

BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Newsflash – 4/12/09

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

Visit the BWBL website - a new document has been added to the phone seminar "To Cut or Not to Cut" to help members with the calculations concerning silage and hay.

In this edition you will find

- [1. Feed and Water for Sheep over Summer – Phone Seminar](#)
- [2. DPI Science Award Honour for BWBL](#)
- [3. Health Inquiry for Weedkiller](#)
- [4. New 2009-10 Drought Services Guide Available](#)
- [5. The Churchill Trust](#)
- [6. Evergraze Field Day Dates to Put in Your Diary](#)
- [7. New Chemical Standards Publications](#)
- [8. Producers on Course for a Better Farm Plan](#)
- [9. Get the Dirt on Soil at Tahara Workshop](#)
- [10. Chance to Celebrate Agricultural Apprentices](#)
- [11. Do Not Call](#)
- [12. Bonus for Drought-Affected Businesses Employing Apprentices](#)

[Feed and Water for Sheep over Summer – Phone Seminar](#)

Tuesday 15th December 2009 at 1.00pm BWBL will host a phone seminar about nutrition of sheep on dry pastures over summer plus options for those with limited water supply, with Lewis Kahn from University of New England and Craig Turton from Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

More feed and less stock can mean a good bank of dry feed over summer but quality can drop quite quickly and won't provide production feeding and possibly not maintenance as summer progresses. Lewis Kahn, sheep production and nutrition specialist with the University of New England, will talk about the quality of dry feed, supplementing sheep on dry feed, (identifying what's limiting) and utilisation of dry feed - can we supplement to improve intake of the dry feed.

Following Lewis, for those with low water supplies coming into summer, Craig Turton, from DPI at Wangaratta will give a brief introduction on options for reducing water wastage and evaporation and improving water supplies.

To participate in the phone seminar you must register by calling 5355 0531

[DPI Science Award Honour for BWBL](#)

The 2009 DPI Science Awards were held last week at a special event attended by more than 120 staff and guests at the Melbourne Art Centre. The event recognised the 2009 winners and finalists for their outstanding contributions to Victorian primary industries through science and innovation.

Hosted by Minister Joe Helper with ABC science journalist Bernie Hobbs as master of ceremonies, the night was well attended with guests from partnering science, government and farming communities. BWBL won in conjunction with "The Bread" Seasonal Climate Change project team the Samuel Wadham DPI Practice Change Award.

BWBL Program Manager Lyndon Kubeil said it was an honour for the program to win such a high profile award at the highly regarded Department of Primary Industries Science Awards.

Congratulations to all producers who have been involved in the program without you it was not possible.

[Health Inquiry for Weedkiller](#)

One of Australia's most popular farm chemicals - atrazine - faces an international probe over concerns it causes cancer and birth defects.

Already banned in Europe, it is probably the nation's second most popular farm chemical and is heavily used on major crops such as sugarcane, potatoes, sorghum, lucerne, grass seed, pasture, corn, pine and eucalypt plantations and for control of parthenium weed.

The US Environmental Protection Agency has announced it will analyse the chemical's health impacts, prompting the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority to also re-examine the weedkiller.

[New 2009-10 Drought Services Guide Available](#) *Lewis Hill, Marketing and Communication*

A new guide to the drought services available to Victorian farmers has been produced and is now available via the DPI drought webpage at www.dpi.vic.gov.au/drought

As well as being available electronically, the guide is being printed and will soon be distributed to DPI locations around the State. The printed guide will also be available through local drought teams and the Drought Information Line on 136 186.

There are two versions of the guide, one for individuals, families and farmers and one for small businesses (non-farm municipal councils, regional agencies and rural community organisations).

Included in the Guide are the programs funded through the \$47 million drought package announced by the Premier last month.

[The Churchill Trust](#)

The Churchill Trust has advised that it is now taking applications for the 2010 round of overseas study fellowships.

The fellowships provide about \$25,000 to cover overseas travel and living expenses for Australian citizens who are passionate about their work and would benefit in conducting some study/research overseas and then bringing their findings back to Australia for sharing and applying to benefit Australia.

There are some specialist Agriculture fellowships for details visit www.churchilltrust.com.au Applications close February 2010.

[Evergraze Field Day Dates to Put in Your Diary](#)

Friday 5th February Hamilton - Tall Fescue Seminar, DPI, Gavin Milne, PGG Wrightsons

Contact - Anita Morant - P: 03 5573 0732 Mob: 0427 329 541 - E: anita.morant@dpi.vic.gov.au

Thursday 25th February Yarram - Farms walks on establishment and management of kikuyu

Contact - Samantha Monks - P: 03 5175 7895 - E: samantham@wgcma.vic.gov.au

Friday 26th February Bairnsdale - Farms walks on establishment and management of kikuyu

Contact - Kate Sargeant - P. 03 5735 4352 - E: Kate.Sargeant@dpi.vic.gov.au

Tuesday 23rd March Ararat - Profitable perennial grazing systems for central Victoria

Contact - Rob Shea - P: 03 5352 1357 - E: yadin@netconnect.com.au

[New Chemical Standards Publications](#)

The following publications can be downloaded from the website www.dip.vic.gov.au/chemicalstandards (go to publications)

- **Diazinon and dipping/jetting sheep** - This leaflet outlines the new rules for diazinon and dipping/jetting sheep from May 2009
- **Veterinary chemicals, the law and you** - The brochure explains the veterinary chemical approval process in Victoria, the controls that aim to protect users, the public, the environment, animals and trade, the

categories of products and what they mean, withholding periods, export slaughter intervals and the record keeping rules. Veterinary chemicals include vaccines, antibiotics, worming treatments, lice, flea and tick treatments and some vitamins.

[Producers on Course for a Better Farm Plan](#)

A free workshop will be held in Hamilton on December 11 to introduce farmers to an innovative computer based approach to whole farm planning. DPI Project Officer Mary Knight said that the course would teach landowners to use the free eFarmer online mapping system to access spatial data, aerial photos and satellite imagery for their property to create farm plans.

"The day will also provide an introduction to the concept of whole farm planning and how it relates to eFarmer," Mrs Knight said. "eFarmer allows landholders to use property layout and natural asset data to map and measure farm areas and distances, set targets and develop future management activities.

When: 9am to 12pm, Friday, December 11, 2009

Where: South West TAFE, Hammond Street, Hamilton

Registration is essential by calling Mary Knight on (03) 5573 0725 or email mary.knight@dpi.vic.gov.au by Wednesday December 9

[Get the Dirt on Soil at Tahara Workshop](#)

Farmers have a chance to learn more about whole farm planning, soil tests and biology during a soils workshop at Tahara on December 15.

DPI workshop aims to help producers understand soil's importance to healthy plants, crops and livestock production. DPI's Workshop Organiser Bill Stonnill said speakers would cover soil health, tests and whole farm planning issues. "DPI soil health officer Bernard Noonan will use a soil pit to demonstrate different profiles and how these impact on plant growth," Mr Stonnill said. "Mr Noonan will also talk about soil health including managing and recognising biology in soils.

"Hamilton soil health officer Mary Knight will show field testing for soil pH and electrical conductivity (EC) analysis as well as measuring for soil texture. "We are also encouraging participants to bring samples of their own soil along for testing on the day.

When: 4pm, Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Where: Coolangatta, 3120 Condah Road, Coleraine

The group will later move to the Tahara Recreation Reserve for further presentations and a \$10 barbecue dinner. To book for this free workshop, please call Mr Stonnill on 0427 077 734

[Chance to Celebrate Agricultural Apprentices](#)

The 2010 VFF/Elders Insurance Young Agricultural Apprentice of the Year Award seeks to acknowledge and celebrate the exceptional contribution that young agricultural apprentices make to their workplaces.

Applications are now being sought from full or part-time Certificate 3 or 4 Apprentices from each of the VFF Commodity Groups: chicken meat, dairy, eggs, grains, horticulture, livestock and pigs.

The 2010 VFF/Elders Insurance Apprentice of the Year will win the latest Honda CTX200A valued at over \$5000. Every applicant will receive a free 12 month VFF Student Membership. Also Marcus Oldham College is providing two scholarships to the one week Rural Leadership Program - one for both the winner and the runner up. **Applications close Friday, February 19, 2010.** For more information contact the VFF Membership Services on 1300 882 833

[Do Not Call](#)

<https://www.donotcall.gov.au/> This web site is where you can register not to receive calls from telemarketers etc. This is a free service.

[Bonus for Drought-Affected Businesses Employing Apprentices](#)

Eligible drought-affected businesses that employ apprentices are being encouraged to submit their applications for the Victorian Government's \$1.9 million Drought Apprenticeship Retention Bonus (DARB).

The DARB will help Victorian farmers and businesses dependent on farming to retain apprentices.

Eligible businesses will be able to access up to \$1500 per eligible apprentice through the DARB program.

Farmers and businesses servicing and supplying primary producers, such as mechanics and farm equipment manufacturers, in Exceptional Circumstances declared areas could apply for the DARB. Application forms and program details will be mailed to employers of eligible apprentices in January using the Skills Victoria apprenticeship database. For more information about the DARB, including eligibility criteria and application requirements, phone the Drought Information Line on 136 186 or visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au/drought

Going to Melbourne and would like to use public transport. try this website before you leave to find out how to plot your use of public transport <http://www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au/>

Have a good weekend, Annette
BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Administrator