

## **BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Newsflash – 18/6/2010**

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

### **[F'ewe' ture Farming Conference – June 23 – Agenda on the BWBL website](#)**

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### **[BWBL F'ewe' ture Farming – Bendigo](#)**

Next Wednesday is the big day - have you registered - then you will not be disappointed - a great day is expected - we will see you there.

Remember your coats, gloves and hats as the Bendigo Exhibition Centre clear span area can be cold but this year we will have heaters at each session area.

### **[Flystrike – New Technologies Aimed at Eliminating its Impact](#)**

For those involved in the wool and lamb industry, one of the more challenging animal welfare and productivity issues is FLYSTRIKE. With impacts ranging from decreased wool production, loss of condition and therefore reduced fertility, reduced skin value and death flystrike is a major challenge for sheep producers to combat. The Sheep CRC in conjunction with BWBL and DPI are offering FREE workshops to producers focusing on combating flystrike.

**WHEN:** Monday 28 June 10.00am to 3.30pm  
**WHERE:** Toland Merinos, 1888 Feltrim Rd, Violet Town  
**RSVP:** by Wed 23 June to Stuart Warner on 0438 331 768 or 02 6030 4586

**WHEN:** Tuesday 6 July 10.am to 3.30pm  
**WHERE:** DPI Rutherglen Centre, Chiltern Valley Rd, Rutherglen  
**RSVP:** by Wed 30 June to Stuart Warner on 0438 331 768 or 02 6030 4586

Topics covered will include;

- Wrinkle and fleece rot scoring with "Hands on" session out in the yards
- The impact of shearing & crutching timing
- Breech modification including alternatives to mulesing

- Pain relief, clips, Skintraction
- The impact of dags, worms and scouring management
- The role that chemicals can play
- Breeding and selection and the impact on wool production

### [Complete the MLA Lamb Survey - You Could Win \\$1000](#)

The Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) Lamb Survey June 2010 has been revised to more accurately assess short term lamb supply trends and the lamb production capability of the Australian flock. MLA is seeking producers' cooperation in completing this short questionnaire. Your responses will be aggregated with the replies from other participants to create state and national lamb industry data. Individual responses will remain strictly CONFIDENTIAL.

The information collected will assist MLA and other stakeholders with supply forecasting and research and development needs. In return for your assistance you will receive a copy of the survey report, and all responses received by the 30 June 2010 deadline will be entered in the draw to win a **Caltex StarCash card worth \$1,000**.

To complete the MLA Lamb Survey June 2010 go to

<http://www.tellusmore.com.au/survey/LambSurveyJune2010.asp> go to [www.mla.com.au/lambsurvey](http://www.mla.com.au/lambsurvey).

**If you would like further information or require assistance in completing the survey, please call MLA Market Information toll free on 1800 023 100.**

### [LAMBEX Event](#)

The inaugural LAMBEX event - a two-day conference and tradeshow designed to promote the business case for sustainable lamb production - will take place at Burswood Resort in Perth, from August 4-6.

An impressive line up of speakers and a challenging conference program, as well as a gala Grands-lamb industry dinner on the Thursday evening is on offer at \$330 for farmers for the entire package. The organising committee has been responsible for achieving widespread cross industry collaboration of researchers, processors, live exporters, farmers and state and federal government to bring the event together. Registration forms and the full conference program are available at [www.lambex.com.au](http://www.lambex.com.au) or by contacting event organisers Esther Price Promotions on 08 9525 9222.

### [New Tool Weather Tool Aids Farmers](#)

Have you wondered if the wind is going to change and whether or not to spray a paddock? Or if it is going to rain and whether to hold off on cutting a paddock for hay or silage? To help with such decisions the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has recently introduced a new page on its website called **Forecast Explorer**.

The new page at <http://www.bom.gov.au/forecasts/graphical/> provides a detailed seven day forecast using easy to use clickable maps down to a district level. The resolution goes down to 6 km x 6 km grids and the information has a high degree of quality control which is updated twice a day. The page also provides a short online training session that shows the range of information available on the web pages and how to easily access it in a variety of formats.

Forecast Explorer provides a seven day weather forecast to be obtained for your 6 km patch, showing you weather information where you need it. Rainfall, temperature (minimum and maximum), fog, frost and wind speed can be stepped out for the next three days in three hour time blocks, with six hour time steps for up to seven days.

Overall, Forecast Explorer provides good accuracy to seven days. The BOM also provides information on the longer-term outlook on <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/> where you can follow links to longer term seasonal outlooks and rainfall. These forecasts also provide the latest information on the Southern Oscillation Index and Indian Ocean Dipole.

These links on the BOM website can help you make better informed short term decisions over the next few days, as well as set longer term strategic direction to position your farm business to take advantage of future opportunities.

### [Watch For Worms in Weaners](#)

DPI is warning sheep farmers that they are likely to face worm problems sooner than usual after this year's early autumn break.

In a number of Victorian regions, many weaner sheep are beginning to scour from the build-up of worms eaten off pastures they've been grazing on. The moderate temperatures and moist pasture experienced this year has created ideal conditions for worms to complete a life cycle within three to four weeks. In these conditions, worms can build up to lethal levels in susceptible sheep within six to 12 weeks.

Even with effective summer drenches, the short summer will have seen many worm larvae survive through to the autumn break in dung pellets. From the worms' point of view 25 mm of rain is their 'autumn break' which many areas received on or before the March long weekend and in some areas it occurred as early as February. Daggly sheep are usually the first sign seen of worms, with the symptoms in sheep being scours, dags, weight loss and eventual death.

DPI reports indicate that there has been an obvious increase in the proportion of daggly weaner sheep during May. Now is the time to act, as a treatment now will reduce the problem before the sheep have lost too much weight going into winter. Check for worm burdens by doing a worm egg count on faecal samples and heed the advice given by your veterinarian. An egg count is worthwhile as other diseases can mimic the scouring caused by worms. Continue to monitor the faecal egg count in weaner sheep every six weeks through their first winter. It is during this time that they usually develop their immunity to worms, but until then they need close monitoring to prevent the production losses and deaths that worms will cause.

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

### [Assistance For Young Farmers](#)

The Victorian Government will provide new young farmers with a \$10,000 First Farm Grant to help young farmers get on the land and kick start new agri-businesses across regional and rural Victoria.

The Premier John Brumby announced that the Government would provide grants of up to \$3000 for first-time farmers to access business advice and on-farm planning and up to \$7000 as a start-up contribution towards the delivery of their farm business plans.

Mr Brumby also announced that a new leadership program for young agribusiness professionals in which the Government will provide the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) with \$200,000 to help develop the next generation of leaders within the agriculture sector.

To be eligible for the First Farm Grants farmers will need to be under the age of 40 years and have purchased or leased farm land and recognised as primary producers.

The delivery of the First Farm Grants will be administered through the Rural Finance Corporation (RFC) and first farm buyers who have accessed first home buyer grants or subsidised loans through RFC will still remain eligible for the new grants.

The introduction of the \$10,000 First Farm Grant comes in addition to the Regional First Home Owner Bonus, which was boosted in this year's State Budget to \$26,500 for first home buyers who build a newly constructed home in regional Victoria. This brings potential Government assistance to young farmers who purchase and build their first farm to more than \$36,000.

Further details on the grants will be available at [www.ruralfinance.com.au](http://www.ruralfinance.com.au) later this month.

### [Opening the Gate on Farmer Health](#)

The National Centre for Farmer Health will be holding its inaugural conference, 'Opening the Gates on Farmer Health' from 11 - 13 October 2010 in Hamilton. The conference aims to raise awareness and develop strategies to overcome the barriers affecting the rural and agricultural health sector. Those working in health and agriculture are invited to provide research, policy practice, personal stories and posters reflecting the themes of the conference and are welcome to submit abstracts or stories for presentation. The conference will help staff working with farmers learn about the latest developments in the sector and participate in a conference that will highlight the diverse issues that affect farming communities. Find out more on the [Farmer Health website](#) (external link).

The National Centre for Farmer Health is funded by the Future Farming Strategy and is a partnership between Western District Health Service and Deakin University. It provides national leadership to improve the health, safety and well-being of farm men and women, farm workers, their families and communities across Australia.

### [The National Code of Practice for Intensive Sheep and Lamb Feeding Systems](#)

As many of you are aware, the development of The National Code of Practice for Intensive Sheep and Lamb Feeding Systems commenced in 2007 and includes chapters on Environment and Design, Approval Process and Planning, Feeding Systems Management, Animal Health and Supply Chain Management. Public consultation meetings were held in 2008 and updated information about the ongoing development of the code has been posted on-line ([www.productivenutrition.com.au](http://www.productivenutrition.com.au)) since that time.

The original terms of reference for the development of this document were to create an informative and useful tool which requires a minimum of bureaucracy and has simplicity of compliance and auditing. It was also envisaged that the code would be available for all sectors of the industry to use, whether it be legislators, councils to assist in the assessment of development applications or producers. The code was written in a standards and guidelines format to be consistent with other documents such as the Land Transport Code, although it was not intended for this document to be legislated in its own right.

The process has culminated in the development of a comprehensive and workable document which has been refined from ongoing feedback from a range of sources, however, recent consultation has highlighted concerns about the document's format and interpretation.

Some stakeholders have recently raised concerns regarding the use of the terms "Code of Practice" and "standards and guidelines", and as a result, the project's Advisory Committee met in late March, 2010 and agreed the document should be modified. It is now expected to be called "National Procedures and Guidelines for Intensive Sheep and Lamb Feeding Systems". The standard and guideline format will also be changed to recommended procedures and guidelines, however, the content will largely remain unchanged from the last completed draft (draft # 14).

The document will not be available on-line until it has been rewritten to reflect the proposed changes which is anticipated to be completed by June 30 2010. Draft 14 of the document is currently available to stakeholders on request.

The development of the audit process will follow acceptance of the re written document by the Committee and is expected to be completed by September, 2010 so that audit trials can commence at the end of this year.

#### **Farm Improvement Grants Closing Soon**

Victorian farmers affected by drought are reminded that the Farm Improvement Grants (FIG) program is closing on June 30, 2010.

DPI Drought Response Manager, Clare Balmer, said the FIG program can be used for improvements such as fixed fodder storages, stock water systems, irrigation system upgrades and to fix infrastructure.

Grants are available to farmers who have received EC Relief Payments from Centrelink between 22 Oct 09 and 30 Jun 10.

Irrigators in the Northern Irrigation EC region are eligible for grants of up to \$2,000 if they invest \$1,000 or more for the improvement, while non-irrigated farmers can apply for co-contribution grants of up to \$1,000.

Phrase of Wisdom - " Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious ".

Have a good weekend, Annette  
BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Administrator