

BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Newsflash – 21/5/2010

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

[FEWETURE Farming Conference - June 23 - Agenda just released find check the BWBL website](#)

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[BWBL & DPI Invests in Sheep Industry Leadership](#)

BWBL and the DPI Meat & Wool program are each sponsoring two candidates again for the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program this year, as a way of investing in the leadership capacity within the wool and lamb industry.

Two "Bill Easton Rural Leadership Scholarships" from the DPI Meat & Wool program are available to prime lamb producers, and in addition, two BWBL scholarships are available to members of the BWBL program. These scholarships cover the full cost of participation in the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership program, including all accommodation and meals.

The 2010 program will be conducted from Sunday 27th June to Friday 2nd July at the Marcus Oldham College, Geelong. Participants in the program develop their skills in teamwork, future vision, communication, public speaking, negotiation, interpersonal relationships, goal setting and community leadership.

If you are interested in applying phone on (03) 5355 0531 or email annette.taylor@dpi.vic.gov.au

[Woolmark Facebook](#)

Check out the new Woolmark page on Facebook. Join with consumers and the textile trade in celebrating wool! See what consumers around the world are saying. Be the first to hear the latest news about wool textile innovations! View videos and photos. Share your passion of wool on www.facebook.com/woolmark

[So Cheap to Prevent - So Much to Loose](#)

Pulpy kidney is still causing sudden death in sheep and goats on lush feed or high grain diets across the state. Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Disease Surveillance Project Leader - Sheep Robert Suter said pulpy kidney was easy to prevent yet it was still one of the most commonly diagnosed diseases of sheep in Victoria.

It is a cheap disease to prevent and saving just one lamb's life will recoup the cost of vaccinating the entire flock. The correct vaccination program starts with two doses, preferably four to six weeks apart. Annual boosters will then give strong, long-lasting protection to ewes. Lambs should be given their two doses at

marking and weaning to protect them through their growing period. Another two doses will protect lambs when finishing on lush feed or in a feed lot.

If ewes are vaccinated pre-lambing, they will pass on enough immunity through their colostrum to protect their lambs until after marking.

Unfortunately, it is all too common for farmers to only give their lambs one vaccination. When these lambs become ewes, their immune system has forgotten the initial vaccination, so little protection is given to their subsequent lambs despite the pre-lambing vaccination.

For more information contact your local veterinarian or DPI Animal Health officer.

[Pasture Calculator Offers Comparative Advantage](#)

A new EverGraze Pasture Calculator tool will provide farm advisors and producers with a simple cost-comparison of various perennial pasture options. The pasture calculator is an Excel based program that combines inbuilt formulae with user input to evaluate the potential economic profitability and financial feasibility of investing in perennial pastures.

The EverGraze Pasture Calculator will form part of the EverGraze toolkit and is available for free download from www.evergraze.com.au

[Climate Kelpie Rounds up Weather Information Online](#)

With increasing internet use by producers to access climate information, a new website, Climate Kelpie, is the latest 'one-stop shop' to provide farmers with climate risk management information. The site provides information about climate change and variability and is uniquely structured to enable farmers to filter information according to commodity and region. The site explains climate drivers and forecasting and provides links to the best information for farmers. It also provides tools producers can use to better manage farming and productivity. Visit Climate Kelpie on www.climatekelpie.com.au

[Chemical Withholding Periods](#)

A withholding period (WHP) is the minimum period that must elapse between the last use of a chemical product on a crop, pasture or animal and the harvesting, cutting or grazing of the crop or pasture, the shearing or slaughter of the animal, or the collection of milk or eggs from the animal for human consumption. This period is necessary to ensure that the product residues do not exceed the Australian Maximum Residue Level (MRL). Where applicable, WHPs are indicated on the label of every registered chemical product. Export WHPs are often longer than domestic WHPs in order to meet the more stringent requirements of our major trading partners. Export WHPs are called Export Intervals (EI). There are three types of EI. More information can be obtained from DPI Chemical Standards phone 136 186 or Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Authority phone 02 6210 4837 or website www.apvma.gov.au

[Yabby Pots are Illegal - Except in Farm Dams](#)

Opera house nets are efficient killing machines and banned from use in Victoria's rivers and lakes.

Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries Officer Cameron McCallum said the enclosed underwater traps, sometimes referred to as yabby pots, are incredibly efficient at trapping yabbies but also deadly for air breathing mammals. "The illegal use of these easily obtainable nets has been responsible for killing countless platypus, long-necked turtles, water rats and diving birds," Mr McCallum said.

"The elusive platypus can be found in many of the waterways in the Hamilton region. Their inquisitive nature means they are no match for opera house nets and drown when trapped underwater."

Mr McCallum said fishing for yabbies is a terrific family activity using a piece of meat on the end of a string or a hoop net, which only traps yabbies as it is pulled to the surface. "These methods add to the enjoyment and pose no danger to aquatic mammals," he said.

"The possession or use of enclosed yabby pots or drum nets in, on or next to Victorian inland water is illegal. Offenders face fines of up to \$11,300, six months jail or both and possible vessel and vehicle seizure. "The accidental trapping and killing of protected wildlife also attracts significant penalties. "Yabby pots are only permitted to be used on private water, such as farm dams, with a maximum of three nets per person."

For more information on recreational fishing in Victoria download the *Guide to Inland Angling Waters of Victoria* from www.dpi.vic.gov.au or call the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186 to obtain a free copy of

the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide. To protect our native mammals and public waterways, people who suspect illegal fishing activity should call the DPI Fisheries 24-hour offence reporting line 13 FISH (133 474)

Edenhope Showgrounds to Host Pasture And Livestock Forum

West Wimmera landholders have a chance to hear about disease prevention, pasture, reproduction and genetics during a forum at Edenhope showgrounds on May 26.

The Livestock and Pasture Farming Forum will also provide an opportunity to talk to local agribusinesses and see livestock on display at a one stop shop for agricultural information. Organised by the Edenhope Pastoral and Agricultural Show Society, the event is supported by Department of Primary Industries (DPI), Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, Landcare and the Victorian Government.

DPI Landcare and Community Support Officer Lisa Heenan said DPI speakers would include DPI Animal Health officer Kate Ferrier who would provide insights on how farmers can minimise disease risks on their property.

DPI Senior Salinity Project Officer Dion Borg will outline pasture management options and Sheep Industry officer Gary Hallam will speak about managing sheep reproduction, genetics and nutrition.

A \$10 entry fee includes morning tea and lunch, with all proceeds to go towards the Edenhope Show which is held in November. The Edenhope Livestock and Pasture Farming Forum runs from 9am to 2pm at Edenhope showgrounds. For more information call Lisa Heenan on 0427 519 245 or Kevin Lambert (evenings) (03) 5588 6355.

Managing Mice Animal Control Technologies

Date: Tuesday June 1, 2010

Where: Department of Primary Industries, 110 Natimuk Road Horsham

Time: 3.30 pm - 4.30pm coffee from 3.00pm

Cost: Free - No charge

This information session will provide mouse control options suitable for:

- Broad acre cropping
- General farming
- Farm buildings and infrastructure
- Domestic situations
- Industry/Business
- Other - questions answered

If mice affect your life or business then this seminar is for you. For further information please contact WCFA Project officer Greg Antonoff 0427 688 716.

Phrase of Wisdom - "For every action, there is an equal and opposite government program".

Have a good weekend, Annette
BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Administrator