



FROM THE PRESIDENT



What a great National Conference!

Even a problem with the timing of a notable speaker turned out to be a stroke of genius. Congratulations to the organizing committee for organizing a great 2008 National Conference. A mix of relaxation, some cave exploring,

great location, good informative speakers and some very good feedback from attending members combined to provide the almost 100 breeders with something to "take home" from our National Conference. It was also pleasing to see new members attending and mixing with the regular Conference goers and I am sure they now have an idea of why these conferences are so important to our breed, and will be keen to attend the 2009 Conference in NSW, likely to be around the Albury region. The NSW committee already have plans underway so mark "AWSA Conference" on your calendar for early in February 2009.

The Conference provided an opportunity for members to have some detailed input into the direction and focus the White Suffolk breed will take over the next 5 years. With the theme of the Conference centered around future challenges for seedstock producers, Bruce Hancock from SA Lamb directed discussion relating to the speakers toward issues that could be raised in the final session where all members were asked to identify key areas for a strategic plan which will provide the breed direction in the next few years. The committee now have some very clear information from members and will be formulating a strategic plan over the coming months. Many thanks to all members for their input and to Bruce Hancock for a great job in chairing the Conference. It is important that we continue to go forward as a breed and not take too long to reflect on the success we have had in a relatively short period of time. The lamb market is going to become a highly competitive and different industry to the one we see now and we, as a breed, must continue to ensure we are out in front leading the way. I urge all members to study closely the breed direction plan (Strategic Plan), when it is finalised and give serious consideration to the issues identified as being crucial for our continued success as the sire of first choice in the terminal sire market.

The season for many breeders has taken a turn for the better with many having a wet summer and water in dams. In many areas, rams sales have exceeded expectations with many ram lambs being sold as a result of clients restocking following rain in early November. While lamb prices have jumped due to lack of supply, we will have to wait and see just what effect this extended drought is going to have on the structure of many farming enterprises. It is perhaps not what has happened during the drought, but what happens when we come out of it that will cause the biggest changes. With the cost of grain inputs becoming extreme, will more producers turn to the more reliable income that sheep provide? The next few years could very exciting so ensure that you, as a seedstock producer, are well placed to make the most of every opportunity.

The committee has a new member, Dale Moore, replacing Owen Badcock who has stood down after 12 years of service to the Association. Thank you Owen for all your input and time and we wish you and Ros all the best in your retirement. I am sure Dale will enjoy his time on committee and provide some positive input into a committee that has plenty to keep it occupied over the next 12 months. Another important 2-3 day meeting mid year, a focus on collaborative R&D projects and formulating the process of providing better information and support to members will ensure we are all kept busy. I am pleased to say the new split administration system is working well with some significant improvements in a number of areas.

Membership renewal is fast approaching and WebManager has been up and running for a full year. If you have not yet used this development to renew membership or register/transfer rams, give it a try this year when you receive your renewal forms. You will be surprised at how easy it is and how much time it will save you. Also remember to transfer and register any sires or semen sales you have made over the past year as other members cannot list sires they have used until you have made the transfer.

This time of year is usually the lull before the storm with regard to shows, and while many breeders are preparing sheep for shows later in the year, we are the Feature Breed at Sydney this year, conduct a huge show at Dubbo mid year which leads into the run of big shows in August/September. For those who are not showing sheep, consider attending one or more of these shows and witness just



how far the White Suffolk breed has come in recent years. Some outstanding sheep were presented at the major shows last year and this year promises to be even better.

Roll on 2008, we look forward to what it has to offer.

Murray Long

President Australian White Suffolk Association

2009 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

MARK IN YOUR DIARIES NOW!

To be held in the Albury region of New South Wales

Date: 15-17th February 2009

More details in the next newsletter.

AWSA SUB COMMITTEES

After the AGM in February the Federal Council met and assigned the following convenors to the Association Subcommittees. Please contact them if you have any suggestions or comments for them.

Research & Development:

Murray Long Ph: 02 6975 7210

Andrew Frick Ph: 08 8765 6005

Finance:

Steve Milne Ph: 03 5578 6327

Allan Piggott Ph: 08 8572 3998

Promotion & Marketing Liaison:

Penny Holmes Ph: 08 8563 2059

National Conference 2009:

Julie Wiesner Ph 02 6029 6141

NEW MEMBERS

Flock No.	Name	Address	Prefix
688	K Doggett	Kyneton VIC	Dryden's Run
689	AR & JJ Vallence	Barham NSW	Elanora
690	N James	Kersbrook SA	Brooklee Park
691	J & C Bellis	Mudgee NSW	Yarrowonga Park
692	AF Murphy	Morang VIC	Murash
693	NJ & JV Robinson	Bendigo VIC	Linwood Grange
694	A Lukins	Newdegate WA	Tori Park
695	A Burnell	Wollun NSW	Maryland
696	AW & WJ Newell	Mortlake VIC	Kyanga
697	ID James	Henty VIC	Iona
698	A&C Cox	Newlyn VIC	Ellerslie
699	KM Thompson	Coolah NSW	Baladonga
700	J Wissell	Horsham VIC	Colossal
701	G, S, R & C Hyde	Ongerup WA	Kohat
702	P Hammat	Spalding SA	Baderloo
703	J W McAuliffe	Bakers Hill WA	Koojedda Hills
704	MD & JL Sims	Crystal Brook SA	Kiedebrook
705	BJ & N Webberley	Brighton TAS	Rodbourne
706	JD Baillie	Tumby Bay SA	Yanta
707	FJ & DM Iles	Sorell TAS	Judell



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor
I write to totally endorse the letter to the editor written by Ian Turner, in the October 07 Newsletter. This letter should be compulsory reading and re-reading, for every breeder. It is the sort of letter that I would have loved to have written, but would not have the ability to do so. Animal breeding must always be a matter of balance, and meeting individual requirements, and circumstances. Overall index can never cover all situations. Note well that cattle breeders don't use overall index.

Ian's point that, with acceptable fat cover, we are paid for weight, is well made. I have long advocated a 'goal-post' figure for fat, e.g. 6 or 7mm per 100kg, to make selection for different circumstances and requirements easier. This would allow buyers something to work on, or plus or minus that figure, and simplify selection.

Now, we have prominent breeders, like Andrew Heinrich, highlighting deficiencies in regard to tenderness, taste and ability to finish satisfactorily in some circumstances because of an over reliance on index alone.

As well, David Pethick (W.A) has spoken of muscle depth measure only, tending to lead to shorter-legged animals.

As a former breeder of pre-New Zealand type Southdowns, bitter experience has taught me that, apart from unnecessarily excessive bone structure, short front legs are the worst offenders in lambing problems. If the front feet do not precede the nose, there is a tendency for one, or both feet to fall back and give an incorrect presentation.

As a foundation breeder and committee member, I want to stress the initial aims of the breed, i.e. to breed a Suffolk type sheep, with clean points, mobility and ease of lambing. Some breeders seem to favour a clean faced Dorset. Legal, but not the original concept.

Finally, evidence is appearing problems such as pasterns, teeth, heavy fronts etc, due, in my opinion to too much emphasis on figures alone. When choosing a stud sire, we must always be aware that he will leave daughters and their descendents, as well as sons, in our flock, and these will have an effect on succeeding generations.

As we sow, so shall we reap!!

Kevin Moore

To The Editor
Through the White Suffolk News Letter I would like to congratulate Ian Turner on his very timely letter which I have discussed with quite a few breeders and all have endorsed his views. I asked one breeder prior to this, why he didn't show any more and his answer was "I'm a Lambplan convert so I can't show any more".

It's not the first time I have heard it and I find it quite disturbing to think Lambplan could be so influential in changing our sheep to the extent that they can no longer compete in the Show ring and feel we need to get our views through to the Federal Committee before our sheep are no longer the easy breeders, up off the ground good walkers, that can be functional on big acreages where a large portion of our flock rams go. At least if we show, we find out where the bad mouths and feet are that are also getting rather worrying, these don't show up in figures. Another concern is that our young breeders will not have the ability to judge a good sheep unless they have figures. There are studs that will pass up a great sheep because he doesn't have figures...what a sad state for our industry.

During the W.A. Conference the Federal Committee paid a visit to Dawson Bradfords Poll Dorset Stud, who is heavily into Lambplan and also a meat works. I would like to see a report on these visits as I was assured it was research on behalf of the members. I would also like to see a report on the lamb trials held at Peter Nalders. Maybe I missed it somewhere. In closing I would like to say hasten slowly....muscle can be gained but not overnight.. and maybe we can get Lambplan to give us a score on frame, mouths and feet so the whole sheep is sound.

Julie Klante

Dear Conference Committee
We would like to thank you all for your great organisation of the recent White Suffolk conference. We hope that you could please pass onto all involved who made us all feel welcome and how greatful we are for the food, drinks and great company we had.

Well done to you all.

Denise and Ian Porter



ROYAL CANBERRA SHOW RESULTS

Ram Lamb Shorn

1st Kinellar
2nd McCaughey
3rd Jarrabay

Pair of Ram Lambs

1st Kurralea
2nd Kinellar
3rd Jarrabay

Ram Lamb

1st McCaughey
2nd Kinellar
3rd Jarrabay

Ram 2yrs & over

1st Jarrabay

Champion Ram

Jarrabay

Reverse Champion

Kinellar

Ewe Lamb Shorn

1st McCaughey
2nd Jarrabay

Pair Ewe Lambs

1st Jarrabay
2nd McCaughey

Ewe Lamb

1st Jarrabay
2nd Jarrabay

Ewe 2yr & over

1st McCaughey
2nd Jarrabay

Champion Ewe

Jarrabay

Reverse Champion Ewe

McCaughey

Group 1 R & 2 E

1st Jarrabay
2nd Jarrabay

Excerpt from article appearing in The Land on 28/2/2008:

Relative newcomers to the show circuit, Barry & Jarrod Alcorn, Jarabay White Suffolk stud, Yass, dominated their section, winning champion ram champion ewe & the group consisting of 2 ewes & 1 ram as well as the most successful White Suffolk exhibitor.

The 17 month old champion ram weighed a hefty 150 kilograms.

Mr Lang (the judge) said the champion ram was an outstanding young ram with good finish and good length of loin. "The champion ewe (also from Jarrabay) had outstanding growth and was well muscled, & is just the sort of sheep that would give high yield meat & would be ideal to go into the prime lamb industry"

SHEEP GENETICS AUSTRALIA WEB ANIMAL DATABASE

ARE YOUR ANIMALS AVAILABLE TO SEARCH ONLINE?

If you are a Lambplan participant, have you asked for your animals to be included in the online animal database, so that potential stud clients can search for your top genetics.

USING THE ONLINE SEARCH

Check it out at www.sheepgenetics.org.au/lambplan/

Click on the Search button in the menu on the left.

Select Terminals in the list under ASBV Enquiries.

The search form provides a number of ways that you can search for the animals you are interested in. You can search for a particular breeder, or breeders within a particular region or you can search for the particular traits you are looking to use in your breeding program.

ADDING YOUR ANIMALS TO THE ONLINE SEARCH

Please find a form enclosed with this newsletter. Fill in the form and fax or post to Sheep Genetics Australia. It's a great way to promote your quality White Suffolk genetics!



LAMBS TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM - ABARE REPORT

The Australian lamb industry is set to maintain its momentum into the coming year, as strong domestic and export demand continues to underpin increased saleyard returns. According to the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) Australian commodities, saleyard lamb prices are forecast to average 7% higher in 2008-09, at 355¢/kg cwt, while sheep prices will jump 9%, to average 180¢/kg cwt.

According to ABARE, while the emphasis for producers to rebuild flocks through to 2012-13 will have a significant impact on sheep turnoff, lamb production will continue to surge to record levels, underpinned by favourable returns to producers.

After falling to only 85 million head in 2007-08, the Australian sheep flock is forecast to grow steadily in the following five years, rebounding to 87 million head in 2008-09 and 96 million head by 2012-13.

After an estimated 2% dip in production for 2007-08 (404,000 tonnes cwt), Australian lamb production is forecast to reach a near-record 412,000 tonnes cwt in 2008-09. On the assumption of a return to normal

seasonal conditions and continuing attractive returns, lamb production is forecast to continue to grow through to 2012-13, reaching a forecast 440,000 tonnes cwt.

The higher production will contribute to an easing in average saleyard prices for lamb from 2009-10 onwards, with prices forecast to decline steadily to 300¢/kg cwt by 2012-13.

Australian lamb exports are expected to mirror the growth in production, with exports for 2008-09 forecast to reach a record 163,000 tonnes swt, with 46,000 tonnes shipped to the US.

Sheep turnoff and mutton production will largely be shaped by the rebuilding of the flock, with slaughter in 2008-09 forecast to decline 17%, to 8.5 million head. Slaughter is expected to increase slowly towards 10 million head by 2012-13, still 25% below 2006-07.

Source: 2008 Meat and Livestock Australia

SA OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG SHEEP PRODUCERS

An exciting new initiative for South Australia's sheep industry is enlisting young producers to be part of "Young Guns".

The South Australian Lamb Development Team (SALDT) has launched the project to establish a network of young sheep and lamb producer groups across the state.

The groups will be based in key sheep regions around the state – Upper South East, Mallee, Yorke Peninsula, Riverland, Mid North, Eyre Peninsula and Pastoral.

SALDT consider this to be a very important initiative to protect the long-term future of South Australia's sheep industry. They have secured funding for the project from South Australia's Sheep Industry Fund, the Australian Government's AgFund and Primary Industries and Resources, SA.

SALDT Chairman Glen Tilley says the industry needs to foster the development of its young producers and encourage them to stay in the industry.

"We are aiming to provide young producers the opportunity to network and socialise with other young people, explore their interests, develop their knowledge and business skills and encourage adoption of innovation," Glen says.

"Young people need to be challenged, stimulated and have the opportunity to become involved in the industry in a friendly and like-minded environment.

"I would encourage any young sheep or lamb producer, aged 18-35 years, to become involved. The opportunity is open to everyone, not only those people who have been involved in extension programs or industry groups before."

A Field Day will be held in each region as the first event to kick off the Young Guns group. It will be an opportunity for young people to meet, explore regional issues and determine interest in forming a young producer group.

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SA OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG SHEEP PRODUCERS CONTINUED

A series of five workshops are built into the first year of the program to help groups get started. Outside of this the opportunities are open to the group to set their own agenda to meet the individual needs of members.

A local coordinator who will organise and facilitate meetings and manage the group's operational requirements will support the group.

Young producers who would like more information or to register their interest are encouraged to contact :

Heidi Goers, SALDT Executive Officer,

Ph: 08 8303 7925,

Email: heidigoers@saugov.sa.gov.au

The SA Lamb Development Team (SALDT) is a non-political, whole of industry-focused group that is enthusiastic and passionate about the lamb industry.

In the long term the committee aims to help promote and build a cohesive, profitable, competitive and sustainable lamb industry that builds on the strengths of component sectors to provide a consistent quality food product, to both domestic and international consumers.





"LAMBS" ONLINE FORUM

As part of efforts to improve communications, share ideas, and increase contact and networking amongst the many breeders, producers, advisors, scientists and researchers ~ in short everyone who in some way is contributing to the growth and development of this industry, we have established an email discussion group called 'lambs'.

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the group is to be a forum for discussion, suggestion, feedback and exchange of ideas, about lamb, sheepmeat & wool production, and the industry in general, that is important to you.

HOW IT WORKS:

The way the discussion group works is simple. Send an email to lambs@metz.une.edu.au, and it is received by everyone who is included in the list. Feel free to reply to emails you have received, or to raise new issues yourself. Please be aware that if you wish to reply to only the person who sent the email, you need to address the reply specifically (rather than using the reply button).

Fiona McLoughlin is currently maintaining the list.

The listing of email addresses will not be distributed to anyone.

Please note that normal standards for email communications apply (if this proves difficult we will invoke an automatic list moderator), and that this will not be a forum for deciding policy, but certainly should be one for raising issues that might become so.

HOW TO JOIN:

Lambs general admin page:

<http://pobox.une.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/lambs>

To add yourself to the LAMBS mail list go to this page:

<http://pobox.une.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/lambs>

To remove yourself from the LAMBS mail list send an email as follows:

lambs-request@pobox.une.edu.au?body=unsubscribe
lambs myemail@home.net.au
and replace the myemail@home.net.au with your email address

For automated email help:

lambs-request@pobox.une.edu.au?body=help

For the human touch .. Fiona McLoughlin

owner-lambs@pobox.une.edu.au

EMAIL DISCUSSION GROUPS CAN BE A
GREAT MEANS OF COMMUNICATING,
AND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
WILL BE APPRECIATED.



WAGIN WOOLORAMA 2008 SHOW RESULTS

**CLASS 37: RAM UNDER 1 YEAR
SHOWING MILK TEETH.**

1ST ASHBOURNE
2ND ASHBOURNE
3RD WESSWOOD

CLASS 38: RAM OVER 1 YEAR.

1ST BRIMFIELD
2ND WESSWOOD
3RD BLACKWOOD

**CLASS 39: PAIR RAMS UNDER 1
SHOWING MILK TEETH**

1ST ASBOURNE
2ND VALENCIA DOWNS
3RD EDITH PARK

**CLASS 40: RAM UNDER 1 YEAR
SHOWING MILK TEETH, TO
BE JUDGED OBJECTIVELY
AND SUBJECTIVELY.**

1ST ASHBOURNE
2ND BRIMFIELD
3RD BLACKWOOD

**CLASS 41: EWE UNDER
1 YEAR SHOWING MILK
TEETH.**

1ST ASHBOURNE
2ND WESSWOOD
3RD BRIMFIELD

**CLASS 42: EWE OVER 1
YEAR.**

1ST BRIMFIELD
2ND JOCKLOR
3RD JOCKLOR

**CLASS 43: PAIR EWES
UNDER 1 SHOWING
MILK TEETH.**

1ST BLACKBUTT
2ND WESSWOOD
3RD JOCKLOR

**CLASS 44: GROUP 1 RAM
AND 2 EWES DRAWN
FROM PREVIOUS
CLASSES.**

1ST ASHBOURNE
2ND WESSWOOD
3RD BLACKBUTT

**CLASS 45: PROGENY GROUP
OF THREE SHEEP ANY AGE
AND SEX BY SAME SIRE FROM
PREVIOUS CLASSES.**

1ST ASHBOURNE
2ND WESSWOOD
3RDBLACKBUTT

CHAMPION RAM:

ASHBOURNE

RESERVE CHAMPION RAM:

ASHBOURNE

CHAMPION EWE:

BLACKBUTT

RESERVE CHAMPION EWE:

ASHBOURNE

WOOLORAMA 2008

What a great show it was with well over 100 White Suffolks exhibited. The standard of sheep was superb and of course the competition getting tougher every year.

Judge Greg Harris did a wonderful job for the WA team, and at times was stumped as just which sheep to lay the ribbon on. Greg's comments reflected on the standard of sheep and the way in which the White Suffolks in WA have progressed in the past few years. We would like to thank Greg for a job well done, and for the time taken out of his very busy schedule to travel to Wagin for the big event.

A big congratulation to the Ashbourne team for the wonderful presentation, the boys were out in force to prove their ability to produce an excellent line up of sheep on the day, and that they did. I guess it reflected what can be done when people are united.

As for myself that's about it for now as my term as secretary has once again come to an end. I would like to wish everyone Australia wide a successful lambing and cropping season, and may the angel of good fortune smile upon us all.

Heather Dowdell



WAGIN WOOLORAMA

ARTICLE COURTESY OF LYNETTE CAREW-REID. FARM WEEKLY WA

Judge: Greg Harris, Clifton Downs, Scadden

Exhibitors: 11

Entries: 108

THE White Suffolk breed first appeared at the Wagin Woolorama in 1994 and has been growing in popularity ever since. Last week the breed overhauled the Poll Dorset as the most populous meat breed at Woolorama entering 108 sheep for judge Greg Harris, who was one of the original exhibitors in 1994 and won the first champion ewe title presented.

This year the pressure was on him from the jump when 24 milk tooth rams filed into the ring first up and a congregation of Poll Dorset breeders crowded ring-side to take note of their competition.

Mr Harris wasted no time in reducing the line-up to 10 rams and the eventual class winner from Roy and Melinda Addis's Ashbourne stud, Nyabing, was on its way to winning the champion White Suffolk ram.

As if to reinforce Ashbourne's successful new Detpa Grove bloodlines the stud also gained second place in the class with Mr Harris saying the rams were "chock-full of meat and very good carcass sheep". Malcolm Klante, Wesswood stud, Serpentine, was third.

It was the first time Ashbourne had won a champion White Suffolk ram ribbon at Woolorama and, after taking sheep to the Australian Sheep and Wool Show at Bendigo last year, strengthened his resolve to return this year with a team of rams and ewes.

Ashbourne had an exceptional day of showing winning the group of three and the sire's progeny group, with Wesswood filling second place and Mark and Sue Rundell, Blackbutt, Koorda, third both times, but when Blackbutt won the pair of milk tooth ewes they became unstoppable.

A ewe from the Blackbutt pair went on to be champion ewe and grand champion White Suffolk exhibit. "She is a tremendous sheep and still has some growing to do," Mr Harris said.

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“She is well balanced, has good neck extension and is smooth through the shoulders. She has everything right about her and she is a great representative of the breed.” Ashbourne, Blackbutt and Wesswood were easily the most successful studs in the section and all had introduced genetics from Detpa Grove stud, owned by David Pipkorn, Jeparit, Victoria.

For the Addis family the Detpa Grove infusion had been the result of buying a \$10,000 ram in 2006 in partnership with Banskia Plains stud at Borden while Blackbutt and Wesswood had both used semen from Detpa Grove Cracker.

Mrs Rundell said Cracker progeny had shown early promise and as a result they bought a Detpa Grove ram at the on-property sale last year and had been greatly impressed with the stud’s line-up of sale rams.

Winner of the older, over 1yo ram, class was Brimfield, owned by Max Whyte and Gail Cremasco, Kendenup, and the ram received a special praise for its mobility.

“To have a ram at that age, that mobile, means he will be still in the paddock walking 10 miles and doing his thing – he is a magnificent ram.”

Despite such glowing comments the ram was against an all-Ashbourne line-up for the ram championships and couldn’t defeat Ashbourne for the reserve ribbon.

Ashbourne also won the pair of rams class and the objective measurement class for milk tooth rams.

White Suffolk ewes presented the judge with the same high standard. A total of 26 ewes trouped into the ring for the milk tooth ewe class and separating the top sheep was more challenging. Ashbourne again filled top spot ahead of Wesswood and Brimfield and Mr Harris said it was a hair splitting decision but it came down to better fleshing on the Ashbourne ewe.

The over 1yo ewe class was again won by Brimfield.

All sheep were exhibited with performance information and with a 3-4 months age difference between sheep in some classes Mr Harris welcomed the data for separating close contests.

In 1994 five White Suffolk breeders entered 55 sheep. This year the number was double but it was the greater depth

of quality within each class that was the most noticeable for Mr Harris.

He said there were a lot of newer breeders and a line-up of 26 sheep was a spectacle that took up a lot of space in the judging ring.

While it was difficult to get a look-in in the top order Peter and Heather Dowdell, Codji, Narrogin, was fourth in the big milk tooth ram class, Gordon Smith, Valencia Downs, Bakers Hill, was second in the pair of milk tooth rams and Les Page’s Jocklor stud, Pingelly, picked up several place ribbons.

Basic Guide to Aussie Life

1. The bigger the hat, the smaller the farm.
2. The shorter the nickname, the more they like you.
3. Whether it’s the opening of Parliament, or the launch of a new art gallery, there is no Australian event that cannot be improved by a sausage sizzle.
4. If the guy next to you is swearing like a wharfie he’s probably a media billionaire. Or on the other hand, he may be a wharfie.
5. There is no food that cannot be improved by the application of tomato sauce.
6. On the beach, all Australians hide their keys and wallets by placing them inside their sandshoes. No thief has ever worked this out.
7. Industrial design knows of no article more useful than the plastic milk crate.
8. The alpha male in any group is he who takes the barbecue tongs from the hands of the host and blithely begins turning the snags.
10. It’s not summer until the steering wheel is too hot to hold.
11. A thong is not a piece of scanty swimwear, as in America, but a fine example of Australian footwear. A group of sheilas wearing black rubber thongs may not be as exciting as you had hoped.
12. The wise man chooses a partner who is attractive not only to himself, but to the mosquitoes.
13. If it can’t be fixed with pantyhose and fencing wire, it’s not worth fixing.
14. It’s considered better to be down on your luck than up yourself.
15. The phrase “a simple picnic” is not known. You should take everything you own. If you don’t need to make three trips back to the car, you’re not trying.



WHITE SUFFOLK NATIONAL CONFERENCE SUCCESS

White Suffolk sheep breeders from throughout Australia converged in Naracoorte, South Australia, from the 12-14 February for the Australian White Suffolk Association national conference and to set a 5-year strategic plan for the breed.

The event was heralded a success by conference coordinator Allan Piggott, with over 90 people in attendance having the opportunity to be involved in practical demonstrations, lectures about sheep genomics, genetics, nutrition, processing, the lamb industry and focus workshop sessions.

“It was an excellent conference with a great mix of challenging and inspirational speakers for seed stock producers along with the important socialising and networking amongst breeders which makes the association so strong”, said Allan.

Key take home messages from the conference included the importance of educating members to keep pace with the advances in technology and highlighting the breed’s focus on maintaining commercial qualities and management advantages.

By utilising advances being made with gene markers, performance recording and feed conversion members can ensure they keep informed and at the forefront of developments for seed stock producers.

Tasmanian breeder Owen Badcock, “Whitemore House”, Whitemore, retired from the Federal Council after serving for 12 years and was congratulated for his dedicated service to the breed. Dale Moore, “Penrise” White Suffolks, Campania, was elected on to the Council and looks forward to this role.

Murray Long, “Pendarra” NSW, continues as president of the association and he praised the organising committee for coordinating a successful program focussing on the breed’s role in the prime lamb industry.

Bruce Hancock, MLA Support Coordinator for Lamb & Sheepmeat and based at Roseworthy College, facilitated the lectures, forum time and strategic plan development which engaged participants and stimulated ideas.

The high calibre guest speakers were Dr Rob Forage, MLA Program Sheep Director, who spoke about sheep genomics

and DNA markers; Nick Linden, sheep meat researcher, speaking about lamb energetics and feed efficiency; Dr Rob Banks, MLA On Farm R & D manager for southern Australia, who examined the challenges and opportunities facing seedstock producers and Dale Cameron, Tatiara Meat Company director and meat buyer reporting on processing issues and future markets.

Representatives from Leader and Allflex displayed ear tag readers and products and Trutest had electronic weighing systems for members to evaluate. There were also pregnancy scanning demonstrations from Ewescan, Elanco animal health products and Combi Clamp sheep holders which were all interesting and informative.

A forum and question time allowed breeders to ask specific questions then choose afternoon focus sessions on either Limestone Coast Lamb, the new OJD national program, Pedigree Wizard and the AWSA WebManager database.

Breeders tested their skills visually scoring lambs in the live lamb assessment activity run by Lucindale producer Phil Clothier, “Woolumbool”; and viewed the carcasses and results on the final day with interesting results.

Tom Penna from Elders was a dinner guest speaker and money was raised for the Royal Flying Doctors Service.

At the conclusion of the conference some breeders took the opportunity to visit the following White Suffolk studs who hosted open days; Woolumbool, Bundara Downs, Allendale, Burwood and Detpa Grove.

Peter Angus



WHITE SUFFOLK CONFERENCE REPORTS

THESE NOTES ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESENTATIONS KINDLY PROVIDED BY THE PRESENTERS

NUTRITION AND LAMB E (ENERGETICS):

GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR INPUTS.

Nick Linden

DPI - Rutherglen

For people feeding grain, or with clients that are:

- Who are you feeding?
- What do you want them to do?
- How should you feed?
- When should you feed?
- Variation in animal efficiency.

Profit is still profit...

Profit = kg's sold x (Unit price – Cost Of Production)

Driven by :

Inputs \Rightarrow **Business efficiency** \Rightarrow Outputs

**WHATEVER YOUR 'CONDITIONS'
LIVESTOCK NEED A "BALANCED" DIET.**

What do they need? - energy

- ME is the energy that the animal can utilise
- Low energy, extra protein will not be utilised
- ROUGHLY – 11 MJ ME/kg DM

What do they need? - protein

- Min 12%, for growth 14 - 18%
- Protein low, energy not fully utilised
- Also remember; fibre, vitamins and minerals

Feeds aren't feeds

- Oats varies between
- MJ ME 5 - 11, P 6 - 12%
- Lupins varies between
- MJ ME 11.5 - 12.5, CP 28 - 36%
- Barley varies between
- ML ME 11.5 - 12.5, CP 8 - 14%
- Make use of "feedtest" services

For people that feed silage

- Different chop length greatly impacts on lamb performance down the track.
- Feed intake of 'flail-chopped' silages will generally be low.
- Intake of precision chopped silage was 31-49 % greater than flail chopped silages (32cm long chop down to 7 cm precision chop).
- Increased intake, results in increased weight gains.
- Starting at 37.2 and 37.5 kg respectively, long chopped lambs lost 0.3 kg while precision chopped lambs gained 11.4 kg. (Fitzgerald, 1996)
- If feeding hay or silage, reduce wastage

Budget considerations

- Cost/value of feeder lamb largely dictates yes/no
- Growth rates, % of lambs hitting specifications
- Cost of feed - \$400/tonne likely that grain alone will cost \$33.5 to finish a lamb.

>> *continued over*



NUTRITION AND LAMB E (ENERGETICS) CONTINUED

- Avg consumption 1.5 kg/day, going from 30 to 43 kg @ 250 grams/hd/day (50 days on feed, 7.5 weeks)
- Remember that grain costs can be only 56% of total costs!
- Labour, capital costs, marketing
- Finished price (skins)

If limited grain reserves -Grain for the girls?

- Dry sheep are a lower priority, but don't miss out on next years lamb crop.
- Severe nutritional restrictions to a lamb during pregnancy will never be compensated for. Guaranteed poor performers.
- Cows restricted during pregnancy; -10 kg birth, -25 kg wean and -55 kg at slaughter
- Pre-weaning growth check also never fully compensated for (-70 kg & -40 kg).
- Pays to monitor dry ewes, fat and thin them 8 wks before joining.

LW @ joining (kg)	45	50	55	60
% lambs born	118	126	134	142

Induction method and lamb density

- 320 second cross lambs.
- Half of the lambs were inducted directly into the finishing facility, with the remaining lambs introduced to the grain based ration while still in the paddock (all lambs had been fed grain prior to weaning).
- Half of the lambs were stocked at low density (1 lamb per 5m²), with the other half stocked at a high density (1 lamb per 3m²).
- As we push lamb density up, appears that we get more variation in lamb performance. Rich getting richer, poor getting poorer.
- Of lambs that failed to met market specs, 86.2% came from the high density treatment, contrasted by 13.4% from the low density treatment.

When should we feed lambs?

- Building a understanding of the importance of stage of maturity on finishing efficiency.
- Animals at the 'optimum' stage of maturity will
- deliver the most efficient performance during finishing

Variation in feed conversion

- Lamb Energetics - what are we doing ?
- Energetic and metabolic differences between various lamb genotypes.
- high muscled lambs are energetically more efficient than low muscled lambs of similar growth rate
- differences in energetic requirements will be driven not only by compositional differences, but by cellular differences.
- The impact of a nutritional restriction on lamb efficiency and development.
- that an early restriction in growth and development has no overall impact on body composition or energetic efficiency during finishing

A tale of two lambs....(first intake only)

- Most efficient lamb put on 1kg live weight for every 2.61 kg of feed consumed.
- Cost to finish was \$6.39
- Least efficient lamb ate 11.87kg of feed, for every 1kg of liveweight gain.
- Cost to finish was \$29.00 (in feed costs alone)
- Variation in sire groups for FCR ranged from 5.17 to 8.81, average for all lambs, 7.09:1

A tale of a few lambs

The 'early word' – (this may change!)

- Feeding lambs at the 'right' stage of maturity appears to be critical to profitable outcomes.
- FCR average for older lambs at least twice that of the first group – 14:1, best sire group averaged

>> *continued over*



NUTRITION AND LAMB E (ENERGETICS) CONTINUED

11.5:1 (that's worse than the 1st groups poorest sire group)

- Best individual from 2nd group 9.2:1
- Plenty of lambs with FCR of 25:1, consume 63kg for 2.5kg gain
- Inefficiency driven by two things – poor weight gains and they still consume a heap of feed.

Wt gain on feed		Feed eaten (kg)	F.C.R	Cost to finish	% Saving
9,000	310 g/day	40.42	4.49	\$11.00	44.8%
		58.5	6.50	\$15.93	
8,000	275g/day	38.79	4.85	\$11.88	28.5%
		49.84	6.23	\$15.27	
7,500	258g/day	37.46	4.99	\$12.23	38.2%
		52.41	6.90	\$16.90	

HAVE OBSERVATIONS, NOW LOOKING FOR REASONS!

Conclusions

- Allocate your scarce resources well
- Use them at the most appropriate time
- In any feeding scenario, be aware of your C.O.P's (Cost of Production)
- Monitor stock performance (growth rates and fat scores)
- Right genetics
- right feeding systems
- Monitor FCE when feeding, more information about different genotypes will come from Lamb Energetics

“We Love Our Lamb”



SHEEP GENOMICS

Dr Rob Forage, Program Director

Background

- 5 year strategic science program
- \$30M commitment AWI & MLA
- \$16M co-investment RO/DPIs
- Integrated, collaborative research program
- >160 research contracts
- Product concept targets

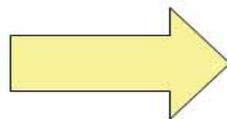
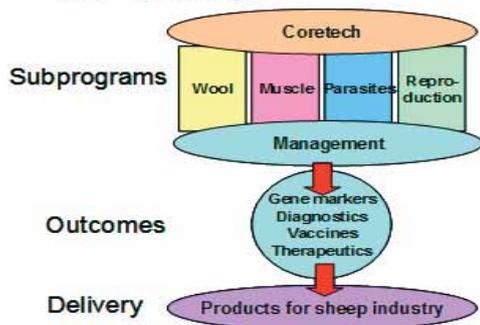
DNA markers - why focus on them?

- Markers allow earlier and more accurate selection and breeding decisions
- Increase rate of genetic gain = \$profit
- Especially with traits that:
 - Are difficult or expensive to measure – parasite resistance and resilience, staple strength, energy utilisation
 - Require killing the animal - eating quality
 - Don't express until adulthood – reproductive performance, bare breech
 - Are deleterious – heterozygote carriers

What are DNA markers?

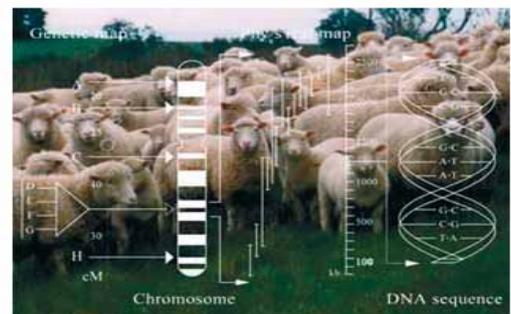
- Pieces of DNA that differ in different animals, potentially millions per genome
- Each marker - have (+) & have nots (-)
- Some with large impact – eg Booroola, Inverdale, spider syndrome, poll, dark fibre
- Most with small impacts (less than 10%)
- Most traits (productivity, quality, health, performance) will have multiple markers
- Gene markers can have different impacts in different populations of animals influenced eg by sex, breed, etc

Finding useful genes and putting them to work



Providing options for future management

- of:
- Productivity & health
 - Quality
 - Responsiveness



>> *continued over*



SHEEP GENOMICS CONTINUED

Types of Marker

Marker function	Marker type	Examples	Integrated into ASBVs	Rationale
Performance	I – Integrated	Muscling markers	Yes	ASBV already exists for a polygenic trait. The marker adds accuracy to the trait and enables selection to occur at a potentially younger age.
Performance	II – Proxy	Footrot, other disease-susceptibility and resistance	No	ASBV is not available in commercial flocks. Marker utility for polygenic traits is measured in research flocks.
Performance	III – Major	Poll, dark fibre, deleterious recessives, e.g. spider lamb	No	Typically a single locus trait for which the marker explains majority (or all) of the trait.
Parentage	IV - Utility	Parentage testing	No	Not necessarily associated with a functional gene or observed trait but useful for DNA profiling

DNA markers and breeding values

- Type I and II markers - these gene markers don't tell the whole story. For example:
- If Marker A has a size effect of 10%
- Then 90% of the genetic expression of the trait is still controlled by other genes
- So, an animal with a positive marker can still have a -ve breeding value and an animal without the marker can still be very positive for a trait
- DNA markers and breeding values can be incorporated together
- Need to know the size of the effect of the marker on the trait in the population of animals of interest
- Provides more accurate, single source of information

Falkiner DNA marker resource flock

- AWT's 8,000 acre irrigated facility in Riverina (Deniliquin)
- 18 industry and 3 research sires
- 5,200 lambs by AI on 5,500 ewes over 2 years
- Highly characterised sheep – ~120 traits

Challenges

- Cost of genotyping – lowest A\$0.02 per SNP?
- Reliable and accurate pedigrees and phenotypes?
- Interpretation of multiple genotypes – dozens of markers per trait?
- Packaging of genotype information – integration into EBVs, alternatives (Genestarn) ?
- Communication with breeders – specialist training, resistance factors?
- Leap of faith from trait measurement to genotypes – WGS proof of concept - CRC?

>> *continued over*



SHEEP GENOMICS CONTINUED

Current progress in DNA marker delivery

- Merger between Genetic Solutions and Catapult to create Catapult Genetics – LoinMax, MyoMax, Inverdale.....
- Seeking to upload genomic data directly into SGA for trial analysis
- Successful trans-Tasman analyses (SGA-SIL) on Corriedales – now looking at other breeds
- Muscle Subprogram validating 3 markers in Australian populations – Carwell, myostatin and calpastatin
- 60,000 research marker target early 2008 – product development negotiations started
- Industry marker tests by 2010

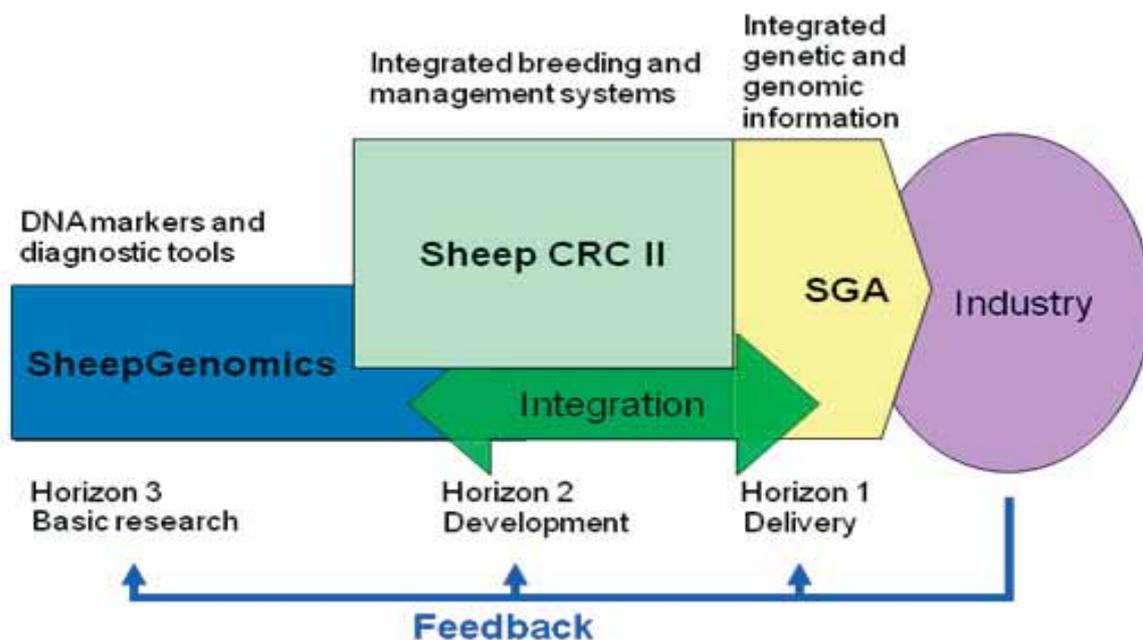
Working together - 2010

- Muscling and dark fibre marker tests
- Industry SNP tool used to increase genetic gain
- Pedigree, production and health traits in single test
- Automated data uploads into SGA and integration with ASBVs

- Value-added data interpretation services
- SheepCRC Information Nucleus determining WGS strategy
- Parasite diagnostic(s) under validation
- Host-resistance - SheepGenomics
- Parasite ID and infection status - GINTIP
- New phenotype associations influencing supply chain

DNA markers and breeding values

- ASBVs will continue as a major source of information about genetic value
- Gene marker information adds another clue about genetic value of an animal
- Gene marker information can:
 - Improve accuracy of an ASBV
 - Bring forward selection and breeding decisions
 - Indicate breeding direction in absence of ASBV
 - Increase rate of genetic gain when used with other breeding techniques and expertise





PROSPECTS FOR THE AUSTRALIAN LAMB INDUSTRY

AND WHAT THEY MEAN FOR SEEDSTOCK BREEDERS

*Rob Banks -
Sheep Genetics Australia
Manager, Southern Australia*

Topics:

- What has been achieved and how?
- What is the market saying about Australian lamb, and what are the medium-term messages?
- What are the implications for breeding directions?
- What is current research delivering that can be used by seedstock breeders?
- What role will genomics tools play in breeding in the years ahead, and what does that mean for breeders?

Is change possible? – 1995 to now:

Each year we add :
 230g of lean meat,
 5 g of fat
 and 10 g of bone
 - equivalent to 2 Big Mac burgers

How did this happen?

- LAMBPLAN – especially across-flock evaluation
- Coordinated marketing and R&D (Trim Lamb, FARL, etc)
- '91 to '96 was a major innovation period for the lamb industry:
- MRC Prime Lamb Key Program breeding, feeding, processing
- Across-flock was the single biggest change ever and the major driver for improvement.
- Young sire programs – simple, practical and cost-effective system for harvesting the value created by across-flock

	Then	Now
Carcase weight	17.9 kg	21.0 kg
Carcase price	\$2.20 per kg	\$3.30 per kg
Gross Value of Production	c. \$580m	c. \$1,400m
Production - Slaughter	c. 15m lambs	c. 18m lambs
- Volume	c. 275kt	c. 350 kt
Average CarcasePlus Index	c. 108	c. 155

Current Industry Situation:

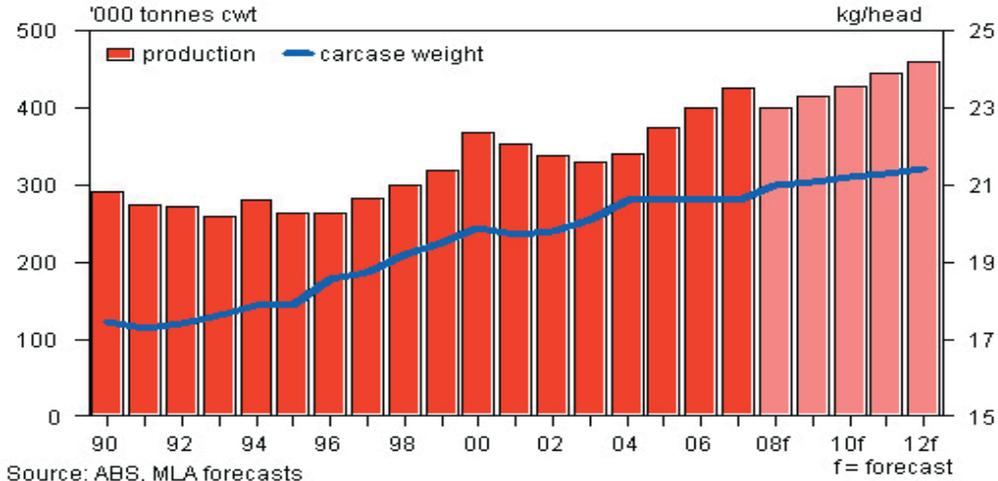
- Demand & price outlook still bright & improved
- Industry performance indicators impressive
- Historically high prices
- Record red meat production, lamb exports a record
- All this despite 5 years of drought
- Drought:causing hardships for farmers, restricting ability to meet demand

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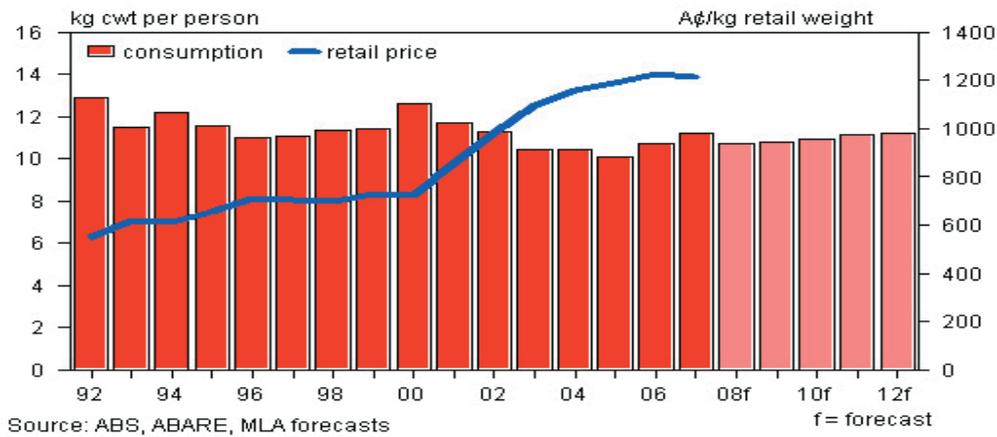


PROSPECTS FOR THE AUSTRALIAN LAMB INDUSTRY CONTINUED

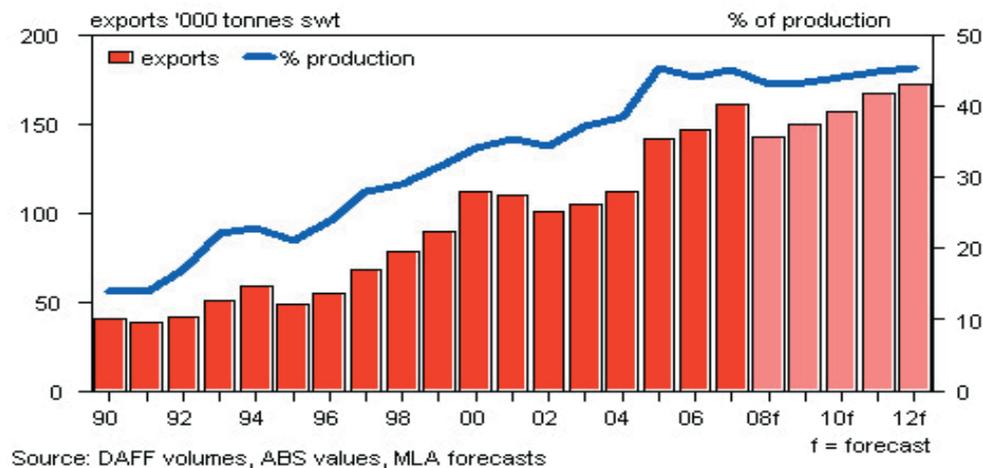
Lamb production and carcase weight



Lamb consumption and retail price



Australian lamb exports





PROSPECTS FOR THE AUSTRALIAN LAMB INDUSTRY CONTINUED

Sheepmeat: prospects are bright and time for rebuilding

- Prices of lambs and sheep are looking positive for 2008
- Lamb numbers available to fall in 2008-09 (down a further 8%)
- Higher weights (21 kgs) will maintain lamb production
- Domestic lamb demand strong
- Lamb export demand keeps rising
- US still expanding but Asia stabilises
- Sheep turnout to remain low

What breeding direction?

- Further increase in average carcase weight
- Further reduction in carcase fat
- But need to manage fat cover and IntraMuscular Fat
- Further improvement in muscling
- But must be combined with growth rate to maintain eating quality
- Current guidance from CarcasePlus is helping achieve this
- Avoid extreme sires except for specific purposes

Drivers of Change – community expectations:

integrity, integrity, integrity

- Environmental assurance
- Water, greenhouse gases, minimal chemicals
- Animal Welfare
- No mulesing, minimal lamb mortality, less and improved transport, castration?, dogs?, feed restriction?
- Product nutritional value
- Controlled amount of fat, improved fat composition – ie type of fat, specification of vital nutrients such as omega-3s, minerals, vitamins
- Product flexibility
- Meeting consumer desires – larger, higher yielding, more consistent and controlled composition carcasses

Drivers of Change - technology:

- Genetics
- First phase based on data plus pedigree
- Australia has done very well (numbers, simple, focussed system, engaged breeders)
- Genomics:
- Genetics – including genomics
- Second phase will add genotypes (what form of each gene)
- Two broad strategies
- Locate and understand individual genes eg myostatin, carwell
- “Black box approach” – test for many genes, little or no knowledge of each, just enhance EBVs (Whole Genome Selection)
- Whole genome selection:
- Validate multiple markers in commercially relevant animals at commercially relevant speed
- Implement whole genome evaluation methods
- Information Nucleus is platform – starting to deliver BVs for hard-to-measure traits
- For the breeder – speed, control (more traits addressed), precision (greater ability to design animals)

Likely trends:

	1995	2007	2020
Carcase weight	17.9 kg	21.0 kg	24 kg
Carcase price	\$2.20 per kg	\$3.30	\$3.75-4.50
Gross Value of Production (on-farm)	\$0.6bn	\$1.4bn	\$2.0-2.5bn
Production -Slaughter	15m lambs	18m	20-21m
- Volume	275 kt	350 kt	500 kt
Average CarcasePlus Index	108	150	240

>> *continued over*



PROSPECTS FOR THE AUSTRALIAN LAMB INDUSTRY CONTINUED

Risks and Challenges:

- Competition for access to land and resources
- Drive for business scale – including more corporate investment
- Innovation in supply chain business models
- BIG FAST change in wool price (up or down) will destabilise meat industry
- Usual suspects – exotic disease, war, animal welfare trauma
- Change to R&D model – less matching government funds, merger of RDCs, voluntary levy contribution, more co-investment mechanisms
- State gov't departments withdraw from advisory roles

Big messages:

- Demand maintained for lean, healthy meat
- Tighter supply chain links
- New tools:
- Chips and DNA markers – price?
- Further genetic change:
- Same basic direction but some new aspects
- Some larger operations

Implications for breeders:

- The future lamb industry may be supplied by 3 types of breeder =:
- Traditional, small, hobby
- Young sire program “types”
- medium scale businesses (250-500 rams pa),
- rapid use of technology in partnership with R&D,
- contracting with supply chains
- Moderate QA and marketing focus
- 50% of market
- Breeding companies
- Large-scale (1,000 to 5,000 rams pa)
- Use donor company or other R&D mechanisms to effectively do own R&D
- Own “breed” brands
- High investment by processors and/or retailers – or other species breeders
- Very strong QA and marketing focus
- 40-50% of market



EXPORT MARKET SIGNALS

Dale Cameron

Tatiara Meat Company

Global Opportunities

- Our greatest export market remains the United States.
- Demand from Japan has decreased quite alarmingly in the last 12 months.
- China and Russia are markets we believe have good growth potential and will be interesting how they develop in the future.
- The E.U. market is restricted by quota of 18 000 tonne. The questionable ability for New Zealand to continue to supply the EU market with about 240 000 tonne may create a future opportunity.

The Export Market

What does the market want?

- Processors are now marketing their product both domestically and overseas
- Traditionally Exporters killed 20kg plus and domestic 17 – 20kg
- What is the demand for 30kg plus carcasse ?
- presents more problems with fat, portion size and production efficiency.

The balance to a more efficient maternal weights enterprise

- Do our ewes need to be as big ?
- Concentrate on fertility, it is a powerful contributor to your gross margins
- The seed stock industry needs to meet the changing industry needs.
- Will the market accept a more versatile maternal / terminal type carcasse

Finishing Systems

- Lamb finishing has evolved in Australia and we have become very efficient at it.
- Good climate, availability of grain
- Droughts and out of season demand have been good motivators.

Current supply situation

- The supply and demand principles apply as much today as they did 20 years ago, the challenge is reading it.
- The Eastern States lamb slaughter accounts for about 350 000 lambs per week
- Domestic domination by 2 main supermarkets is of concern.
- Processing competition is decreasing (Slowly)

PRICE FLUCTUATIONS

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| • 1995 | \$1.90 |
| • 2000 | \$2.15 |
| • 2005 | \$3.35 |
| • 2006 | \$3.21 |
| • 2007 | \$3.22 |
| • 2010 | ? |

It wasn't until 2002 that we had 12 months of lamb prices average over \$3.00 / kg

GENETICS

The Australian industry has seen outstanding improvement from our seed stock providers.

The Seed stock focus

- Be aware of the market needs, trends and changes. Too many seed stock providers lack a good understanding of the commercial lamb industry.
- Commercial Ram buyers are relatively loyal but still need to be serviced and advised

>> *continued over*



EXPORT MARKET SIGNALS CONTINUED

The Skin Market

- Often forgotten when at times it can contribute 20 % of the return of the lamb
- The biggest discount on skins now is wool fibre diameter. Take note and consider your breed options. It is not unlikely to have over a 50 % discount for strong wool breeds.

Opportunity for Grain fed lamb

- Existing quality of grass fed lamb for a majority of the year is very good
- The enhanced qualities from grain feeding beef are not as market conscious in lamb
- Can grain compete financially with grass? If not can we secure the premiums required

SUMMARY

- Challenging seasons continue to make it difficult to grow our position in the global market.
- The uptake of various finishing systems has underpinned some of the supply gap.
- Our ability to supply high quality product 12 months of the year is a powerful tool against our global competitors
- The impact from cheap global production, processing and manufacturing costs is beginning to put pressure on our ability to compete.

The Chef at Billy Mac's Resturant entertained members with the following tale

Had a little problem with the menu. I was going to have the English Chef RAMSAY to give me a hand but he was at the BURWOOD Casino. We were going to have pork but the PIGGOTT out, wasn't FUNKE at all. Went down to KOONAWARRA across the WOODBRIDGE to get some BUTTON mushrooms and PIPKORN. Was that not FRICK n fun. While I was there a new MARTIN FERGUSON tractor turning the soil and spreading GYPSUM HILL and NITRAM to help the WHEETELANDE. After I went back to ANNA VILLA and TAPTON the door, ran into a little Italian lass ELLA MATTA. She was working in the vines in DEPTA GROVE putting in FINGERPOST for old man HUXTABLE ANDEN I went FARRER way back through BUNDARA and around ASHMORE to Naracoorte to start a GALAXY PARK of food.

John the Chef



OJD - NEW NATIONAL PROGRAM

National Program Changes 31st March 2008

Jack Reddin

What Changes on the 31st of March 2008

- Nationally 3 Prevalence Areas (not 4)
- A new Sheep Health Statement (SHS)
- Mainland SA changes from 5pts to 4pts
- All KI moves to 2 pts instead of 1pt
- Minimum entry score into SA now 4 pts
- Downgrading of scores not required

What stays the same?

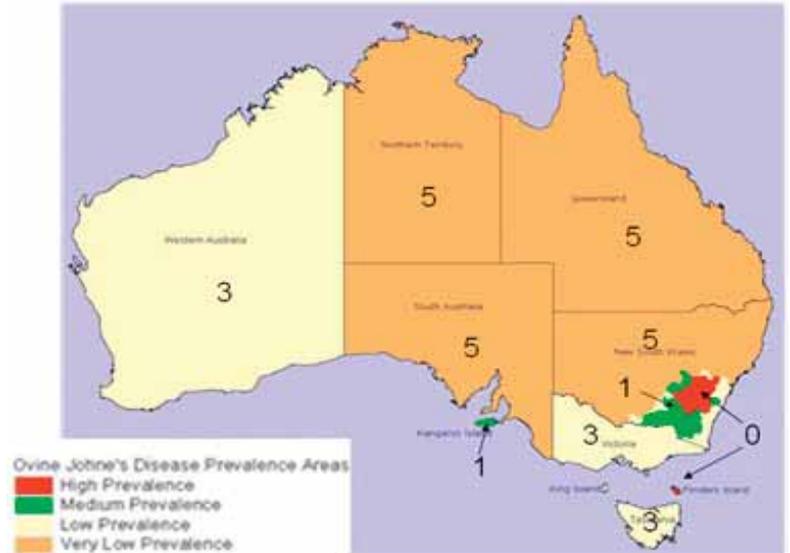
- Abattoir surveillance
- Infected & Suspect farm restrictions
- Tracing & Testing continues
- Calculation of OJD Scores stays the same
- Compulsory SHS

Not Infected-What You Can Do

- Bio-security is number 1
- Practice bio-security
- Good sheep proof fences
- Clean trucks
- Buy from trusted sources
- Buy tested or vaccinated sheep
- Vaccinate with Gudair
- Feed well, especially post vaccination

Infected- What You Can Do

- Cull older stock
- Improve nutrition
- Reduce stocking rates
- Vaccinate and trace elements
- Improve bio-security
- Fences
- Buy tested sheep
- Gudair OJD vaccination



Current Prevalence Areas Dec07



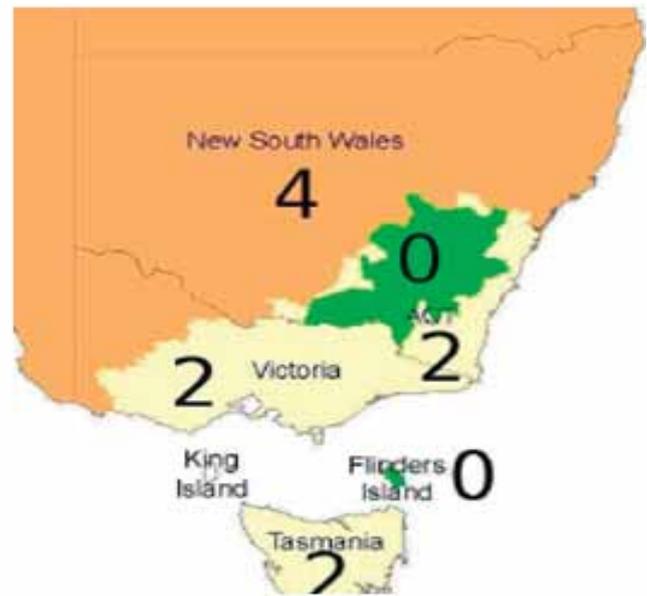
New Prevalence Areas April 2008

View these maps in colour at www.ojd.com.au

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OJD - NEW NATIONAL PROGRAM CONTINUED



Present Arrangement

Original Prevalence Area up to 30 March 2008	Maximum Estimated Flock Prevalence	Old points
Very Low Prevalence	0.5%	5
Low Prevalence	8%	3
Medium Prevalence	32%	1
High Prevalence	-	0



New Arrangement from 31 March 2008

NEW Prevalence Area from 31 March 2008	Maximum Estimated Flock Prevalence	New points
Low Prevalence	0.8%	4
Medium Prevalence	12.5%	2
High Prevalence	-	0

Summary

- Biosecurity Biosecurity Biosecurity
- Buy from trusted sources
- Maintain good boundary fences
- Get an AHS for all introduced sheep
- Buy same or higher OJD score sheep as own flock

>> *continued over*



OJD - NEW NATIONAL PROGRAM CONTINUED

Filling out the New Sheep Health Statement

NATIONAL SHEEP HEALTH STATEMENT

Attached to accompanying NVD/Waybill No.

(Version 1 - March 2008)

SECTION 1 - CONSIGNMENT INFORMATION

Owner of sheep: _____
 Property/place where the journey commenced (full address): _____
 State: _____

Property Identification Code (PIC) of this property:

Number	Year born (month, if known)	Description (ie. Breed, sex and type)	Identification (eg. PIC found on ear tag if different to above)

Please attach a list if more information is required.

SECTION 3 - FOOTROT

7. Have the sheep in this consignment been observed for, and any suspect sheep examined for, signs of FOOTROT during the past 14 days? Yes No

8. To the best of your knowledge, are the sheep in this consignment free of VIRULENT FOOTROT? Yes No

9. To the best of your knowledge, are all sheep and goats on the consignor's property free from VIRULENT FOOTROT? Yes No

SECTION 4 - OTHER HEALTH INFORMATION

10. Is the flock OVINE BRUCELLOSIS ACCREDITED FREE? Yes No
 Flock Accreditation No: _____
 Expiry Date: ____/____/____

11. Has there been any evidence of sheep LICE at, or since, the last shearing? Yes No
 Date of last shearing (if known): ____/____/____

12. Treatments	Product	Date of last treatment
External Parasite Treatment	_____	____/____/____
Drench	_____	____/____/____
Vaccination other than OJD	_____	____/____/____
Other	_____	____/____/____

SECTION 2 - OVINE JOHNE'S DISEASE (OJD)

1. This consignment has an ABC score of: (refer and complete overleaf)

Category A + Category B + Category C + Category D = TOTAL ABC SCORE
(Area/ flock credits) (Test credits) (Vaccine credits) (Cert. low risk credits)

2. Were all these sheep born on the above property? Yes No
 If no, date introduced: ____/____/____ ABC score at time of introduction:

3. Have sheep of a lower ABC score than the consigned sheep been introduced into the flock in the last 2 years? Yes No
 If yes, what is the lowest ABC score of introductions?

4. How many different sources of sheep have been introduced to the consignor's property in last 2 years? None 1-5 6+ Rams only

5. Are any of the sheep in this consignment terminal 'T' tag lambs? Yes No

6. Are these sheep from a SheepMAP flock? Yes No
 Status: _____ Expiry date: ____/____/____

SECTION 5 - DECLARATION

As the owner and/or person responsible for the husbandry of the sheep in this consignment, I declare that the information in this statement is true and correct.

Signed: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Name (print): _____

Contact phone: _____

Persons making false statements may be liable under fair trading and other relevant state legislation

SECTION 2 - OVINE JOHNE'S DISEASE (OJD)

1. This consignment has an ABC score of: (refer and complete overleaf)

4 Category A + Category B + Category C + Category D = **4**
(Area/ flock credits) (Test credits) (Vaccine credits) (Cert. low risk credits) TOTAL ABC SCORE

2. Were all these sheep born on the above property? Yes No
 If no, date introduced:/...../..... ABC score at time of introduction:

3. Have sheep of a lower ABC score than the consigned sheep been introduced into the flock in the last 2 years? Yes No
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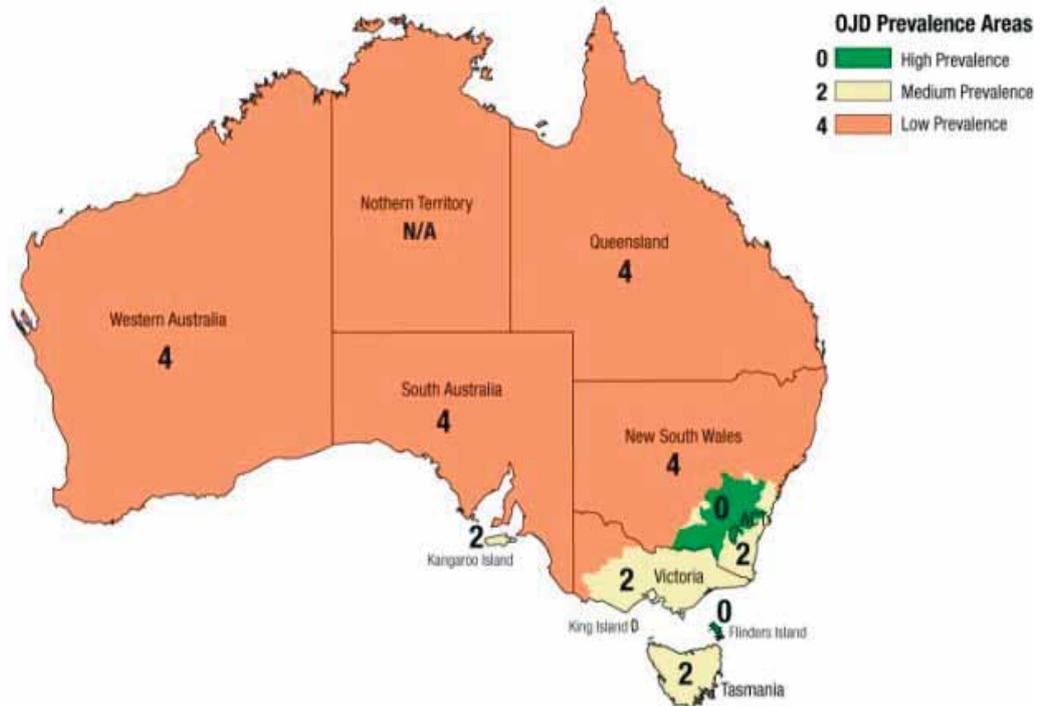
Important changes to the ABC Scheme come into place on 31 March 2008..

From 31 March 2008 buying and trading sheep while managing the risk of OJD will be even easier.

What are the Changes?

New Prevalence Areas have been defined and revised points have been allocated. Most producers will find that they are in a new area with new points although the names of the Prevalence Areas have stayed the same. The following map shows the new arrangements:

OJD Prevalence Area for Implementation from 31 March 2008



Source: NSW Department of Primary Industries

the higher the score: the lower the risk





Changes to the new points allocated for Prevalence Areas.

Present Arrangement



New Arrangement from 31 March

Original Prevalence Area up to 30 March 2008	Old points	Maximum estimated % of infected flocks within the Prevalence Area ¹	NEW Prevalence Area from 31 March 2008	New points	Maximum estimated % of infected flocks within the Prevalence Area ¹
Very Low Prevalence	5	0.5	Low Prevalence ²	4	0.8
Low Prevalence	3	8	Medium Prevalence ²	2	12.5
Medium Prevalence	1	32	High Prevalence	0	>12.5
High Prevalence	0	>32			

¹ Maximum estimated % of infected flocks in the Prevalence Area is measured at the upper confidence limit.

² There will be two Prevalence Areas in Victoria. The Shires of Mildura, West Wimmera, Glenelg, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Gannawarra, Yarriamback, Buloke and Swan Hill are now included in the Low Prevalence Area. The remainder of Victoria will become a Medium Prevalence Area.

What do the changes mean for me?

You should check the map before you fill out a Sheep Health Statement to find out your new Prevalence Area and the appropriate ABC credit.

You can still get trading credits for vaccination, testing for OJD, for Abattoir Surveillance 700 and 200 tests and for the certification of low risk sheep; these all stay the same.

Why the ABC Scheme is changing from 31 March

Abattoir surveillance over the last two years has shown that the prevalence of OJD is increasing in some parts of Australia. Based on this information, stakeholders have agreed that the number of prevalence areas should be reduced from four to three with new boundaries that more closely relate to regional risk. The points allocated to each of the new Prevalence Areas have also changed. These now more closely quantify the true risk that sheep from these areas represent.

For Further information visit the new OJD website: www.ojd.com.au or contact your local animal health advisor or agent

the higher the score: the lower the risk





STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

The final session of the Annual Conference at Naracoorte involved participation from members in formulating the Association's Breed direction for the next 5 years. Bruce Hancock chaired this session and, after breaking members into small groups for discussion, recorded all suggestions from the attending members, listing the ideas under 1 of 3 categories: - **The Sheep** - **The People** - **The Association**.

All suggestions were then grouped into similar themes and listed separately under one of the three main headings, after which members were given 3 votes as to which topics they considered most important to the future direction of the Association.

The final preferences are listed below, remembering that suggestions have been summarised down to a few words and we have the extended suggestion and more information in the recorded minutes of the session.

THE SHEEP	THE PEOPLE	THE ASSOCIATION
Topic Group 1 - 4 VOTES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternal Sire characteristics 	Topic Group 1 - 38 VOTES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate young and new members • Educate service providers 	Topic Group 1 1 VOTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value people joining the AWSA
Topic Group 2 -34 VOTES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business focus • Quantify breed advantages • Maintain focus on commercial management and development advantage • Breed type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate members on providing genetics to industry • Identify future leaders • Mentoring – Field Officer, etc. • Customise workshops 	Topic Group 2 3 VOTES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial relevance at Shows
Topic Group 3 - 18 VOTES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Suffolk index • 10 Carcass Plus points per year • Lambplan as a benchmark • Performance testing 	Topic Group 2 - 0 VOTES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual conference – going forward Topic Group 3 - 21 VOTES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R&D genomics • Modern technology to benefit members • Keeping up with technology • Establish and manage a DNA bank 	Topic Group 3 23 VOTES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forefront – Marketing & and Promotion • Promotional budget • Promotion and training • Liaison with processing sector • Market focus – carcass/skins

It is very promising to see at least one high ranking suggestion under each of the 3 areas, (The Sheep, The People, The Association) and the committee are currently working to formulate a plan of action on these suggestions and put in place both time frames and KPI's for their immediate implementation. The high priority issues as voted by the attending members will be the first ones addressed but the mere fact that there were other issues and suggestions considered important by some members will ensure that all suggestions raised will be addressed by the committee.

Many thanks to all members who provided input into a most important area of the development of our breed. Once we have the strategic plan developed and finalised with time frames, plans of action and KPI's, the document will be distributed to all members and posted on the web site.