

BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Newsflash – 4/6/2010

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

[FEWETURE Farming Conference - June 23 - Agenda on the BWBL website](#)

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[Flystrike Workshop at Maryborough](#)

BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Maryborough group are holding an open workshop near Maryborough next week, to discuss the management of the sheep blowfly and how sheep genetics relates to flystrike.

WHEN: 3pm to 8pm, Thursday, June 10, 2010

WHERE: Dellavedova shearing shed, west of Maryborough

Afternoon tea and a BBQ dinner will be provided. For further information or to RSVP please contact Kieran Ransom at DPI Bendigo on (03) 5430 4451 or 0419 320 824.

[BWBL FEWETURE Farming 2010 Conference](#)

Join us for a three course meal the night before the conference

WHEN: Dinner June 22 at 6.30pm for 7.00pm

WHERE: Quality Resort All Seasons, McIvor Highway, Bendigo

COST: \$30 per person

High profile speakers covering the important issues facing the sheep industry, concurrent sessions highlighting research and developments that can be used on-farm

WHEN: Wednesday 23 June from 7.45am with registrations

WHERE: Bendigo Exhibition Centre, Holmes Rd, Bendigo

COST: Free for BWBL group members, \$30 for BWBL associate members, \$50 general admission. Sign up for free associate membership on the day and pay only \$30.

Registration is essential call Annette Taylor on 03 5355 0531

[20th Annual Woolclassers Forum](#)

Victoria's largest and longest running wool forum is celebrating its 20th Annual Woolclassers Forum in Bendigo and will be opened with a recorded message by The Honourable Tony Burke MP Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry & Minister for Population.

The Annual Woolclassers Forum commenced in June 1991 and is organised jointly by Bendigo TAFE & Landmark.

This years milestone Forum will be held on Wednesday 16th June 2010 commencing at 7.30 pm in MacGillivray Hall Bendigo TAFE ,City Campas,136 McCrae St Bendigo.

20 years of Forums will have seen 115 presentations by wool industry leaders across Australia covering the latest innovations changes and issues affecting woolclassers & woolgrowers. This year will bring to about 3000 in total attendances or an average of 150 per year.

This years Key Note Speaker is Charles Massy, Merino Historian, Wool Producer & PhD Scholar. Best known as author of " The Australian Merino" (regarded as the bible of Australian Merino breeding history).

The title of Charles presentation will be The Woolclassers Craft and the Merino; A Historical Overview. Other items featured will be The National Wool Declaration and its Integrity Program and the AWEX Code of Practice Update.

Bendigo TAFE & Landmark have run these forums as a service to Victorian Woolclassers and Woolgrowers and is supported by AWEX and Coopers Animal Heath. **The Forum is free and supper is provided RSVP Friday 11th June on 5434 1845 or with Athol Frederick on 5448 3881.**

[Lambs Go Under Cover to Boost Survival Rates](#)

The use of perennial grass hedgerows on the EverGraze Proof Site at Hamilton, reduced twon lamb mortality by close to 40% in both Merino and Coopworth ewes during 2009.

If ewes do not have to graze far away to meet their nutritional requirements, they can stay close to newborn lambs sheltering next to the hedgerows. It seems the theory behind the strategy has merit.

The EverGraze website, www.evergraze.com.au has several EverGraze Action fact sheets including 'Perennial grass hedges provide shelter at lambing' and 'Improving survival of lambs'.

[Stuart McCullough Appointed CEO](#)

On Friday, the Board of Australian Wool Innovation appointed Stuart McCullough as Chief Executive Officer. Announcing the appointment, AWI Chairman Wal Merriman said throughout his two months as acting CEO, Mr McCullough had shown he was very capable of achieving the strategic intent of the Board and Shareholders while demonstrating good leadership of staff.

Out of 93 applicants for the position from within and outside the organisation, Mr Merriman said there were four outstanding candidates who presented to the Board.

"Mr McCullough has worked in various senior roles at AWI in his nine years with the company. Having worked in the wool industry for 21 years, he has extensive knowledge of the fibre, its markets and its people."

Mr Merriman added AWI was getting on with the business of research, development and marketing of Australian wool with a series of key corporate plans and agreements being developed recently.

"The Statutory Funding Agreement, the Strategic Plan and The Operating Plan as well as the associated budgets have all been approved. This has been made possible through the efficient work of staff, consultation with growers and government, and a united Board willing to work together," Mr Merriman added. In accepting his new position AWI CEO Stuart McCullough said while it was a great honour, there was a large amount of work to be done to get Australian wool back where it belongs.

"There are no shortcuts or quick fixes to increasing the profitability of woolgrowing. There is a well thought out plan ahead for on and off farm R&D as well as marketing. This plan builds on the direction Shareholders supported at WoolPoll, we will continue to implement it and I look forward to sharing our progress."

The Chairman said the appointment of Mr McCullough has the full support of the Board. He furthermore stated that he had full support and confidence in all the members of the Board.

[Farm Water Solutions Website Launched](#)

A new Farm Water Solutions webpage has been launched on the [DPI website](#). The website provides technical information and resources for dryland agriculture on unregulated water systems in an easy to navigate website.

Four key questions are addressed on the website:

- How much water do I need?
- How much water is available?
- What are my responsibilities?
- How can I more efficiently use my farm water?

The website also includes 'What are my options checklists?' which step you through a process of managing risks when less water is available. The website will continually be updated with new and revised information.

[Our Farming Future](#)

Four big events will be held across Victoria this month to offer farmers an insight into current international trends and to help identify opportunities to increase sales or the value of their produce.

The Our Farming Future events in Mildura, Hamilton and Warragul will run from 9.30am to 2pm including a free lunch and a gourmet cooking demonstration. The event in Tatura will run from 9am to 3.30pm. Leading local, national and international figures will speak at each event to increase farmer's understanding about some of the key factors that drive the agricultural sector. In addition to looking at the international scene, these events will also feature on-farm innovations such as how farmers can adopt new technology, modify practices, identify new varieties and access the latest research.

Keynote speakers include:

- Professor David Hughes (all events) - International expert on food markets and global produce marketing
- Mick Keogh (Mildura) - Executive Director of the Australian Farm Institute
- Paul Higgins (Hamilton and Warragul) - Consultant, Emergent Futures

The events will be held on:

- Thursday 17 June - Ballantyne Centre, Football Ground, Tatura
- Friday 18 June - Mildura Settlers Club - 110-114 Eighth Street, Mildura
- Monday 21 June - Hamilton Arts Centre - 113 Brown Street, Hamilton
- Tuesday 22 June - Warragul Lardner Park - 155 Burnt Store Road, Lardner

Seating is limited so register before Tuesday 15 June

Web: www.dpi.vic.gov.au/futurefarming **Email:** ourfuture.farming@dpi.vic.gov.au

Registration Line: 03 5051 4500

[Buy or Lease Land Online](#)

Farmbuy.com is claimed to be Australia's first national real estate website dedicated to rural properties. Searching for a property to buy or lease can be carried out by area listing, by a clickable map or by a price and size parameter. Check the website www.farmbuy.com

[Planning for a Better Lambing](#)

The ability to confidently manage and optimise a breeding flock could lead to productivity improvements. Lifetime Ewe Management is a yearly plan for improving management that provides producers with the tools and skills to increase stocking rates, wean more lambs per hectare and decrease ewe mortality. Order the free publication 'Lambing Planner' online at www.mla.com/publications

[New Funding To Treat Roadside Invasive Plants and Animals In The South-West](#)

Municipal councils across Victoria including the south-west will benefit from \$1.5 million of funding to assist them to treat invasive plants and animals on roadsides. Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Manager of Landscape Protection Brendan Roughead said funding from the third round of the Building the Capacity of Local Government to Respond to Pests (BCLG) project - part of the \$205 million *Future Farming Strategy* - would increase local councils' capacity to effectively treat roadside weeds and rabbits.

"All councils who met the funding criteria have received funding," Mr Roughead said. "Over \$1.56 million was provided in grants to 52 municipal councils in 2008/09 and this new funding will help consolidate the considerable gains made so far in treating weeds and rabbits along municipal roadsides. "This third round of grants will allow municipal councils to undertake treatment and capacity building projects over two years."

Mr Roughead said funded activities included the treatment of priority invasive plants, improving their surveillance and mapping capabilities, WeedStop vehicle and machinery hygiene training for municipal staff,

developing or updating their roadside weed management plans to help long term pest management and on-ground rabbit control programs.

Mr Roughead said the grants program was an interim measure to continue invasive plant and animal management outcomes while DPI continued to work closely with the Municipal Association of Victoria to resolve the long-term issue of responsibility for weeds and rabbit management on roadsides.

Municipal councils in the south-west who have received funding include, Colac-Otway \$60,000, Corangamite \$43,000, Golden Plains \$65,000, Moyne \$27,500 and Greater Geelong City \$32,000.

"The funding over the next two years will assist those councils seeking support to manage invasive pests on their local roadsides," Mr Roughead said.

For further information on the grants program contact the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or visit the website www.dpi.vic.gov.au/lgpartnerships

Phrase of Wisdom - "Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks".

Have a good weekend, Annette
BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Administrator