00 a year in wool levies?

Australian growers who don't vote will be allowing someone else decide how much they pay in the future.

**Have your say now and vote in WoolPoll 2009.**

### **EverGraze Field Days**

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept** - Cavendish - 9.30am to 12.00noon - Grazing options for lucerne and managing weeds - contact Harry Armstrong 0417 053 095

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct** - Warrak - 10.00am to 1.00pm - Improved production with strategic grazing - Onion grass control - contact Jane Moorfoot 5355 0531

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Oct** - Ballan - 7.30am to 11.00am - Native grass management - Persistent pasture species for low rainfall environments - contact Lisa Miller 5226 4070

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Oct** - Beaufort - 9.30am to 12.00noon - Grazing strategies for lucerne and cereals - Herbicides pre and post sowing - contact David Clarke 0408 378 175

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct** - Ararat - Lucerne establishment and weed control - Phalaris first year management - contact Rob Shea 5352 1357

### **Irrigated Cropping Field Day**

**WHEN:** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> Oct

**WHERE:** Trial site 2 km east of Kerang (Kerang - Koondrook Rd, at the hay sheds)

**TIME:** 10.00am to 2.30pm (BBQ lunch is included)

**COST:** \$10 VICC members, \$20 non members

**WHAT:** Cereals for fodder, irrigated legumes for high quality fodder, speciality oilseeds, Faba Beans and pulse alternatives in the rotation, Canola, Oaten hay, Triticale trials plus many others

**For more information contact Damian Jones, DPI Kerang on 5452 1266**

### **Are Your Herbicide Records Clear and Up-To-Date**

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is reminding primary producers that they must keep a clear record of their herbicide use. Many farmers would currently be applying herbicides to control weeds in a variety of situations. Some farmers only keep records of the use of chemicals on their crop, such as fungicides and insecticides. The requirement is to keep a record of all agricultural chemical use, such as spraying out paddocks prior to sowing or tree-line spraying in an orchard. DPI routinely audits the use of agricultural chemicals across Victoria and it is a common occurrence to find either no records or insufficient records kept of herbicide use. Keeping the required records of use provides additional benefits to farmers.

If an allegation is made that a farmer has caused spray drift damage to his neighbour, then having accurate records can help resolve the situation. When using agricultural chemicals the following records must be kept:

- Product trade name
- The date the product was used
- Application rate of the product
- Crop or commodity that was treated (e.g. pasture, apples) or the situation in which the product was used (roadway, channel spraying)
- Extent of use (e.g. area of land treated, volume of commodity treated)
- Location where the product was used
- Name and address of the user and
- Wind speed and direction at time of use.

Wind speed and direction does not need to be recorded for outdoor application of chemicals through hand-held devices, such as a knapsack. Users of poison baits must also record the start and end dates of their baiting period.

For more information on record keeping visit [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/chemicalstandards](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/chemicalstandards) or call 136 186.

### [New Cost of Production Calculator](#)

A new cost of production calculator aims to help sheep producers identify and zero in on potential weak spots in their enterprise. Visit the **Making More from Sheep website** to try this new calculator.

<http://www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au/AnnouncementRetrieve.aspx?ID=25456>

### [Be the Change You Want to See in the World](#)

This project, funded in partnership with the DAFF aims to assist the women of our region share their experiences and recognise their everyday achievements in leadership in all its diverse and colourful ways.

It offers workshops for skill building and then mentoring for developing new local projects.

Workshop locations and dates - workshops are offered as a series of two to all women.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Oct and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Oct - Cavendish Town Hall

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Oct and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Oct - Yambuk Town Hall

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Nov - Ararat Shire Hall Offices

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Oct and Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Nov - Lake Bolac Town Hall

All workshops start at 140.30am and finish at 3.00pm

Book your place now with the **Glenelg Hopkins CMA phone 5571 2526**

### [Community to Lead the Way for Gorse](#)

Community members will now lead the way in the battle against gorse in Victoria.

The Victorian Gorse Taskforce (VGT) will engage a community member, in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), to coordinate education and treatment programs for gorse control.

The VGT has conducted a review of how gorse education and treatment programs are delivered to land managers, which identified the potential for alternate delivery methods for on-ground programs.

Traditionally, the VGT has paid for DPI Pest Management Officers to deliver education, treatment and compliance projects with land managers.

VGT Chair Peter Everist said the Victorian Gorse Taskforce believes there are community providers that are better placed to deliver these services, such as established community-based staff or independent contractors.

This move will be more cost effective for the VGT and will place a greater emphasis on voluntary compliance for gorse management rather than regulatory enforcement," Dr Everist said.

DPI's Project Manager Victorian Community Weeds Steve Young said the new approach will enable DPI to provide better services to farmers by using community expertise while maintaining the collaborative partnership with the VGT.

Gorse (*Ulex europaeus L.*) is an exotic plant from Europe. It has been identified in Australia as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS) due to its high level of invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts. <http://www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au/>

If you want to know more about the VGT visit the website [www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au](http://www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au)

**Take A Fascinating Trip Into Victoria's Future** *Melanie Hopgood-Bould, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development*

Take a fascinating trip into Victoria's future at the Fast Forward Victorian Government Expo at the Royal Melbourne Show, 17 - 27 September 2009. Celebrate Victoria's history, learn about its many services, pause to enjoy free expert talks and entertainment, and hear about Victoria's future initiatives. There is plenty to see and do for all ages including:

- testing new technology used in schools
- learning about job opportunities available to all Victorians
- viewing the new transport plan and major projects underway in Victoria
- discovering the vision for Melbourne's future, while kids create their own future city out of recycled products
- experiencing walking in our environment in Victoria's parks
- meeting emergency services personnel and learning about fire safety in the home
- participating in health and fitness activities.

Art workshops and performances will also be presented by members of our multicultural community. Do not forget to grab your 100 per cent carbon offset bag to collect your free giveaways. **For more information and updates visit the [Victoria Online website](#)**

**Breeding Tool Launched to Help Beat Flystrike**

The first breeding values for breech wrinkle was launched last week by Sheep Genetics. This is a major achievement that will greatly help the industry in its efforts to breed sheep that can be managed safely without mulesing. Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) for breech wrinkle allow farmers to identify, select and breed from sheep that have improved natural resistance to flystrike.

The ASBV for Early Breech Wrinkle gives Merino sheep producers the potential to fast-track their progress to reduce breech wrinkle in their flocks. As breech wrinkle is strongly associated with flystrike, selecting rams with low Early Breech Wrinkle ASBVs will contribute to progeny with enhanced natural resistance to breech flystrike.

This is the result of five years of intensive investment in research and breeding initiatives across the country. It is indicative of the enormous and ongoing commitment of the industry to address this complex health and welfare problem and a further illustration of Australian sheep producers' investment in enhancing flystrike prevention alternatives.

Sheep with favourable Early Breech Wrinkle ASBVs have demonstrated less susceptibility to flystrike.

However, research has also shown the relationship between breech wrinkle and fleece weight must be carefully managed, so as to prevent associated negative production effects. This can be achieved through fleece weight and staple length ASBVs, with environmental effects also an important factor.

AWI research has shown that animals with a breech wrinkle score of two or less have significantly reduced incidence of flystrike. It is still sheep breeders who make the choice to develop sheep suitable for their own environment and production system. It is also important that ram breeders use wrinkle ASBVs to select rams as there are some significant effects of sex, birth type, dam and age that could bias selection if not handled effectively.

The development of these recent breeding values for more than 300 industry sires follows the Visual Sheep Scores Guide published by AWI and MLA earlier this year.

**What's Your Poison?** *Lisa Newman, Business and Corporate Services*

The return of warmer weather and the opportunity to spend more time outdoors can increase a person's likelihood of contact with allergens, toxins or poisons. If you think you or another person has been poisoned, call the Victorian Poisons Information Centre who will provide information about:

- suspected poisoning involving products or medicines
- bites and stings from spiders, insects, marine creatures, reptiles or animals
- plant or fungi poisoning.

You will receive professional advice on the correct first aid treatment specific to your situation. Centre staff can advise you whether it is necessary to call an ambulance or to go to the doctor. This could save you a stressful trip, or an unnecessary wait at a hospital or clinic. Their website, [The Victorian Poisons Information Centre](#) has excellent tips, fact sheets and more information about their service.

The Victorian Poisons Information Centre can be phoned 24 hours a day from anywhere in Australia on 13 11 26. Keep the number close to your phone, and enter it into your mobile now.

### Warning Falls On Deaf Ear

Listening to your iPod at full volume can be like taking a chainsaw to your eardrums literally." Professor Harvey Dillon an Australian hearing loss expert recently warned. He also said personal MP3 players and other loud "leisure noise" activities were expected to be the cause of rising rates of deafness in future generations. Prof Dillon said today's generation of workers could be enduring a "double whammy" of damaging noise exposure in the workplace as well as in their leisure time.

### Financial Planning for Women

Rural women in south west Victoria have the opportunity to learn how to secure their financial future by attending a free practical workshop during October and November.

The Queen Victoria Women's Centre in partnership with the Victorian Government's Office of Women's Policy and WIRE - Women's Information, is running 27 free 'Steps To Securing Your Financial Future' practical workshop programs for women across Victoria during spring.

Each workshop program is delivered by a local community facilitator for two hours each week over four weeks.

You can attend the workshop at the Colac Neighbourhood House on consecutive Saturday's starting on October 10 from 10.00am to noon. Other programs to be in the South-West will be held at both Warrnambool and Ballarat.

The workshop programs are open to all women with a regular income who are keen to explore their money habits, pick up practical ideas for boosting savings, manage credit and debt, and set financial goals.

For further information or to register online go to [www.qvwc.org.au](http://www.qvwc.org.au), or contact Lyn Hall at the QV Women's Centre on (03) 8668 8106 or 1300 550 692 (regional).

### Weeds Information For Wary Gardeners

Gardeners and farmers will be able to see some pretty nasty weeds with a visit to the Rotary Art 'n' Garden Weekend at Horsham next month.

In amongst the flowers and shrubs, Department of Primary Industries (DPI) will be displaying weeds that home gardeners need to be aware of.

The DPI Weed Alert display to be featured at the Weekend, formally known as the Horsham Spring Garden Festival, from October 9-11 will have a focus on new and emerging weeds of the area.

Included will be the attractive-looking water hyacinth plant which in full bloom has a beautiful purple flower but also has potentially devastating effects. Worldwide the prolific weed has caused major problems, choking water ways, damaging aquatic ecosystems and is both costly and difficult to control.

Members of the public can either bring clear photographs of weeds or, if bringing actual plants along, please make sure they are in a secure bag and avoid seed spread when collecting them.

State Prohibited Weeds pose the highest threat to Victoria's assets and without intervention could establish and have a devastating effect on agriculture, the economy and environment.

For more information please contact the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

### Money Making Mums

**WHEN:** Friday 9th Oct

**WHERE:** Pigeon Ponds

Key Topics include: The importance of crossbred ewes, Key factors that drive profit, The genetics involved in prime lamb production, Calculate the value of EBVs from LambPlan and MerinoSelect in real life situations, Evaluate breeding programs

Contact Jan at RIST Centre for more information on 5573 0943

And from the BBC website - "Averting a perfect storm of shortages" check out these clips  
How wheat can be adapted to survive varying environments <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8219184.stm>

Growing migrant populations put huge pressure on Delhi and Mumbai  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/8219480.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8219480.stm)

Have a good weekend, may the best team win, Annette  
BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Administrator