

BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Newsflash – 20/11/09

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

HAVE YOU seen the latest on the website - BWBL Coordinator CV's - visit www.bestwoolbestlamb.com click on Coordinators then click on Kate Sargeant to see her CV

In this edition you will find

- [1. Woolgrowers Support 2% at Woolpoll](#)
- [2. Wool, a Naturally Carbon Friendly Fibre](#)
- [3. Importance of Taking Sheep to Water](#)
- [4. EverGraze Workshop](#)
- [5. Easing Labour Pains in the Sheep Industry](#)
- [6. Expressions of Interest for BushTender Open](#)
- [7. Reducing Chilean Needle Grass Spread on Roadsides](#)
- [8. Benefits of Wool Bedding](#)

[Woolgrowers Support 2% at Woolpoll](#)

It has been confirmed that two per cent is the levy option preferred by Australian woolgrowers at WoolPoll. In an overview of the poll results, chairman of WoolPoll 2009 Will Roberts said:

- 32.65 per cent of voting papers were returned
- 53.70 per cent of available votes were cast
- 64.98 per cent of these favoured 2 per cent

Please click on this link for the AWI media release with more information: <http://www.wool.com/Media-Releases.htm?item=6693.htm>

[Wool, a Naturally Carbon Friendly Fibre](#)

The newly formed Wool Carbon Alliance (WCA) welcomed the Federal Government's announcement to recognise the positive role that farming and wool growing play in the carbon cycle.

'We applaud the Federal Government and Opposition for taking this stance and look forward to opportunities that Australian woolgrowers may have in accessing on-farm carbon credits in our future carbon economy,' WCA chair Chick Olsson said.

In a show of unity, wool industry leaders have gathered in Sydney under the banner of the WCA to explore and recommend policy to Australian Wool Innovation on funding vital research into this exciting new area for wool.

As wool is composed of 50% carbon that has been captured and stored from the atmosphere, it is a natural carbon store. In 2008/09, Australian woolgrowers grew and exported 384 million kgs of greasy wool. Preliminary estimates indicate that this equates to approximately 500 million kgs of CO₂ equivalents which have been captured and stored from the atmosphere - each kilogram of greasy wool stores around 1.3 kgs of CO₂.

In addition to being a natural carbon store, wool is produced from a sustainable grassland system which itself has the capacity to store carbon. Combine this with woolgrowers' ability to increase soil carbon by improved farming practices, and you have one of the most natural carbon capture systems on the planet.

The WCA recommends a global marketing strategy aimed at recognising wool as the fibre of choice for those consumers who wish to make a personal decision in reducing global emissions. Underpinning this will be a research strategy that includes a complete wool life cycle analysis from paddock right through the wool pipeline to consumer. Further recommendations include a database of scientific evidence to support the marketing of wool's environmental credentials.

'This is a prime example, backed up by WCA members, of where R&D and marketing are now aligned and working hand in glove for a better future; not just for woolgrowers and regional Australia, but for the planet and its inhabitants,' Mr Olsson said.

The Wool Carbon Alliance is an Australian Wool Innovation initiative.

Importance of Taking Sheep to Water - Tom Glynn, Animal Health Office

Water deprivation is sometimes found to be the cause of unusual or significant livestock deaths that are investigated by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Animal Health Team.

Moving livestock, especially young sheep, into large unfamiliar paddocks in summer, particularly with stubble or long grass, can have fatal consequences if they are not taken to a water point. While it may be a relief for the owners to know that they are not faced with a serious disease, the fact that the animals died of something as simple as water deprivation is distressing for all concerned.

Young sheep and lambs are particularly at risk and are less likely to stay together as a mob and search for water. This may result in some of the mob finding water, while others may perish as a result of not finding any. In hot weather, death can result more quickly than in cooler conditions. Animals that have been off water for some time due to being yarded and or trucked may have urgent water needs.

Paddocks with heavy stubble and long grass are the greatest risk as lambs are unable to see their mates or the water source. A water source, even a dried up stream with no surface water, close to a boundary of an adjoining paddock, can be a trap for unfamiliar sheep. Sheep can smell water, even when it is below the surface in a dried up creek and they may walk up and down a fence line trying to get to this water. If not rescued, some may perish on the fence line in a vain attempt to get to the nearby water rather than move away and search for it in their own paddock.

Producers new to livestock enterprises or busy with harvesting operations are more likely to encounter this problem. It is important to take sheep to a watering point when they are placed in to an unfamiliar paddock. For animals arriving by transport, unloading them in the paddock close to the water point will be sufficient. Once sheep have had a drink they will know where to find the water source in the future. Mowing tracks radiating out from the watering source will further help vulnerable groups get to water.

EverGraze Workshop

WHEN: Thurs 26th Nov09

WHERE: Meet at the Bowmans Murmungee Hall, to car pool to Chris & Judy Griffiths EverGraze paddock

TIME: 4.00pm to 8.00pm (Followed by a BBQ Dinner at the Murmungee Hall)

See whether the management techniques used on the supporting sites are making a difference to production and perennial persistence.

Native grass and weed identification activity - test out your skills and learn from others

Native pasture management - managing the hills

The cost of establishing perennial pastures - what's the payback period, and do they pay?

Contact Judy Griffiths on 5727 1481 if you are attending.

Easing Labour Pains in the Sheep Industry

The first sheep breeding values for gestation length and lambing ease are have been released.

This is a major breakthrough that will assist producers boost lamb survival rates and the amount of lamb weaned per hectare - major profit drivers for sheep enterprises.

The new Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) are Lambing Ease Direct (LE_DIR), Lambing Ease Daughter (LE_DTR) and Gestation Length (GL). They will be available to terminal, maternal and Merino breeders through LAMBPLAN and MERINOSELECT from 2 November.

Sheep Genetics Manager Sam Gill said these three new breeding values, coupled with selection for moderate birth weight, give sheep breeders and commercial producers another tool to maximise lamb survival.

There is a 33 per cent difference in lambing ease between the best and worst terminal sires used in 2008, which highlights how important genetics can be in reducing the amount of assistance required during lambing. Every lamb counts in today's economic climate and these tools will assist in eliminating lamb birthing difficulties and increasing the output of lamb per hectare. They will also help to reduce ewe losses, which are a significant long term profit driver of lamb production.

The Lambing Ease Direct ASBV identified sires whose lambs would be less likely to require external assistance during birth - most beneficial for prime lamb enterprises where progeny are turned off for processing.

The Lambing Ease Daughters ASBV indicated how well a sire's daughters would handle lambing and a sire with a high value for this trait would produce daughters that were less likely to require lambing assistance - an important tool for producers breeding replacement ewes.

Gestation Length ASBV identified sires whose progeny would lamb down within optimal gestation length - from AI conception to the date of birth - to reduce birth weight and increase lambing ease.

More information about the new breeding values is available from Sheep Genetics on 02 6773 2948 or email info@sheepgenetics.org.au.

[Expressions of Interest for BushTender Open](#)

The Department of Sustainability and Environment is encouraging landholders in North Central Victoria to take part in an opportunity to generate an alternative income through improved native vegetation management and benefit the environment at the same time.

Following several successful projects, BushTender has been expanded and approximately \$1 million is available for landholders in this current bidding round. Places are limited, so be quick and register early. You can register for BushTender today by calling 136 186 or emailing customer.service@dse.vic.gov.au.

[Reducing Chilean Needle Grass Spread on Roadsides](#)

An environmental weed of native grasslands in south-eastern Australia, Chilean needle grass is also invading farms, roadsides and open woodlands. But there is hope with new techniques for effectively managing this nationally significant weed.

DPI Project Manager Charles Grech said a field day at Greenvale, north-west of Melbourne, on November 26 will help public land managers, contractors and farmers reduce the spread of weeds such as Chilean needle grass.

"We will be demonstrating two slasher modifications for preventing weed seeds being spread along roadsides or carried to 'clean' pastures and native grasslands," Dr Grech said.

Seeing these machines operating in 'real life' will allow people to choose which method is best suited to their circumstances. Keeping machines free of Chilean needle grass is the best control method. Roadside slashing and the movement of vehicles between infested areas and clean land are real risks for spreading Chilean needle grass.

Chilean needle grass forms dense stands in pastures, dramatically reducing stock carrying capacity and where it has invaded native grasslands, it has reduced native plant diversity. During warmer months the grass produces large numbers of unpalatable flower stalks and very little leaf material, severely reducing stock carrying capacity. It also produces large numbers of sharp panicle seeds that penetrate and damage the fleece, skin and eyes of livestock and pets.

WHEN: 9.30am on Thursday, November 26, 2009

WHERE: Somerton Road, Greenvale (Melway Map 178 E6)

To register, please email charles.grech@dpi.vic.gov.au or phone 9217 4120.

[Benefits of Wool Bedding](#)

With this extreme weather we are having lately have you considered wool for your bedding.?

Wool's unique vapour management system moves moisture away from the skin allowing you to stay cooler and drier with a more consistent body temperature throughout the night, whatever the season. Wool bedding also naturally inhibits bacteria giving you a better night's sleep and fewer allergenic problems. Moisture vapour is absorbed into the wool fibre structure reducing moist conditions which discourages the propagation of dust mites. What's more, Woolmark bedding labelled as machine washable and tumble dry can be safely

washed at home on the 40°C gentle action cycle. A great night's sleep means a more relaxed, and stress free day.

Wool is warm during the winter and cool in the summer. Wool fibres trap millions of microscopic pockets of air and when wool is used in bedding, it is this air that keeps us warm during the coldest of winter nights. In summer, wool's natural temperature regulating properties take over to keep you cool, giving unparalleled comfort.

Have a good weekend, Annette
BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Administrator