

BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Newsflash – 9/10/09

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

Notes and the mp3 recording from the BWBL last phone seminar "To Cut or not to Cut" are now on the BWBL website under Events/Phone Seminar

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[Seeking Landholders Who Do Not Hold Farm Management Deposits For an Important Survey](#)

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is keen to understand the usage of farm management deposits by individual deposit holders as a risk management tool to deal with fluctuations in cash flow resulting from climatic variations and changes in market prices. To do this DAFF has contracted Roberts Evaluation to conduct the research in the form of a longitudinal study.

Roberts Evaluation is seeking landholders who are non-FMD holders willing to take part in a confidential phone survey. The survey will be undertaken by a consultant through telephone interviews. The interviews will take around 20 minutes of your time and be conducted between the 12th and 23rd of October.

Your personal information is protected by law and your participation is voluntary. The information and findings from this research will be collated with those of other participants, and will not identify you or affect any government payments you might be receiving. Information provided will be kept strictly confidential. Your contact details will only be provided to the consultant who will contact you for the interviews. The consultant will not use your personal information for any other purpose.

Should you be willing to participate please contact Lydia Lange at Roberts Evaluation on (03) 9670 0745 or at llange@robertsevaluation.com.au. We appreciate your assistance with this project and would like to

take this opportunity to thank you for your time and effort in providing valuable information and feedback on the Farm Management Deposit Scheme.

[Woolgrowers Invited to Hear Brenda McGahon 14th October Seymour](#)

AWI and the Seymour Wool Marketing Group invite all interested woolgrowers to come to a woolgrower forum with Brenda McGahon CEO AWI on Wednesday 14th October, 6.30pm to 8.30 pm with light refreshments to follow. Venue is the Seymour Race Club, Kobyboyn Rd, Seymour.

Inquiries/RSVP to AWI 1800 070 099 or Seymour Wool Marketing Group (Jane Court) 0427 200451

[Climate Change - Opportunity or Threat](#)

The Gazette Land Care Group has got together with the support of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchments Management Authority to present a forum "**Climate Change - Opportunity or Threat**". Guest speakers include Professor Snow Barlow - Member of the Prime Ministers Science and Innovation Council. His research includes impacts of climate change on Australian Agricultural systems and plant water use efficiency. Deanne Price from the Department of Primary Industries - Horsham will highlight the climate change drivers for our local area and calculate a carbon audit for a typical farm. Richard Smith will also be with us from Carbon Smart to discuss the practicalities of measuring the value of trees and pricing carbon now and into the future.

The forum is on the Tuesday 13th October, 5.00pm at the Peshurst Football Clubrooms. The event is free. Booking is essential with BBQ dinner and light refreshments provided. Please RSVP to Kelly's Merchandise on 55 765 549 or tmurriphy@kellyspeshurst.com.au or any enquiries please contact to Lucie Peddie on 55 735 234

[Pick of the Draft - 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.

This DVD, 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. Woolgrowers just like you show how they've put these steps into practice and what they've achieved in clip quality and profitability.

Order your FREE Pick of the Draft DVD by calling the AWI Hotline on 1800 070 099

[BWBL Group Activities Annual Report](#)

BWBL provides an annual report which outlines group activities for the past 12 months. This report titled "Annual Report of Activities 08 - 09" is available on the BWBL website www.bestwoolbestlamb.com.au under reports if you are interested.

[EverGraze Field Days](#)

Monday 12th Oct - Brewster Hall, Brewster - 9.00am to 12.00noon - Grazing strategies for lucerne and cereals - Herbicides pre and post sowing - Planting the right species in the right place - contact Samantha Clayfield 5336 6868

Tuesday 13th Oct - Rod and Bernadette Vearing's property at Mooneys Gap, Ararat - 7.30am to 11.00am - Lucerne establishment and weed control - Phalaris first year management - contact Rob Shea 5352 1357

Wednesday 14th Oct - Dunkeld - 9.30am to 1.30pm - Lucerne varieties and establishment - lime requirements and fertiliser needs - contact Lisa McIntyre 5574 9235

Tuesday 27th Oct - Byaduk - Cost/benefit - Phalaris & Tall Fescue - contact Anita Morant 5573 0732

Thursday 5th Nov - Casterton - Understanding our soil profile - contact Andrew Speirs 0428 685 172

[New Zealand: Scientists Discover Low-Methane Sheep](#)

New Zealand Herald - Eloise Gibson

Researchers working for a Government partnership with the farming industry have discovered that some sheep naturally make less methane digesting their food than others - potentially opening the way for a low-methane breeding programme. When fed grass, the difference in emissions between a low-methane flock and

a high-methane flock was about 20 per cent. The difference varied depending on what the sheep ate - but it was always there.

"For the first time we have opened up the possibility we could breed animals with lower greenhouse gas emissions," said Harry Clark, the scientist heading the study at Agresearch. "We definitely lead the world in this."

Scientists created two flocks by taking sheep from a larger flock, one at a time, and putting them in a sealed breathing chamber. The sheep were fed a variety of foods while scientists measured the methane they made. Seemingly no matter what they ate, some sheep seemed genetically programmed to belch less gas. The consistently low-emitting sheep were added to one flock, while consistently high-emitting sheep were added to the other. The low-methane flock made 8 per cent less methane than the other flock when they were fed silage and other dry food.

The work was paid for by the Pastoral Greenhouse Gas Research Consortium - an alliance between the Government, scientists and the agriculture industry. The consortium has about eight sheep in each flock so far, and manager Mark Aspin said the tests would be repeated to find more sheep for each flock.

Read more on the [NZ Herald website](#)

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/agriculture/news/article.cfm?c_id=16&objectid=10598534&ref=rss

[Australian Wool Innovation - Election Of Directors](#)

Three current AWI board members will seek re-election at the company's annual general meeting in November. Chairman Wal Merriman, deputy chairman Roger Fletcher and Chick Olsson are the longest serving directors who will all retire by rotation and stand for re-election at the AGM.

Another long serving director Dr Kevin Bell has announced his retirement from the board with effect from 1 November 2009, when the number of board members will permanently reduce from nine to eight.

The board will accept nominations for directors of AWI from any person who is eligible, if that person is nominated by 100 or more shareholders who are eligible to vote at the AGM.

The board will only accept written nominations between 28 September and 16 October 2009, and which comply with the formal requirements. **Details of the requirements are available at www.wool.com/agm**

Prospective board nominees are asked to advise the AWI company secretary of their intention to nominate as soon as possible and well before 16 October 2009. This will mean AWI can help nominees make sure their nomination is effective, including that their 100 supporters qualify and are AWI shareholders.

'We need to know as soon as possible who is nominating, so that we can do all the checking, and avoid nominees being rejected,' Mr Merriman said. 'This means we would like nominees to contact us as soon as possible, even if they don't yet have all their signatures.' The election of directors will take place at the AWI AGM.

Australian Wool Innovation AGM, Date: 27 November 2009, **Time:** 10:00am, **Where:** The Grace Hotel, Wilarra-Marra Room, 77 York Street, Sydney NSW

[Grazing Grassy Wetlands](#)

WHEN: 18th October

WHERE: Westmere Hall (Vicroads Map 74 H5)

TIME: 12.30pm to 4.30pm

Program includes Friends of the Brolga meeting, John and Michelle Casanova presentations on their family farm, Visit to the property wetlands and discussion.

Wear sturdy footwear and cold/wet weather clothing.

RSVP by 16th Oct to Lauren Eddy on 5598 3252 or 0458 111 716

[Rural Women's Awards - Applications Close Soon](#)

Nominations for the 2010 Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) Rural Women's Awards close soon. The award, supported by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and run nationally by RIRDC, celebrates rural women and their valuable contribution to primary industries.

The winner receives a \$10,000 bursary. Both the winner and runner-up are given the opportunity to attend the Australian Institute of Company Director's Course. The Victorian winner is also appointed to the Women in Primary Industries Advisory Panel for two years.

The winner and runner-up will be announced in March 2010; the winner is eligible for the national Rural Women's Award later in the year.

Application forms are available at www.ruralwomensaward.gov.au or by emailing the State Coordinator at jocelyn.mason@dpi.vic.gov.au. Entries close on 15 October 2009.

Founder Danger

The spring grass is growing rapidly despite the wet conditions, so it is time to lock up the family pony before he founders.

Founder, or laminitis, is a disease that has a devastating effect on ponies and susceptible horses. Founder initially causes inflammation of the sensitive tissue within the hoof, with the animal suffering intense pain. In the longer term the disease can cause changes inside the hoof that results in on-going lameness and foot problems.

Too much high quality pasture is the most common cause of founder. In the southwest most of our pastures are designed to feed dairy cattle, and as a consequence they are very high quality. They are not suitable for ponies, particularly in the spring.

The first sign that a pony or horse is in danger of foundering is that it puts on excessive weight, particularly over the neck and rump. If the fat on the crest of the neck or the rump starts to feel very hard, remove him from the pasture immediately. If the animal is reluctant to move and obviously has sore feet, call the vet without delay.

Horses and ponies that have foundered in the past are at particular risk.

Founder can be prevented. Monitor the condition of your horse or pony carefully and limit access to spring grass. Some animals are very susceptible and must be locked up and put on a hay diet for the whole of the spring.

For further information on preventing or treating founder, call your local vet.

Review Of National Wool Declaration

AWEX has announced that the second annual review of the National Wool Vendor Declaration (NWD) will take place over the next few months. Interested individuals and organisations may make submissions up until 9 November. The review process will be conducted by the AWEX Industry Services Advisory Committee (ISAC) which will submit its recommendations to AWEX.

Submissions should be made to ISAC Secretary, Dr Kerry Hansford, at khansford@awex.com.au.

The review process is scheduled to commence in mid - November and to be completed by Jan/Feb 2010.

No Short Cuts With Silage Wrapping

Department of Primary Industries Fodder Conservation Expert, Frank Mickan, recommends four layers of plastic be applied to individually wrapped round or square bales of silage and those sealed using a continuously in-line wrapper. Mr Mickan believes that too often farmers are persuaded against putting on the necessary four layers in the interest of saving money. Other reasons include machines are not set up to provide the correct amount of overlapping, the pre-stretcher is geared wrongly or is not serviced regularly enough. Cone or concave shaped bales also make it impossible to correctly wrap the bale without a lot of extra effort. Sometimes badly shaped bales are caused by the rake operator forming very irregular or lumpy windrow for the baler.

Research has established that individually wrapped bales must have at least four layers of film over the entire bale surface to provide a reasonably air-free environment for the baled silage.

The film is applied in a two-plus-two fashion, with a 50 per cent overlap. This means that each layer overlaps the one under it by at least 50 per cent and is applied two layers at a time. For 1.2 m x 1.2 m bales (4' x 4') this requires about 16 revolutions of the wrapper using 750 mm wide plastic.

If the plastic is applied correctly to tight bales soon after baling and the film is not holed (or is repaired immediately if holed), there should be negligible mould growth under Australian conditions.

Fancy doing base jumping for a holiday <http://www.wimp.com/basejumpers/>

Have a good weekend, Annette
BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Administrator