

# LAMB FOCUS

■ 2023 EDITION



*The Border Watch*

# Mullinger hits a milestone

MULLINGER Park's 2023 sale will be their milestone 20th annual ram sale and will boast more than 300 high production Poll Dorsets, White Suffolk and Suffolk rams with 12 speciality rams on offer.

Poll Dorsets are the flagship breed at Mullinger Park – they have been breeding them for more than 50 years while more recently adding White Suffolk and Suffolks to their 3 stud operation.

Brett, Amanda and William Shepherd from Kybybolite are one of the largest sellers of British breed rams in the South East of South Australia.

The 2023 sale will be on Thursday, October 6 at 1pm at the Naracoorte Showground Pavilion.

After an exceptional 2022 year in the showing arena winning champion ram in the poll dorsets and winning many other ribbons and selling stud rams to a record for Mullinger Park we again have a great team of rams.

In the poll dorsets we have rams from the iconic Tasmanian stud Valma 19-144 which we bought for \$16000 in 2020 who figures BWT 0.00 PWT 16.15 PEMD 3.57 PFAT -0.42 TCP 155 and there keeper ram 20-076 BWT 0.36PWT 17.36 PEMD 2.66 PFAT + 0.35 TCP152 and is in top 10 per cent; for intra muscle fat, along with Goorama 20-200 and Tippiary 20-11 round out the AI sires and all 3 have exceptional rams in the show team and through-out our ram catalogue.

Also there are rams by Rangeview 20-208 who has a whopping muscle figure of 5.00 and of the chart +0.80 for fat he is a medium frame ram with great style and small birth weight and good eating quality TCP153.

There will also be great a run of rams by Valma 400, Mullinger Park 336 and our very last rams by our great Leenala 150 which has had a huge impact in styling our stud in recent years.

Again in the white Suffolk we will be offering sons of Range View 19-98, which we bought at the first COVID year Adelaide Elite Ram Sale," Brett said.

"He comes to us from over the water from the Apple Isle but don't hold that against him as he comes with huge credentials in confirmation and figures which have got better after his progeny have been measured."

With a weaning weight EBV 14.07 PWT 21.37 with a huge 3.88 for muscle and all with a positive plus 0.52 for fat 4.9 LMY and round it and with a whopping 168.9 TCP, the figures say it all.

With many of his trusts in the top 5 per cent for Australia for the breed he is turning heads in the breed.

In the White Suffolk AI program we purchased the south Australian semen rights to Detpa Grove 20-477 Regal so there is a nice line up of his rams as well as Rangeview 20-006 which was sold for \$26,000 in 2021 Adelaide elite ram sale.

"There will also be sons by ever reliable Rene 19-126 Days 20-440 and Anden 19-062," Brett said. "The growth in our White Suffolk flock keeps impressing us immensely and is a must to come and see at the sale.

For the Suffolks, we will have as good as line up of rams that we have produced here at Mullinger Park Brett said there will be sons by Kerangie sire 19-2484 that was purchased for \$11,000 - the top price ram at that sale.

"He is a very powerful, correct Suffolk ram, Brett said.

"He has gone to numerous studs across the country. If you want lambs like this head to Mullinger Park's sale which shows the quality of the ram and there will also be some by the very stylish and muscle Saylay 20-003 which we AI with also the ever reliable Allendale 1971." Brett said

Mullinger Park have a flock of 1300 stud ewes and out of that we should be able to find 330 classy rams to put in the sale.

"We scour the nation for the best genetics we can get to put into our stud to suit the needs of our enterprise and our clients' needs, whether it is to grow trade lambs or to take lambs to the expert weights," Brett said.

"We are still investing heavily in the AI programs as we see this as a huge tool to progress where we want to get to. "Our goal is to breed good length, muscled and well-structured sheep that can perform in all aspects of anyone's commercial enterprise." Brett said Mullinger Park had also focused on LambPlan figures and they have improved every year.

The Mullinger Park team can't wait to see you at their October 6 sale, their 19th annual sale, at the Naracoorte Showground Pavilion.



MILESTONE: Mullinger Park's 2023 sale will be their milestone 20th Annual ram sale

## Majardah rams smart move for the astute

MAJARDAH rams are bred for commercial conditions.

Selected for conformation, Australian Sheep Breeding Values and the capacity to survive and thrive under commercial conditions is a winning formula according to Dale Price co-owner of the flock.

Data accuracy drives selection within

the Majardah Poll Dorset and White Suffolk studs.

Anything less than quality data is a road to nowhere. "Using Matesel (sheep tinder) to maximise genetic progress is a strategy that complements visual appraisal," said Adam Price. Pedigrees, birth weights, weaning weights, fat scores, eye muscle depth, worm resistance, post weaning weights and

genomic eating quality scores are entered in the Sheep Genetics database for comparison across the country.

"Even then, only rams we consider fit for purpose will be offered at the Glencoe on property, October 9th annual sale," explained Adam.

Positive feedback from lamb buyers of

Majardah's commercial prime lambs is further evidence that Majardah sires used over first cross, composite and fine woolled merino ewes are a smart move for astute prime producers.

Contact Adam 0428 230 100, Dale 0428 394 300, Peter Creek MW&J 0428 838 332 or Ben Gregory Elders 0418 498 587 for further information.

**20TH SALE**

**Mullinger Park**

Thursday 5th October 2023 @ 1pm  
Naracoorte Showground Pavilion

12623497-RR35-23

12 SPECIALLY SELECTED SIRES TO BE OFFERED

200 POLL DORSET    100 WHITE SUFFOLK    30 SUFFOLK

"LENGTH WEIGHS & WEIGHT PAYS"

Lambplan figures available  
All rams Brucellosis accredited  
NO. 925 6 in 1, OJD vaccinated,  
Multimin, drenched & backlined  
Inspections welcome from 11am with  
Lunch provided  
3% rebate to outside agents introduced in  
writing 24 hours prior to sale.

**Simon Mulraney** 0428 623 329  
**Josh Manser** 0428 290 147

**Josh Reeves** 0429 170 399  
**Tom Dennis** 0427 975 207

**Mat MacDonald** 0428 849 615  
**Josh Pahl** 0457 292 338

# Sale ○ Sale ○

## Majardah Ram on Property Sale

### 1pm October 9

Phone

- Adam Price • 0428 230 100
- Dale Price • 0428 394 300
- Ben Gregory • 0418 498 587
- Peter Creek • 0428 838 332

# Traceability consistency call

THE strategy outlines critical priority actions that Sheep Producers Australia has been advocating for as a part of reforms to Australia's livestock traceability systems, including the creation of a sustainable funding model, appropriate governance mechanisms, communication initiatives to strengthen the awareness of traceability, and a nationally consistent approach to traceability regulation.

CEO Sheep Producers Australia Bonnie Skinner said effective traceability relies inherently on national consistency because Australia trades as a nation.

"The simple reality is that disease does not respect jurisdictional boundaries," she said.

"Traceability systems have been a critical component of Australia's biosecurity system for decades and underpins our ability to export. As the world's largest sheep meat exporter, we need to be ahead of the threats and opportunities that give Australia the ability to provide food security both domestically and internationally."

Sustainable investment into traceability system reform will ensure that livestock traceability can evolve and meet future biosecurity and market access requirements, as well as unlock potential productivity gains through-



**TRACE:** CEO Sheep Producers Australia Bonnie Skinner said effective traceability relies inherently on national consistency.

out the supply chain, securing a strong future for sheep producers both domestically and within our global markets.

The ability to verify the provenance of Australian red meat products and associated at-

tributes will help to maintain Australia's competitive advantage and meet customers' and consumers' growing demand on how their food is produced.

"Ongoing collaboration through mecha-

nisms such as the Australian Agricultural Traceability Alliance will be critical. It is only through national cooperation and collaboration that our traceability systems will evolve to the level required," Ms Skinner said.

## Second round of successful AgTech fund

SEVEN innovative agricultural technologies supporting primary production and agribusiness across the state will benefit from over \$600,000 in grants from the second round of the State Government's AgTech Growth Fund.

Among the projects set to benefit is development of a cordless shearing handpiece.

The fund, designed to accelerate the development and commercialisation of innovative agricultural technologies in South Australia's agricultural sector provides grants of up to \$100,000 to projects that address a specific industry challenge in these areas of focus:

- Improve drought resilience and climate adaptation for primary producers.
- Improve carbon management, sustainability credentials or natural capital on farm to measure and monitor performance to consumers and the supply chain.
- Improve market access and maximise value for primary producers through traceability and credentialling.
- Projects set to benefit from this latest round of the AgTech Growth Fund include:
- Bio-Optics Australia Pty Ltd - trials and data collection to certify a new version of their optical, hand-held testing device for wool producers to know fleece quality in real-time.
- Athena Irrigation Technologies Pty Ltd



Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Clare Scriven.

- further development of an irrigation scheduling system.
- Eldridge Fresh Organics - development of AI system to integrate greenhouse monitoring of temperature, water control and carbon emission reporting to inform future tech upgrades.
- AirborneLogic Pty Ltd - implementing technology and reporting systems for winegrape growers to share carbon stock data through

the industry's sustainability program.

- Mobishear Pty Ltd - development of a cordless shearing handpiece
- COtL Pty Ltd - software development for real time data and decision-support on the Mesonet (SA automated weather station network) for climate related crop disease and pest models.
- Datahash Pty Ltd - adding a consumer engagement capability to verify dairy indus-

try retail compliance data.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Clare Scriven, said round two of the AgTech Growth Fund provides a significant boost to the South Australian AgTech sector and is assisting the development of innovative solutions that benefit producers and our primary industries.

"South Australian primary producers have a well-founded reputation for being some of the most innovative and resourceful in the world.

"The fund brings primary producers and AgTech developers together, to collaborate on innovative solutions for real challenges facing the agriculture sector in South Australia.

"Continued development of AgTech solutions in partnership with primary producers provides real efficiencies and will further encourage their uptake by primary producers.

"The return on realising the potential of AgTech is currently estimated at \$2.6 billion a year in extra agriculture gross value of production in South Australia. There is also the benefit of better managing our scarce resources which continues to become ever more important as the challenges of climate change increase."

For further information on the AgTech Growth Fund, visit [pir.sa.gov.au/primary\\_industry/agtech/agtech\\_growth\\_fund](http://pir.sa.gov.au/primary_industry/agtech/agtech_growth_fund)






Industry Leading Whiteface Genetics



**Annual On-Property Sale**  
**Friday 6th October 2023, 11.00am**  
**160 White Suffolks & 80 Maternal Composites**

Lachy Day: 0428 621 630    [www.dayswhiteface.com.au](http://www.dayswhiteface.com.au)



SCAN ME

## Custom Designed Quality Built Agricultural Sheds

**Structural Steel & C Section Sheds.  
Manufactured & Constructed by  
Local Experienced Builders.**

Servicing the South East and Western Victoria, there is no job to big or too small for Parham Construction.

0428 236 546

[enquiry@parhamconstruction.com.au](mailto:enquiry@parhamconstruction.com.au)

Find us on    | BLD: SA 197357 VIC: CCB-L54277





**TOP QUALITY:** KD Sheepstuds are producing top quality lambs this season.



**TOP OF THE FLOCK:** KD Sheepstuds produce 150 shedding rams annually.

## Easy and profitable breed

THIS year marks 25 years of breeding shedding sheep for Kym Staude of KD Sheepstuds.

We now produce 150 shedding rams annually that we don't shear pre sale and feet are left untouched.

We have Australian White, KD Whites that are a composite shedding line of sheep that are an open breed which allows us to infuse new bloodlines or breeds and also KD Reds which are a coloured shedding sheep that are prolific breeders. The Reds have the same productivity as the white breeds.

About 80 rams will be on offer on Wednesday, October 11, auction starting at 1 pm being conducted by Elders with Auctions+.

K D shedding ram clients report high lamb survival rates due to lambs being born with thick hair coats and growth of lambs is up amongst the best.

The fertility is a key factor and a March mating of last years (2022) born ewe lambs, scanning revealed a 90&percent; conception rate without any stimulants and it's looking like half of the ewes are having twins and rearing them.

The other part of KD STUD is the CHAROLLAIS breed.

Starting 25 years ago also with a NSW composite breed called a Coolalee, we infused the Charollais in 2015.

We now produce full blood rams but the most success has come from Charollais Composite rams.

Our clients are reporting the easiest of lambing's especially from maiden ewes.

One client near Naracoorte used KD Charollais Composite rams over 500 maiden ewes and reported one ewe death and virtually nil lambing issues.

The general feedback is of the "easiest lambing ever" followed by exceptional growth and muscling.

With shearing and xb wool prices being an ugly topic our clients are reporting that Cha-

rollais progeny are growing a much shorter wool than traditional breeds and lambs are finishing before requiring shearing.

Fertility is another key factor with 95&percent; of ewe lambs born in June/ July 2022 being scanned in lamb in July 2023.

KD will be offering ewe lambs SIL for private sale, a good opportunity to start a stud for a breeder or as an add on to an existing stud.

KD Charollais sale is on Friday September 22 with about 80 rams auction starting at 1pm being conducted by Elders with Auctions+.

For enquiries, call Kym on 0412 070 971 or Steve Doecke of Elders on 0427 817 323

## Unveiling a promising start

HAVING attended Sheepvention for the second consecutive year with a display site, Pomanda White Suffolks & Ile de France has made an undeniable impression in a relatively short span of time.

The courage to show their sheep for the first time this year is a testament to their unwavering commitment to improving the breed and producing exceptional stock.

Mark your calendars - September 22nd is

the day when Pomanda White Suffolks & Ile de France presents their annual on property sale.

This event provides a golden opportunity for breeders and sheep enthusiasts alike to acquire top-quality livestock that has been meticulously bred, nurtured, and developed.

Pomanda's commitment to transparency and client satisfaction is evident in the care and attention they dedicate to every custom-

er, ensuring that each purchase from their sale is just the beginning of a successful journey.

Breeders and sheep enthusiasts can confidently turn to Pomanda as a reliable source of exceptional sheep, partnerships, and invaluable industry support.

As they embark on this journey, the future of sheep breeding is without a doubt enriched by the passion of Pomanda White Suffolks & Ile de France.



**PROMISING START:** Pomanda White Suffolks & Ile de France has made an undeniable impression.

**K.D. SHEEP STUDS**  
BORDERTOWN  
455 SIDING RD CANNAWIGARA

For sale on farm by auction and Auctions +  
Friday 22nd September, auction from 1pm

**80 Charollais & Composite Rams**

For sale on farm by auction and Auctions +  
Wednesday 11th October, auction from 1pm

**80 Australian White, KD White & KD Red rams**

**Elders Steve Doecke 0427 817 323**

kdsheepstuds.com.au or call **Kym Staude 0412 070 971**

**Pomanda**  
White Suffolk - Ile de France

**ANNUAL  
RAM SALE  
22/09/23**

• OJD Approved Vaccinates • OB accredited

Rachael Withers 0407 848 712 | Simon Withers 0429 692 190  
Yarlalla1718@gmail.com | Lochaber SA 5271

Ashley Braun 0417 627 071

# Genetic tools open the door

MLA'S investment in the development and improvement of genetic tools such as Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) and Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) has led to a significant increase in adoption by commercial producers, as well as financial benefits on-farm.

## Insights from latest survey

MLA's recent Genetics Insights Survey involved conducting interviews with a representative sample of the industry, in terms of location, breed type and production systems. These included 525 beef and 585 sheep producers.

### Key survey outcomes:

- The use of BREEDPLAN EBVs by commercial beef producers increased between 2016–2023 from 18 per cent to 59 per cent.
- The use of Sheep Genetics ASBVs by commercial sheep producers increased between 2016–2023 from 14 per cent to 55 per cent.
- The stud sector also increased its use of genetic tools (111 sheep and 114 beef seedstock producers). Increases included beef - 32 per cent to 56 per cent, and sheep - 18 per cent to 55 per cent.
- Positive attitudes towards EBVs and ASBVs were driven by a sentiment of trust, scientific validity, validation of purpose and positive historical performance.

## Breeding values linked to improved financial health

Ensuring a solid return on any investment – whether that be money or time – is top of mind for all producers. The latest survey results confirmed that commercial producers who use ASBVs are significantly more likely to say their financial health is improving compared to those who don't use ASBVs (61 per cent vs 41 per cent).

### Overcoming obstacles

Producers may be hesitant to embark on the journey of getting up to speed on the seemingly complex array of genetic tools available. Dr Sarita Guy, MLA's Project Manager for Genetics Adoption, encourages producers to explore using these tools alongside their current processes used in purchasing decisions.

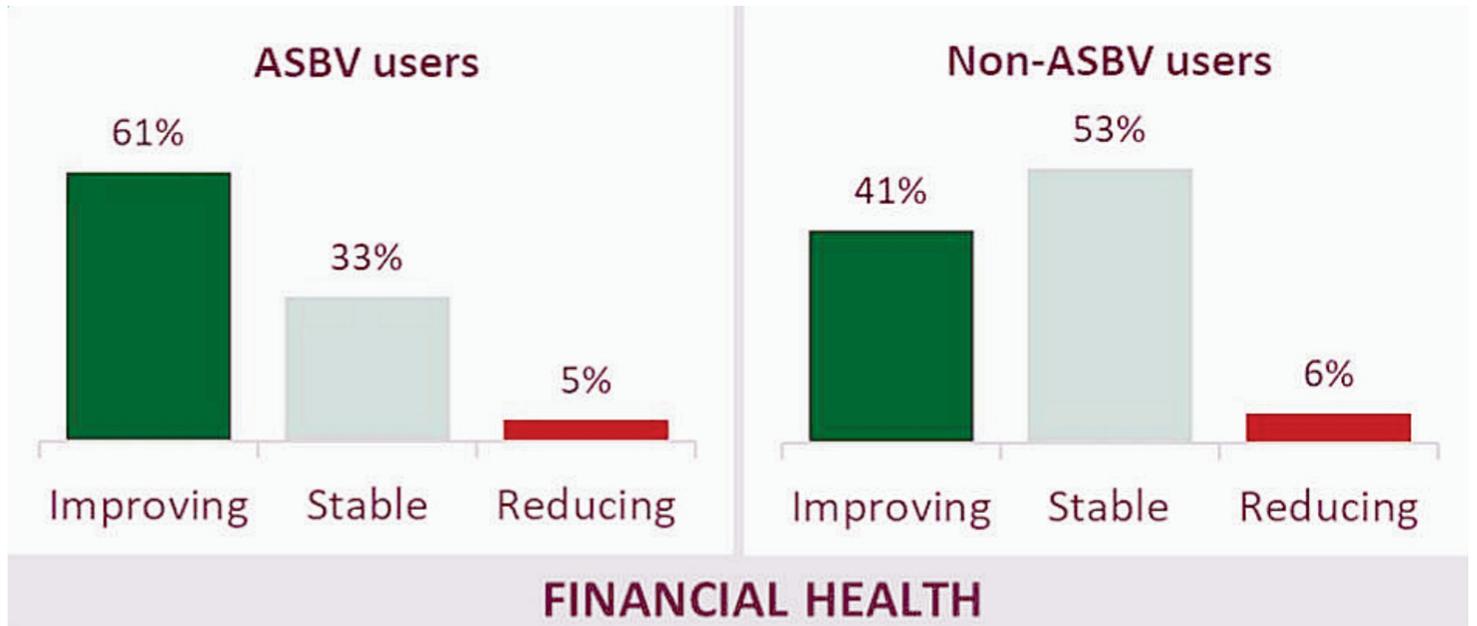
"Visual assessment is important, as is raw data. It's also good to talk to the breeder to understand what traits they've been selecting for," Sarita said.

"The most accurate tools to compare sires, within one stud and across different studs of the same breed, are breeding values – and we have good evidence that they work."

The accuracy of these tools will increase over time and will encompass an increasingly wider range of traits that directly impact profitability and the sustainability of our industry.

These tools are underpinned by accurate data and scientifically robust methods. Objective EBVs and ASBVs can be used hand-in-hand with visual assessment and are useful even for smaller operations.

"By using these tools, producers can capitalise on this investment and increase their herd or flock performance," Sarita said.



Perceived financial health of sheep producers, comparing users and non-users of ASBVs.

Picture: MLA



Picture: File

As more tools become available, Sarita said MLA is committed to providing the resources and support needed to make the most out of them.

"MLA's Genetics Hub is a one-stop shop with easy-to-understand resources, advice and practical examples of how the different tools can be used. There are also videos and articles where producers share their journey on how genetics have made a real impact on their bottom line," Sarita said.

Producers can receive guidance on developing a customised breeding plan and how to maximise their genetic investment by attend-

ing the revamped BredWell FedWell workshops.

"BredWell FedWell is an introductory workshop that helps producers develop a genetics and nutrition regime, specific to their production systems and markets. These workshops are hosted on-farm and are very practical. There are many opportunities to discuss concepts with other producers, and each producer creates a plan for how they can apply what they learn to their own enterprise," Sarita said.

**What benefits one can benefit many** Genetic tools are one more piece of the puzzle

to boost efficiency and profitability for producers.

More producers using the latest genetic tools and insights to their advantage is good news for the continued prosperity of the red meat industry, as well as the robustness of the nation's herds and flocks.

"With the challenges we're facing and the rising costs of production, it's important to explore all opportunities and tools that can lift livestock performance in a sustainable way.

"Genetics is one of those tools that can help us achieve this," Sarita said.

**commander ag-quip**  
INNOVATIVE FARM EQUIPMENT

Australian Made  
**Sheep Handling Equipment**

**SHEEP & CATTLE HANDLING  
LIVESTOCK FEEDING  
GRAIN HANDLING**

1800 655 033  
sales@commanderagquip.com.au  
www.commanderagquip.com.au

12623921-AI35-23

**SALT DISTRIBUTORS**  
**Makers of Animal Supplement Blocks and Loose Mix.**

The Cheaper and more Consistent way of keeping your animals healthy.

**"Tailor Made"**  
blocks and loose mixes our speciality.

**Phone: (08) 88 652 076**  
**Mobile: 0428 339 923**  
**Email: saltdis@bigpond.com**  
**Web: salt distributors.com.au**

**MANUFACTURING QUALITY ANIMAL SUPPLEMENT  
FOR OVER 50 YEARS**

**ASK YOUR STOCK AGENT OR DIRECT FROM US**  
PO Box 39 Snowtown SA 5520

12623921-AI35-23

# Alpha is simply the best

QUALITY of product and enhanced property value guides the modern purchaser.

Part of the success of Alpha Industries relates to the family founders being attuned to understanding just how pivotal the family home and extended property is to the heart and soul of the average purchaser.

To have the certainty of first class quality at a manageable price, takes the worry out of 'extensions' to any existing property – and just ensures that your addition is the 'icing on the cake' – enhancing the property at every turn – ensuring values are maintained.

The vast selection that Alpha offers makes light of the drama that can be attached to your new garage – carport, veranda or rumpus room – the right heritage look is our speciality and never overlook the value of 'that right fence' – the first impression on entering any property.

Alphaclad remains the jewel in our range offering you strength and beauty. We have a vast product range including roofing and fencing material.

We are a proven family business with near on 35 years experience and specialist staff who want to ensure you go on living the lifestyle you deserve.



Picture: File

## Foxes: Think ahead this lambing season

THE Limestone Coast Landscape Board has warned landholders to think ahead and protect their properties from fox attacks to improve lamb survival rates.

It is estimated that foxes cost the Australian economy up to \$227 million a year, and fox predation in the region can result in up to 30 per cent of lamb loss.

Limestone Coast Landscape Board team leader for northern landscape operations Josh Rosser said landholders should work together to ensure their flocks were safe.

"There is no stand-alone method to control foxes and the most effective fox control programs are achieved through landholders coordinating their baiting efforts and utilising a variety of methods such as ground shooting, baiting and den fumigation," he said.

"This season we are encouraging coordinated neighbourhood baiting programs where baiting discounts are provided when

three or more neighbouring landholders participate in a baiting operation at the same time."

To assist landholders, the LCLB is now offering canid pest ejectors (CPEs) a mechanical device with an attractant 'lure head' which ejects capsules of 1080 solution directly into a fox's mouth.

Native animals do not have the jaw capacity to release the mechanism and small animals like birds cannot move or release the baits.

CPEs provide more flexibility for landholders in semi-urban areas as they can be placed up to 150 meters away from residential dwellings.

For more information on fox control in your area call the Limestone Coast Landscape Board on 08 8429 7550 to be put in contact with a Landscape Officer in your area.



**SLY FOX:** The Limestone Coast Landscape Board has warned landholders to prepare for foxes ahead of lambing season. Picture: File

# CLOVERLEA

EST 1937  
"SA's Oldest Border Leicester Stud"

**80 BORDER LEICESTER RAMS**

**Friday 13th October 2023 @ 11am**  
Inspections welcome from 9am and light luncheon available

**SALE ON PROPERTY**  
**297 Biggins Rd, Naracoorte SA**

Rams are Brucellosis accredited and OJD vaccinated  
3% rebate available to outside agents introduced in writing 24 hours prior to sale.  
E: naracoorte@elders.com.au

**VENDOR**  
JIM MUTTON: 0402 282 664

JOSH REEVES: 0429 170 399  
TOM DENNIS: 0427 975 207  
ALAN THOMSON: 0427 849 779

**ALPHA INDUSTRIES**

AUSTRALIAN MADE AND OWNED

HIA BLD: 255973

**ENTERTAINMENT AREAS** **CARPORTS & VERANDAHS** **RURAL BUILDINGS**

**INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS** **SHEDS & GARAGES** **CURVED PATIOS**

**FACTORY & OFFICE: 12 STOCK ROAD, CAVAN SA, 5094** **08 7088 7446**

**DISPLACE VILLAGE: 712 SOUTH ROAD, GLANDORE SA, 5037** **08 7200 5474**

**Colorbond Zinalume**

# Plenty of options at Midland

AT Midland Stockyards, we have been working on our range of Offsider Cattle Products and are very pleased with the Crushes to complement our Cattle yards.

We have been selling a number of the lighter Portable Cattle panels to stations in the north with reorders which is very encouraging. Word does get around, even over a huge area like WA.

Hearing different ideas about Cattle Yards is interesting. There are a couple of dedicated specialists that is worth reading up on, Dr. Temple Grandin and Bud Williams both with a wealth of knowledge and different ways of handling livestock.

With the shearing issues and cost there is a swing to non wool sheep like Dopers and other big strong breeds which are a test for the sheep handlers in the market so this product is more of a sheep crush with a similar principle to a Cattle Crush. It has a upside down racket system and is made in QLD which can be a great addition to new and existing yards with ability to retro fit to the yards bought previously.

The pictures are now on our website, and we have some on display in our work shop. Permanent yards have been redesigned to make it easier for installation as well as being compatible with the Relocatable and Portable ranges by

having the versatility to incorporate PA gates, marking panels and using relocatable panels in places to get the machinery in to clean. The portable goat panel which is 1200 high is being used on the outer bugles for those jumpers. We have now a very good Cattle Crush range made by Offsider in QLD along with a Spinner Calf Crush which is also now on the website.

The company is able to supply its own designs or build to its customers requirements with our in house design system at no charge. They have done some great designs working with Farmers to suit their particular needs. Its yards can be permanent, relocatable or portable yards.

In addition, these relocatable yards can be made permanent or semi-permanent with the addition of posts which has been the most popular choice.

Midland Stockyards also offers a range of options for yards, including a diamond gate system, a double fold gate that goes back onto the fence an adjustable V race and a marking panel, as well as loading ramps on wheels or fixed. Pipe panels are back in stock.

For more information on the systems available phone Scott on 0429 804 047 or Paul on 0413 715 725

[www.midlandstockyards.com.au](http://www.midlandstockyards.com.au)



CHECK THEM OUT: Midland Stockyards offers a range of products.



Don Pegler started the Oaklea stud at Kongorong, SA, in 1982 while John and Brigitta Keiller established the Cashmore Park stud at Cashmore, VIC, in 1990.



Cashmore Oaklea's annual ram sale of 500 elite maternal composite, 300 nudie rams and 35 terminal rams will be held on Friday, October 6 2023.

## Cashmore Oaklea performance maternals

YEARS of careful selection and detailed performance recording have proven their worth for Cashmore Oaklea, with the stud being one of the largest suppliers of maternal genetics in Australia.

Don Pegler started the Oaklea stud at Kongorong, SA, in 1982 while John and Brigitta Keiller established the Cashmore Park

stud at Cashmore, VIC, in 1990.

After many years of working closely together and sharing genetics of their sheep, the Pegler and Keiller families joined forces, founding the Cashmore Oaklea maternal composite stud.

The Cashmore Oaklea team have a united focus on producing sheep that will perform

well and stand up to challenging conditions. Their major focus on increased fertility, milk production, growth rate,

carcase attributes and resistance to internal parasites continues to remain at the forefront for Cashmore Oaklea.

Cashmore Oaklea's annual ram sale of 500 elite maternal composite, 300 nudie rams

and 35 terminal rams will be held on Friday, October 6 2023, conducted exclusively on Auctions Plus over three sales with the 1st sale commencing at 11 am AEDT.

Ram Inspections days will be held at Oaklea, Kongorong on Friday, September 29 and Cashmore Park on Monday, October 2, where the sale rams will be on display for inspection.

### QUALITY YARDS AT RIDICULOUS PRICES



UPGRADE TO A V RACE



RELOCATABLE, PERMANENT OR PORTABLE OPTIONS

- Relocatable sheep yards
- Portable sheep yards
- Permanent sheep yards
- V race, loading ramps
- Loading ramps
- Custom design
- Cattle yards – permanent & relocatable

MIDLAND STOCKYARDS  
Quality Yards at Ridiculous Prices

Scott 0429 804 047  
Paul 0413 715 725

[midlandstockyards.com.au](http://midlandstockyards.com.au) info@midlandstockyards.com.au

17 Loton Avenue, Midland

[www.cashmoreoaklea.com.au](http://www.cashmoreoaklea.com.au)

### Self Replacing Performance Maternals

Offering  
500 Maternal Rams  
300 Nudie Rams  
and 35 Terminal Rams

RAM SALE  
Friday 6th October,  
11 am AEDT



Index - Top 5%

- Our sale rams deliver \$27.65 per ewe mated above industry breed average
- Our Stud and Commercial Ewes scanned 185%, under high & challenging stocking rates
- Many Stud Sires are now 90% below breed average for worm egg count

Friday 29th September, Oaklea, Kongorong SA  
Monday 2nd October, Cashmore Park VIC

Please register your attendance



Contact: John Keiller 0409 804 638 | [cashmoreram@gmail.com](mailto:cashmoreram@gmail.com)  
| Don Pegler 0417 851 466 | [pegler4@bigpond.com](mailto:pegler4@bigpond.com)

# Merino genetics still dominate

By Ripley Atkinson, MLA Senior Market Information Analyst

AUSTRALIA'S breeding ewe flock – and subsequently the 2023 lamb cohort – is still primarily built on Merino genetics, particularly for producers with more than 5000 sheep.

The May wave of the Sheep Producer Intentions Survey - undertaken by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) and Australian Wool Innovation Limited (AWI) - provided unique insights into the genetic makeup of the nation's breeding ewes by breed, as well as producers' flock sizes.

Nearly 2000 sheep and wool producers from across Australia were surveyed in order to measure breeding intentions, sentiment, breeding ewe breed demographics and similar information for wethers.

## Merinos continue to dominate

The Sheep Producer Intentions Survey report segments results by state and producer flock size. This segmentation shows how the breakdown of breeding ewes by breed changes as flocks get larger.

The data indicates that Merinos dominate as the breed of choice for breeding ewe flocks, especially once the flock's size reaches 5,000 or more sheep.

## Merinos make up:

- 59 per cent of ewes in a 0–5000 head flock.
- 70 per cent of ewes in a 5000–10,000 head flock.
- 69 per cent of ewes in a 10,000–20,000 head flock.
- 76 per cent of ewes in a 20,000-plus head flock.

Prime lamb breeding ewe numbers remain stable with larger producers, accounting for 16 per cent and 15 per cent respectively for producers with 10,000–20,000 and 20,000-plus head flocks.

Producers with less than 5000 sheep have a much more diversified spread of breeds across the breeding ewe base, as Merinos make up a smaller portion of the total (although still dominant).

As Figure 1 indicates, the larger the flocks get, the more dominant Merinos become, demonstrating that most of Australia's large sheep flocks are built on Merino genetics.

## 2023 lamb crops and producer size

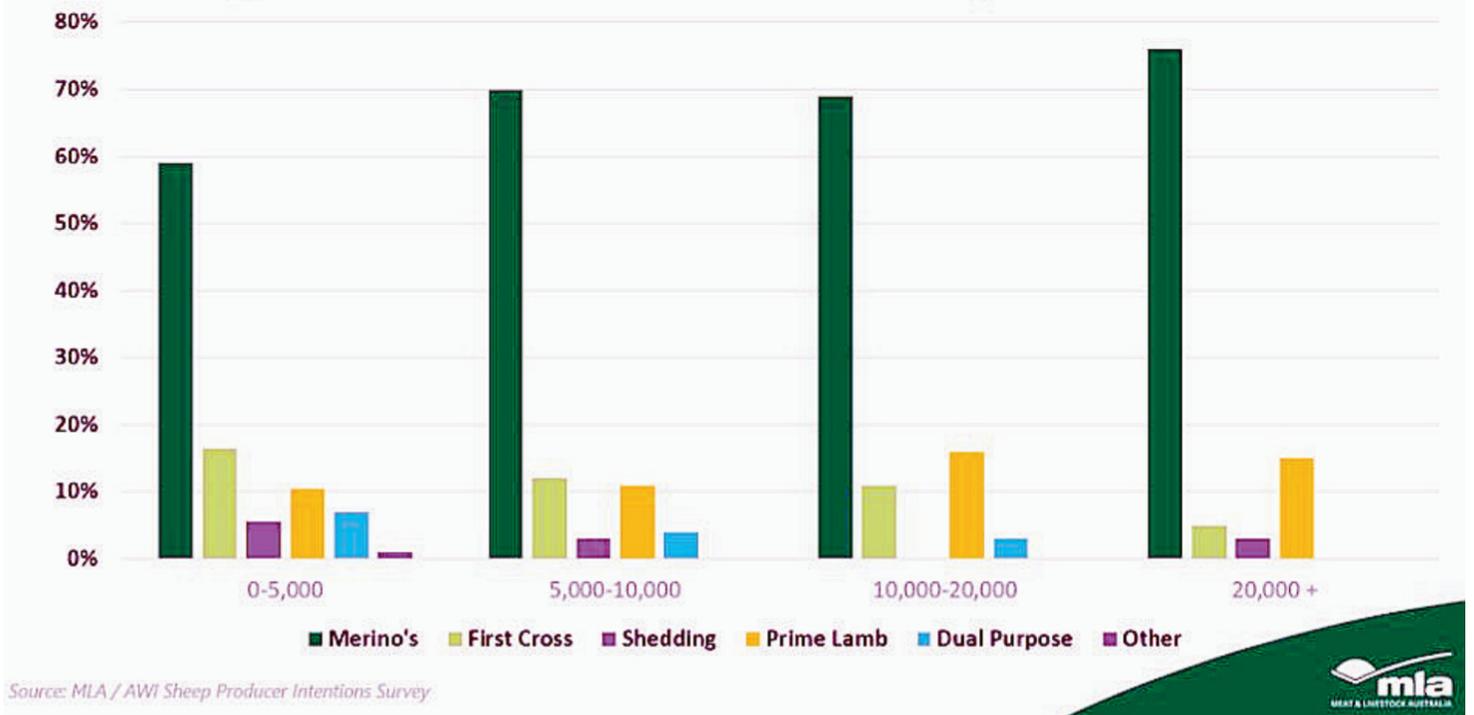
The survey data also provided insights into the expected genetic makeup of the 2023 lamb crop.

Joining Merino ewes for purebred Merino lamb production remains the dominant mating process for producers with 5000 or more sheep.

The mating process of joining non-Merino ewes for lamb production increased significantly for producers with less than 5000 sheep, accounting for 45 per cent (on average) of the total lambs expected for 0–5000 head flocks.

This data aligns with the October wave of the Sheep Producers Intentions Survey, indicating that flocks with less than 5000 sheep

## Breeding ewe breed breakdown by flock size



Source: MLA / AWI Sheep Producer Intentions Survey

Australian breeding ewes by breed and producer flock size.

Picture: MLA/AWI Sheep Producer Intentions Survey



Australia's breeding ewe flock – and subsequently the 2023 lamb cohort – is still primarily built on Merino genetics, particularly for producers with more than 5000 sheep.

Picture: File



Nearly 2000 sheep and wool producers from across Australia were surveyed in order to measure breeding intentions, sentiment, breeding ewe breed demographics and similar information for wethers.

will see large numbers of lambs with pure meat breed-based genetics in their 2023 drop.

Conversely, the opposite relationship is true where the percentage of Merinos joined for purebred or crossbred lamb production rises as flock sizes increase. For producers with more than 5,000 sheep, Merino ewes destined to breed purebred Merino lambs accounted for 53 per cent or 9.2 million of total

ewes expected to be joined.

## Wrap up

This segmentation and breakdown of ewes by breed indicates that Merinos remain the key component of the nation's breeding ewe base, particularly for producers with 5,000 or more sheep. Smaller producers have a much more diversified spread of ewes by different breeds.

Importantly, the lamb crop of 2023 will also have a diversified offering of different breeds, with smaller producers supplying large numbers of lambs with pure meat breed-based genetics for the spring flush in 2023.

Larger producers with a pure Merino-based genetic lamb crop will support the nation's woolgrowing intentions.

**DETPA GROVE**  
WHITE SUFFOLK

DESIGNER GENETICS  
I WELL-BALANCED  
IMPECCABLY BRED SHEEP

## ANNUAL ON-PROPERTY SALE

220 White Suffolk Rams & Ewes

Thursday 12th October 2023

Detpa Sale Complex  
& Livestream AuctionsPlus

Ewes 11.30 AM & Rams 1 PM

Elders

An exceptional run of genetics.

AuctionsPlus



David & Michelle Pipkorn | David 0428 918 372 | detpagrove@gmail.com | JEPARIT - VICTORIA



detpagrove.com

# Young lambs' unusual year

By Meat and Livestock Australia

YOUNG lamb or new season lamb supplies follow a seasonal trend with breeding cycles.

Young lambs are generally less than five months old and from the most current season. Supplies tend to peak during the spring flush when lambs born in the current joining season are marked and brought to market.

When joining occurs around March and April, the supply of young lambs reduces and by June there are hardly any available.

This year has been quite different.

Young lamb supply from last season peaked in November, with favourable conditions in 2022 leading to good lambing rates.

Joining this year was later than usual as producers assessed the market and weather conditions.

Total yardings between January and July are 32% higher than 2022 numbers due to the extensive carry-over of numbers from the previous season and the significantly higher yardings earlier in the year. Compared to 2021, yardings are 122% lower when intensive restocking was holding lambs on-farm for breeding.

When yardings are observed on a week-by-week basis, we can see the timing of lamb drops more clearly.

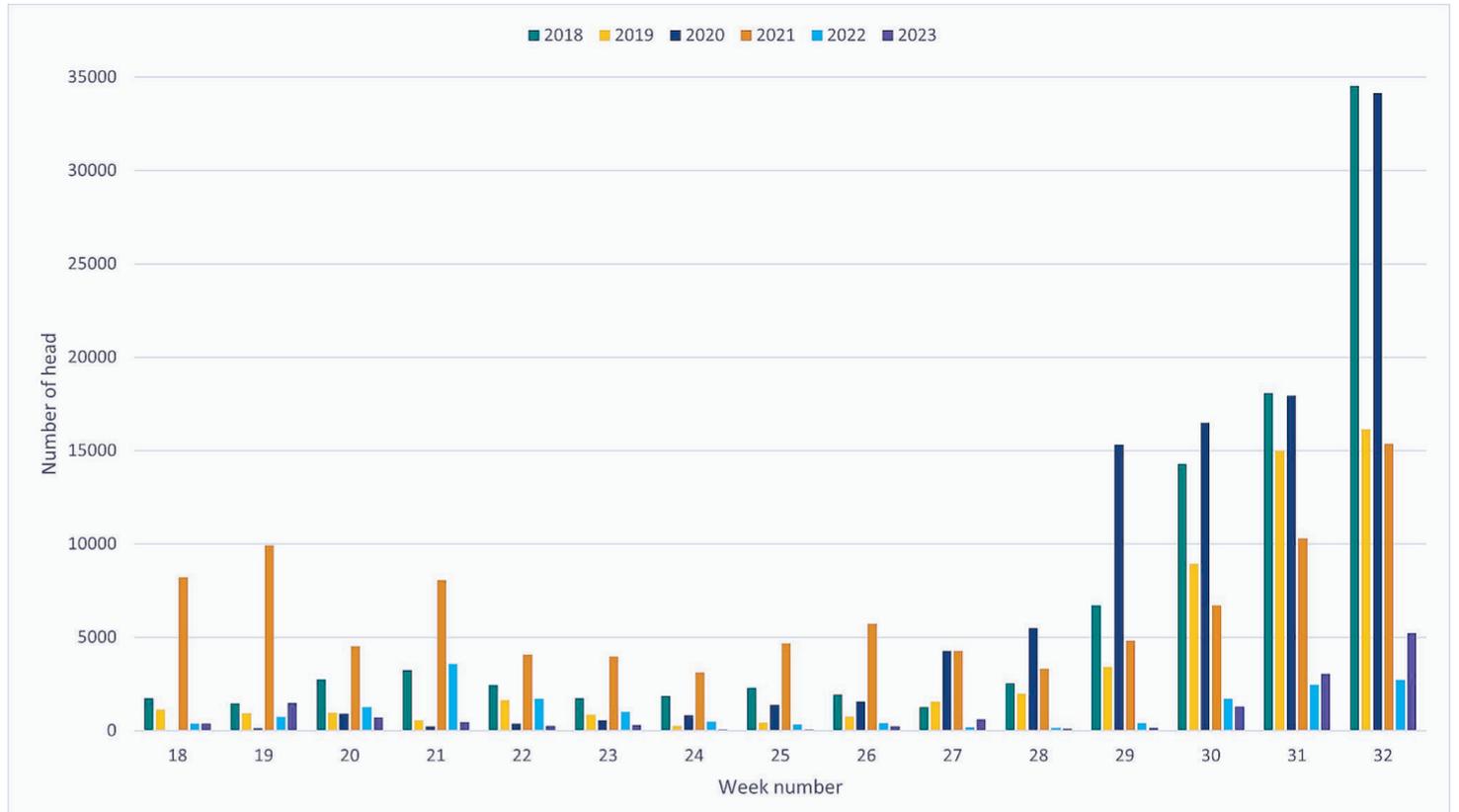
By week 27 or 28 young lamb numbers generally start to pick up with consistent supply by week 31. This year, we have not seen the uplift in numbers that we normally do. In week 28 of this year, just 99 young lambs were yarded. In the corresponding week of 2020, 5,500 young lambs were yarded. The difference further increases in week 29 where, in 2020 there were over 15,000 young lambs yarded but this year only 164.

Old season lamb yardings have remained relatively consistent as producers try to clear out stock because the next cohort comes along. Forbes typically sees some of the earlier showing of young lambs in the market and although numbers are beginning to increase with 4,150 this week, there are still large numbers of old season lambs being presented. These are coming through in mixed quality which is placing pricing pressure on a market that is being selective in their buying.

It is expected that new season lambs will be late to hit the market this year with delayed joining during the breeding season. The following weeks will reveal this trend as in previous years young lambs really ramp up at the end of July and into August. Numbers are beginning to increase with lambs trickling in in the last three weeks, but these numbers are far from what would be expected in a normal season at this time of year.

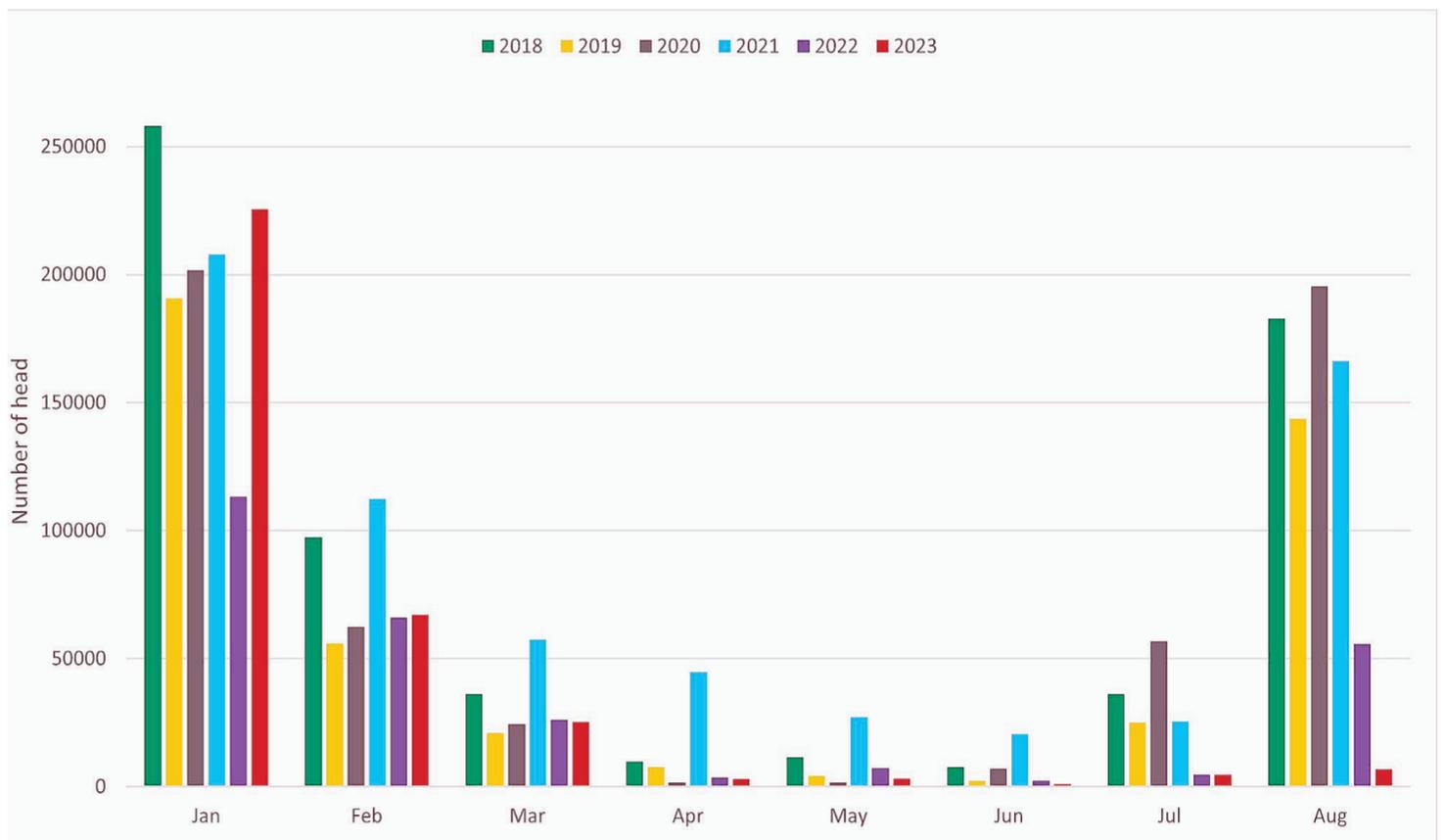
We expect supply of young lambs to be strong with the milder winter supporting lambing rates.

There is still plenty of feed and soil moisture on-ground to support pasture growth, so flocks have been well stocked. Processors are buying out of the paddock and are less active in the saleyard.



Weekly young lamb yardings.

Pictures: MLA



Young lamb monthly yardings.



**Janmac**  
POLL DORSET  
WHITE SUFFOLK  
STUDS

**COMMERCIAL RAM SEEDSTOCK SPECIALISTS**



**2023  
SPRING RAM  
SALE**

**WEDNESDAY 4TH OCTOBER. 1PM**

APPROX.  
**220**  
POLL DORSET &  
WHITE SUFFOLK  
RAMS

**ON-PROPERTY ONLY AUCTION**  
GOROKE RAM SHED

Producing **BETTER LAMB** starts in your pastures using proven genetics. With decades of breeding, we know what works.

Grant & Bryce Hausler | Grant - 0427 861 013 | Bryce - 0427 861 031  
grant.hausler@bigpond.com | GOROKE, VICTORIA



**JANMAC.COM.AU**

# Committed to quality

THE Mulgudawa Poll Dorset principals sincerely thank all who considered purchasing terminal or stud sires from them in 2022.

They are committed to producing sound rams with the genetics that prime lamb producers need to continually improve profitability.

Mulgudawa Poll Dorset continue to be above breed average for the profit driving traits of weaning weight, post weaning weight, eye muscle depth, lean meat yield and dressing per cent.

The sires used to produce the 2023 sale offering will include new genetics from Ivadene 171/20, top 5 per cent for PEMD, TCP, LMY and Dressing per cent.

Ivadene 451/20, top 5 per cent for PWT, LMY and Dressing per cent, top 20 per cent TCP.

Mulgudawa sires, 911/20, 1006/20, 967/20 and 1029/21 all with similar breeding values, PEMD all above 2 and LMY in the top 20 per cent.

Newbold 27/19, low birthweight 0.08 and 3.3 PEMD has progeny again this year and continues to breed sound, deep-bodied sheep.

RICHMOND PARK WHITE SUFFOLK is above breed average for post weaning weight, lean meat yield and dressing per cent average for eye muscle depth.

The 2023 sale team is from several new sires, Ashmore 125/20, top 5 per cent TCP and LMY, top 10 per cent PEMD and PWT.

Ashmore 170/20, low BWT and top 10 per cent PEMD, TCP per cent Dressing per cent.

Wingamin 2715/20, top 5 per cent PWT, a correct son of Warburn 48/16.

Koonawarra 78/20 a grandson of Warburn 48/16 and also top 5 per cent PWT.

Farrer 106/19, low BWT and top 5% TCP,



Mulgudawa Poll Dorset continue to be above breed average for the profit driving traits of weaning weight, post weaning weight, eye muscle depth, lean meat yield and dressing per cent.

PWT, LMY & Dressing per cent will again have progeny for sale.

Buyers will find rams from both breeds to produce trade or export lambs from either

mature or young ewes, composite, merino or 1st cross mothers.

Flocks are MN3V (JD vacc), Bruc Acc free #35, and 6in1 vacc.

For more complete information please visit their website, [www.richmondparkmulgudawa.com/](http://www.richmondparkmulgudawa.com/) or Facebook page.

Look for their QR code.

**Coolawang** • Wool • Carcase  
BORDER LEICESTERS • Fertility  
MUNDULLA SA

Consistent and High Performance  
Genetics with Repeatability

Next Annual Sale  
**Thursday October 12th at 11am**  
on-property, Mundulla

Approx 12 stud & 200 flock rams & 25 stud ewes  
All of our proven sire lines are well represented  
All lots will be videoed & available to view on Auctions Plus

LAMBPLAN ASBV  
Acc. Brucellosis Free  
Mundulla Poll Dorset  
MN3V

Enquiries most welcome | Trevor & Judy James  
E: [jamestrevor25@gmail.com](mailto:jamestrevor25@gmail.com) | Ph: (08) 8758 6275  
Mob: 0438 586 275 (Trevor) | 0438 993 893 (Lachie)

[www.coolawang.com.au](http://www.coolawang.com.au)



Picture: File

**MULGUNDAWA**  
POLL DORSET

**RICHMOND PARK**  
WHITE SUFFOLK

30TH ANNUAL SALE  
**MONDAY**  
9TH OCTOBER 2023

Auction 1pm - Inspection 11am  
Richmond Park  
4899 Southern Ports Hwy,  
Robe SA 5276

Mary Burzacott & Mike Emery  
0429 686 243

250 FLOCK & STUD RAMS

Nutrien  
ASBV  
BRUCELLOSIS ACC FREE

[richmondparkmulgudawa.com](http://richmondparkmulgudawa.com)

12624301-AP35-23

# Top rams at Yarram Park

YARRAM Park are proud to offer another large run of 100 Maternal and 100 Southie Terminal rams for consideration on Tuesday 10 October 2023, at the Hamilton Showgrounds. Inspection from 9.30 a.m. with the Sale at 11.30 a.m. EST. All sheep are fully lamb plan recorded, with all data represented in the sale catalogue that will be available a few weeks prior to our sale.

We aim to produce very sound well-structured rams with excellent constitution, structure and doing ability. The stud is run under strictly commercial conditions in groups of over 250 with no supplementary feeding or

shedding giving us an accurate reflection of each individuals performance.

Excellent fertility is of paramount importance, and we select heavily in regard to these traits, with several flocks scanning up to 180% to ewes joined. Sire lines are not only progeny tested annually throughout our own large commercial flock, but are also fertility tested in big commercial joining groups under realistic and extensive conditions.

If you require any further information, or if we can be of any assistance in discussing and selecting your ram requirements, please contact the team at Yarram Park or your preferred agent.



**FOR SALE:** Yarram Park are proud to offer another large run of 100 Maternal and 100 Southie Terminal rams for consideration.

## Sheep Producers Australia backs strategy

SHEEP Producers Australia has welcomed the recent announcement of the first National Agricultural Traceability Strategy to protect and grow the sheep and broader agriculture industry at the Agriculture Minister's Meeting (AMM) in Perth.

The strategy outlines critical priority actions that Sheep Producers Australia has been advocating for as a part of reforms to Australia's livestock traceability systems, including the creation of a sustainable funding model, appropriate governance mechanisms, communication initiatives to

strengthen the awareness of traceability, and a nationally consistent approach to traceability regulation.

"Effective traceability relies inherently on national consistency because we trade as a nation, and the simple reality is that disease does not respect jurisdictional boundaries," Sheep Producers Australia CEO Bonnie Skinner said in late July.

"Traceability systems have been a critical component of Australia's biosecurity system for decades and underpins our ability

to export. As the world's largest sheep meat exporter, we need to be ahead of the threats and opportunities that give Australia the ability to provide food security both domestically and internationally."

Sustainable investment into traceability system reform will ensure that livestock traceability can evolve and meet future biosecurity and market access requirements, as well as unlock potential productivity gains throughout the supply chain, securing a strong future for sheep producers both domestically and within our global markets.

The ability to verify the provenance of Australian red meat products and associated attributes will help to maintain Australia's competitive advantage and meet customers' and consumers' growing demand on how their food is produced.

"Ongoing collaboration though mechanisms such as the Australian Agricultural Traceability Alliance will be critical. It is only through national cooperation and collaboration that our traceability systems will evolve to the level required."



### YARRAM PARK PERFORMANCE RAM SALE

HAMILTON SHOWGROUNDS | Tuesday 10th October  
INSPECTION: 9.30 AM E.D.S.T. | SALE: 11.30 AM E.D.S.T.  
Sale interfaced with Auctions Plus - Video Live streamed

### FIELD DAY

FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER AT BROADLANDS LUCINDALE  
FROM 11.00 SA time or 11.30 Vic. time.

### 200 RAMS FOR SALE

100 Maternal Composite Rams · 100 Terminal Southie Rams

**Contact:**

Craig Brewin - 0428 648 117  
Antony Baillieu - 0417 519 599  
Georgia Walter - 0455 550 837  
Dale Bruns - 0458 899 918  
Or contact your local agent



1282452-RRB5-33

5 DECADES OF GENETIC ADVANCEMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE

WEDNESDAY 4TH OCTOBER  
12 NOON SA TIME

On-Property - 'Yacca Downs' Woolshed, Woolumbool SA  
& Online AuctionsPlus

280+ POLL DORSET | WHITE SUFFOLK | MULTI-MEAT RAMS



BREEDING QUALITY RAMS for the PRIME LAMB MARKET SINCE 1975.

Offering fit, robust, reliable & functional seedstock rams with well-balanced ASBV's capable of moving your flock forward.



AARON CLOTHIER  
0428 658 002

Poll Dorset • White Suffolk • Multi-Meat  
WOOLUMBOOL.COM.AU

LUCINDALE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

# Producer sentiment mixed

THE latest survey data from sheep and wool producers shows that there is mixed sentiment across the country about the sheepmeat and wool industries, according to the May 2023 Sheep Producer Intentions Survey issued by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) and Australian Wool Innovation (AWI).

The survey data has been published in the Sheep Producer Intentions Survey (formerly known as the MLA and AWI Sheepmeat and Wool survey). This survey provides updated information that builds on the October 2022 full Sheep Producer Intentions Survey.

A total of 1958 producers from across Australia responded to the survey invitation during late April and early May, where the results were then weighted using the latest available Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data to produce industry estimates.

Concerns around the weather and seasonal conditions are impacting producers right around the country. In fact, 50 per cent of sheep producers cite weather as the number one issue affecting their on-farm decision making, while 31 per cent cite weather as their main off-farm external factor when it comes to running their business.

Net sentiment about the sheepmeat industry has fallen from 68 sentiment points in October 2022 to 27 sentiment points in May 2023 – a fall of 40 points.

While most states remain positive, Western Australian sentiment about the industry has dropped to -48 sentiment points, meaning that more producers are feeling pessimistic about the future of the sheepmeat industry.

The surveyed producers cited their concerns about the future of the live export of sheep and potentially deteriorating seasonal conditions.

According to MLA's Market Information

Analyst Jenny Lim, while sentiment from producers declined in all states, Western Australian producers' overall sentiment declined by 90 points between October 2022 and May 2023.

"WA producers are noting that they have extra sheep on-farm, with processors working through a significant backlog and an oversupply of lambs," Ms Lim said.

The May 2023 survey had a specific focus on understanding the profile of Australia's breeding ewes and wether flocks.

Of the estimated 46 million breeding ewes on hand, Merinos made up 64 per cent of total breeding ewe flock, while first-cross sheep represented 14 per cent and prime lambs represented 12 per cent.

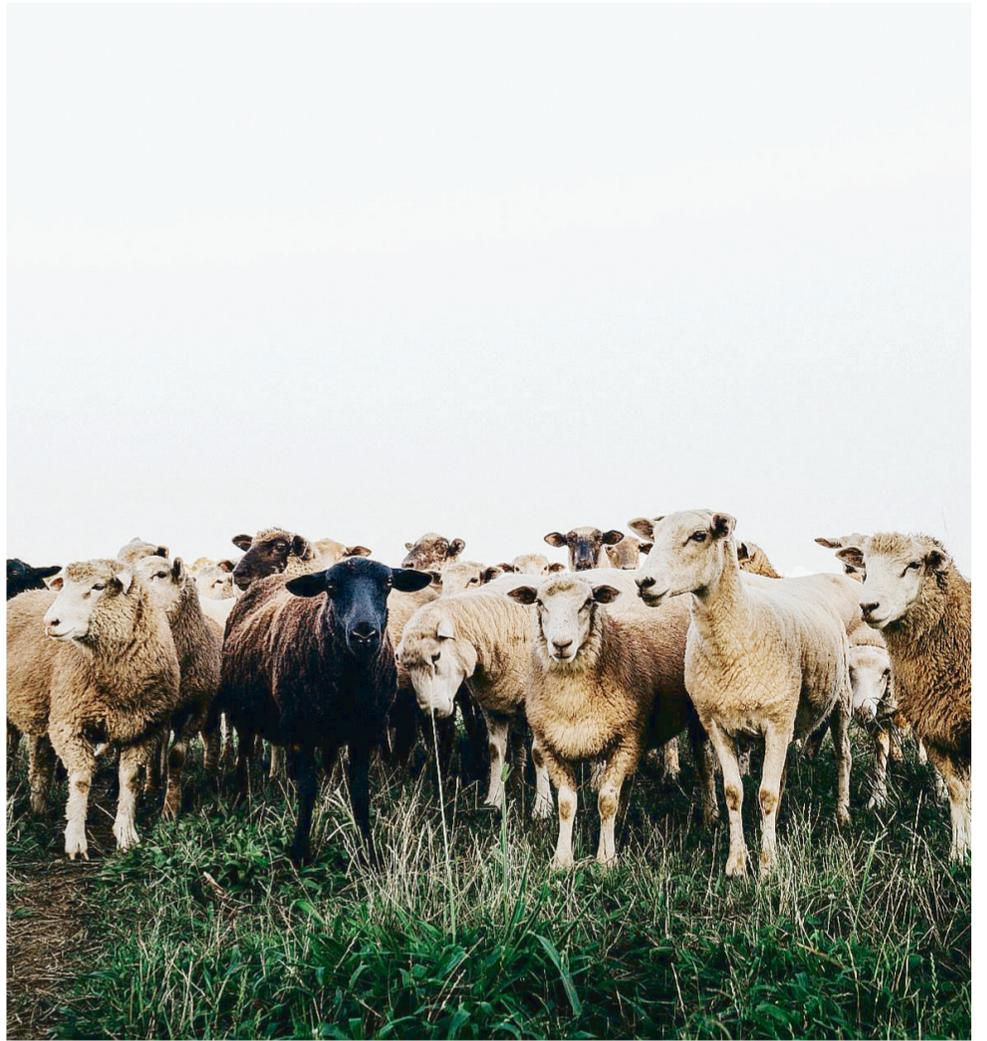
Producers in NSW, SA, Queensland and WA also have a larger proportion of Merinos, with Tasmania and Victoria reporting lower proportions.

Regarding producer intentions, there was a mixed response around their breeding ewes flock in the next 12 months:

- 30 per cent indicated they would increase their breeding ewe flock size.
- 38 per cent indicated they would remain unchanged.
- 32 per cent indicating they would decrease their breeding ewe flock size.

The growth position was stronger among producers in Queensland, although this state represents a small proportion of the overall national flock. Western Australian producers were more likely to forecast a decrease over the next 12 months.

View a full copy of the May Sheep Producers Intentions Survey at [mla.com.au/news-and-events/industry-news/producer-sentiment-in-the-sheepmeat-sector-declines-sheep-producer-intentions-survey](http://mla.com.au/news-and-events/industry-news/producer-sentiment-in-the-sheepmeat-sector-declines-sheep-producer-intentions-survey)



Picture: File

# RYEVIEW

**MONDAY 16 OCT @ 1pm**

**Free BBQ 12 Noon**

National Johne's Program

SuperBorder\$  
Measured for Profit

LAMBPLAN  
ASBV

INSPECTIONS FROM 11AM • AUCTION COMMENCES 1:00PM • TO BE HELD AT BURKHILLS LANE, MILLICENT

**60 WHITE SUFFOLK • 40 BORDER LEICESTER**

DNA backed and Vet checked

Rams presented with lamb plan figures.

Ryeview stud is an accredited brucellosis free flock 307.

Ovine Johne's map MNV3. All rams vaccinated against OJD.

4% rebate to registered outside agents.

Michael & Julie Osborne  
M | 0408 838 568  
E | [ryeview@bigpond.com](mailto:ryeview@bigpond.com)



Elders Millicent  
Scott Altschwager 0408 806 194

# More dollars from ewe lambs

JOINING ewe lambs can increase profitability by up to \$57 per ewe lamb joined – and a new tool has just become available to help producers make informed decisions to help maximise gains from the practice.

Developed by Murdoch University, Farming Systems Analysis Service and neXtgen Agri with funding from MLA, the tool provides guidance on the cost-effectiveness of joining ewe lambs as well as management strategies to maximise profitability from ewe lambs joined.

Project lead and Murdoch University's Associate Professor of Animal Science, Andrew Thompson, said the tool enables producers to put a dollar value on joining ewe lambs within their flock.

"Joining ewe lambs is not something for everyone – current adoption levels are around 5 per cent in Merino and 30% in maternal flocks. Whether it's actually cost-effective to do will vary from farm to farm and season to season," he said.

"It does give you more lambs to sell, but you've got to keep an eye on costs."

## DOUBLE THE DECISION SUPPORT

The tool has three separate functions to support decision making around joining ewe lambs at each step of the journey – all starting with whether a producer should join ewe lambs in the first place.

- Helps producers decide if they should join ewe lambs. Producers can enter details such as number of lambs weaned from their adult and hogget ewes and commodity prices, and the tool will advise if ewe lamb joining is something they should consider.
- Helps producers who have been joining for a while boost their results. Producers can enter information and current targets around seven key factors identified to influence the



Picture: File

performance of ewe lambs, such as the live-weight and age of the animal when mated. The tool then provides the producer with a dollar figure estimate of how much extra they could make by shifting their management of specific factors towards what the tool has modelled as the optimum for their

specific operating environment.

- Helps inform tactical decision making and enables producers to optimise their management of ewe lambs based on the conditions of that specific season.

## KEEPING IT SPECIFIC

With a complex range of factors affecting ewe

lamb performance when joined, the tool uses a unique method to provide the specific, tailored advice producers need to drive productivity gains.

"What's so innovative about this tool is that we have integrated whole farm economic modelling with machine learning," Associate Professor of Animal Science, Andrew Thompson, said.

"This means we can provide advice that's much more than generic advice – it's actually specific to the scenario of the individual producer using the tool."

According to co-founder and Director of neXtgen Agri, Mark Ferguson, the tool's use of machine learning will allow it to provide cost-benefit analysis and optimum management strategies for more than 500 million possible scenarios.

"The beauty of machine learning is that we can enter 2500 farm system scenarios into the tool and then it trains the algorithm to fill in the gaps between the scenarios – so it can model something very similar to your scenario in just a fraction of a second," Mark said.

"It allows you to weigh up all the 'what ifs' with more precision than just doing a few numbers on the back of an envelope."

## TIME TO TALK

Before making the decision to join their ewe lambs, neXtgen Agri's Mark Ferguson recommends producers make sure of the tools and support already available to maximise the success of their breeding season.

"Even if it looks profitable on paper to do, there's a few things you need to do well when joining ewe lambs. I encourage producers to talk to a consultant, join the Towards 90 (T90) Program or talk to someone who's already joining their ewe lambs to learn a few tricks," he said.

## Magic Eye Sheep Jetter

- Designed to improve coverage & disperse chemicals consistently, ensuring proper parasite control resulting in long-term cost effectiveness.
- Streamlined time saving process allows treatment of multiple sheep quickly and efficiently for improved productivity.
- Provides a gentle and less stressful way of applying treatments for overall animal welfare & reduces direct contact of chemical solutions to farmers.



16 Tobias St,  
Forbes NSW 2871  
(02) 6851 1611  
[www.midpro.com.au](http://www.midpro.com.au)



12622479-AP35-23

# Breeding management key

IN the seven years since Angus MacDonald diversified his sheep operation to include goats, strategic breeding management decisions have been key to driving productivity gains.

Angus runs an even split mixed Dorper sheep and goat operation on gidgee and downs country at Blackall in western Queensland. He currently runs around 1800 ewes and 1800 does.

Angus made the decision to diversify his operation from a primary Dorper sheep operation to include goats in order to create another revenue stream.

Since then, Angus has focused on implementing effective breeding management decisions over the years to achieve a more productive, profitable goat herd.

For Angus, strategic breeding management decisions have been key to driving productivity gains across his operation.

“For the most part, I treat the goats the same as my sheep. I control mate for five weeks, pregnancy scan, and supplement lactating females,” Angus said.

“We started running goats in 2016 and have used electronic identification devices (eIDs) from day one to help with herd management.

“But a big part of it has been our work on getting better genetics in the herd to ensure good structure and body condition.

“For us, that means culling out structural faults from feet to teats and type, and trying to increase the condition score.”

Angus focuses on rearing higher content Boer and Boer-cross goats to ensure that the quality is maintained and performance continues to improve.

“The goal is to achieve higher mature weaning and growth rates, and by continually improving our herd we’ve found that our weaning rates are better and growth rates are streaks in front,” Angus said.

“A focus for us is to improve the mature body rates of females, so each year we look to raise the level of joining weight of females with goats being ideally in the 50–60 kilogram weight range, and I cull out the bottom end of my mature animals.

“Female body score is important. We found a significant differential between rangeland and Boer goats, with about 50% differential in weight gain at 10 months of age, which is significant.

“When females get pregnant at such a young age, it restricts their growth to an achievable outcome, so we don’t join maidens until nine to 10 months of age,” Angus said.

Angus aims to turn off goats at a target



Western Queensland grazier, Angus MacDonald.

Picture: Angus MacDonald

weight range of 40–45 kilograms at 10–11 months of age.

## Finding value in quality bucks

Utilising quality bucks has also been a core part of improving herd productivity for Angus.

“When selecting bucks, critical factors we look at are weight for age, structure, type and confirmation, attitude, and scrotal circumference,” Angus said.

“I have a pretty good feel for what we’re looking for, but to help us out, most of the genetic information we use to identify quality bucks for breeding is morphology.

“We undergo morphology testing on our males, so we can keep a number of bucks from my own program.

“I learnt through morphology testing that quality and quantity of semen is different, with some not being sexually mature.

“I know there are many who don’t do this testing, largely because goats have a reputation for being fertile, but I learn a lot through it and it’s worth it in my opinion. Then if they don’t perform, they’re culled.

“Say I keep 100 bucks, after 90 days, I’ll go through and cull. Out of that you might only end up with 15–20 that are worthy.

“Along the way, I’ve noticed that goats can have structural issues up to 15–16 months of

age such as developing bad feet as they grow, so we reassess at this stage, and cull if we spot any issues.

“This is one of the main reasons that I don’t really go with stock sales, because there isn’t that clarity over genetics.

“That being said, there are some bucks we do buy at studs, but until recently, I struggled with what was on offer.

“I am particular about feeding, not wanting them to be supplementary fed, I prefer to use quality bucks from our own operation that have been paddock born and raised, so that we’re breeding and retaining our own quality genetics.”

This increased focus on herd development has reaped benefits on-farm for Angus.

“We’re getting a fleshier animal, a more consistent article, and are achieving a marketable weight range in a shorter time frame, which as we know, is critical to driving profit.”

## Lessons along the way

When first diversifying into goats, Angus engaged a consultant to learn about best practice.

“We used consultants for the first three years of running goats, but really it was just a fair bit of trial and error. We implemented changes, evaluated outcomes, and did a lot of online research,” Angus said.

“And where we could, we implemented a similar regime to what we do with the sheep operation – joining for five weeks and then weaning at 14 weeks of age.

“There have been a lot of lessons along the way. A few years ago, we tried running sheep and goats together and I joined them as one, but my conception rate in the Dorpers was way down, and goat conception was basically 0–10% so I realised I had to split to join.”

Angus said those looking to get into the goat industry or boost the performance of their herd, should get along to information days and ask producers who have been in the industry for a while for advice.

“Compared to other livestock groups, there isn’t a lot of information out there about goats. So go along to field days, goat days, information sessions, and BredWell FedWell sessions where you can. I’m a big believer and pursuer of those type of events,” Angus said.

“And understand your selection criteria to get the most of out of your herd.

“There’s so little data out there about goats compared to sheep, and a dire need for more information to be available for the stability of the goat industry, so people can invest with security. So, chat to your neighbour, head to information sessions, and seek as much information as you can.”

## La Trobe announces a new institute

GOVERNMENT ministers and key agricultural science stakeholders were briefed on 8 August at Parliament House, on La Trobe University’s newly announced Institute for Sustainable Agriculture and Food (LISAF).

LISAF director, Professor Tony Bacic, was joined by La Trobe University Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Dewar AO, in Canberra to discuss the importance of the new institute to ensuring Australia’s future food security and maintaining the competitiveness of the Australian farming sector.

“The new La Trobe Institute for Sustainable Agriculture and Food sits within our world-class Research and Innovation Precinct, a core component of our University City of the Future, and connects closely with agriculture, food and nutrition infrastructure and expertise - and with exceptional industry links across the wider agriculture, food and health and wellness sectors,” Professor Dewar said.

“LISAF is a paddock-to-gut initiative, underpinned by large research collaborations

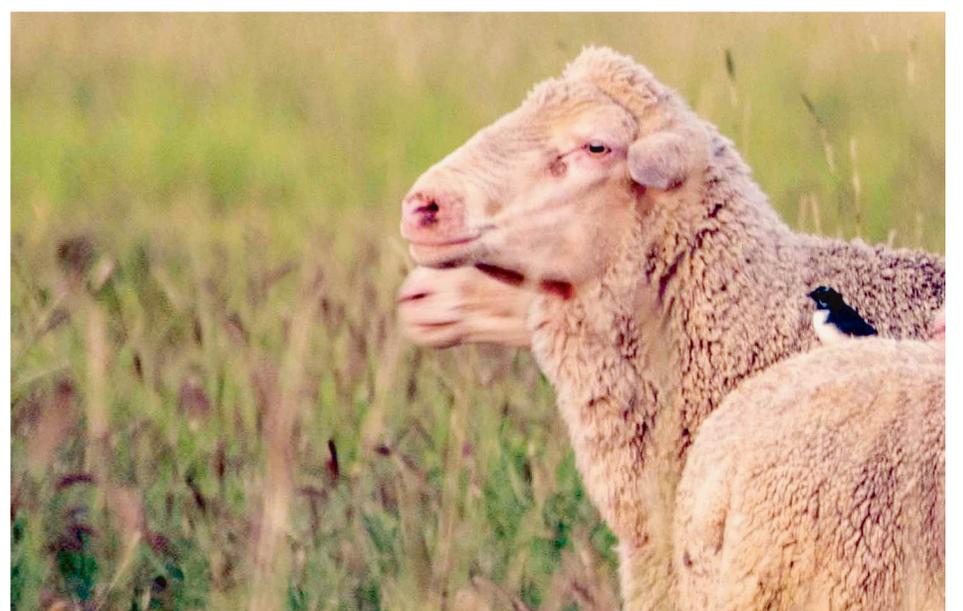
that La Trobe has with industry.”

According to Professor Bacic, LISAF’s programs aim to deliver quality food and plant-based medicines to consumers; real competitive advantages to industry, and climate resilience and value-add to agricultural outputs for the nation.

“At a time when Australia and the world face real issues of food insecurity, a world-class centre devoted to improving the quality, nutritional value and climate resilience of our global agricultural system has never been more needed; LISAF will be at the forefront of that,” Professor Bacic said.

LISAF will consist of five research areas, each supported through at least one major externally funded Centre, Hub, Collaborative Research Centre, Centre of Excellence or similar. The five areas are:

- Farming Systems - Soils and Agronomy.
- Protected Cropping, Medicinal Agriculture and Horticulture.
- Fit-for-Purpose Seeds.
- Food, Nutrition and Health.
- Food Business and Digital Agriculture.



Picture: File

# Ministers come to accord

THE agriculture sector's leading role in tackling climate change has been reinforced, following the release of a new National Statement on Climate Change and Agriculture, agreed by the nation's agriculture ministers.

Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Murray Watt said the national statement is an Australian first.

"This national statement is a shared commitment by federal, state and territory agriculture ministers to provide leadership and work in partnership with our agriculture sector, so that Australia leads the world in climate-smart agriculture practices," Minister Watt said. "This statement is a snapshot of where Australia's ag industry is at now, and a clear-eyed assessment of future work that needs to be done.

"A climate-smart, sustainable agriculture sector will help make farming more productive and profitable, better protect our environment, increase access to international markets and strengthen our rural communities. There are emerging opportunities to act on climate change in the agricultural sector and this statement clearly demonstrates that we have the means and the will to get there.

"ABARES modelling shows that over the last 20 years, climate change has reduced the average Australian farm's profitability by 23 per cent. And ten years of delay and dysfunction on climate policy from the former Liberal-National Government has only added to that cost. Rather than holding our agriculture sector back, we are getting on with the job of dealing with the reality of climate change and this statement is more evidence of that."

Minister Watt said while the former government refused to accept climate change was real, the agricultural industry has not been idle.



Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Murray Watt said the national statement is an Australian first. Picture: Aap Image/Lukas Coch

"We know Australia's farmers are already incorporating sustainable, climate-smart practices into their businesses," Minister Watt said. "Figures published last week by ABARES showed that farmers are adapting and adopting new technologies and practices to deal with the effects of climate change," he said in July. "The industry's peak bodies, like the National Farmers Federation, Meat and Livestock Australia, the Red Meat Advisory Council and GrainGrowers, have all committed to reducing agricultural emissions, but there is still more work to do.

"We want to see agricultural production continue to rise, and this will be enabled by using climate-smart agricultural practices that improve adaptation and resilience in the face of a changing climate. Having the Federal, State and Territory Governments all rowing in the same direction is another step forward, to protect and grow our ag sector, in the face of climate change."

Minister Watt said the Federal Government's May budget included funding for specific programs to help producers reduce the impacts of climate change on their businesses.

"We're investing more than \$300 million through the Natural Heritage Trust to support farmers to improve agricultural productivity, competitiveness and sustainability across the country. Through effective on-ground projects, we will support farmers to manage climate risks and invest in their on-farm natural capital and effective natural resources management. This will help the sector to respond to climate change, better withstand future bushfires, floods and droughts and protect its productivity.

"These shared efforts between governments and industry, focused on a climate-smart, sustainable sector will help make farming more productive and profitable. It will better protect our environment, increase access to international markets and strengthen our farming communities. By providing an opportunity for national collaboration that drives change and underpins climate-smart practices it allows the industry to ensure that the future of agriculture will be as prosperous as possible."

## Farmers welcome first statement

Farmers for Climate Action welcomed the first National Statement on Climate Change and Agriculture.

Farmers for Climate Action, which represents 8000 farmers across Australia, had previously called for a National Plan on Climate Change and Agriculture, most recently with its report Farming Forever. The report outlines the need for a national plan and key policies that can support farmers to cut their emissions and increase farm productivity.

The new statement is an important first step to achieving this and commits all governments to work with Australia's farmers to help "Australia achieve its full potential as a world-leading, climate-smart producer and

exporter".

Farmers for Climate Action board director Brett Hosking, who runs a mixed farming operation in Victoria's Mallee region, said there were three particularly encouraging elements in the statement.

"There's a commitment to make farm climate policies more consistent across Australia, a commitment to seek out opportunities presented to farmers by a low emissions future, and a commitment to pursue fair, free and open trade in agriculture to support emissions reductions. We don't want our farmers to miss out on the huge opportunities a low-emissions economy creates. We know some of the big overseas markets which buy our farm produce are pushing us to do better on emissions and biodiversity, and this is a reality which must be met head-on. Farmers are leading on emissions reduction and it's time coal and gas companies seriously reduced their emissions - and not just by buying offsets from farmers. Farmers can't reduce Australia's emissions all on our own. Floods, drought and fires made worse by climate change are sending insurance costs through the roof. On my farm, we're staring down the barrel of an El Niño right now.

"Farmers for Climate Action calls on all agriculture ministers to keep these important commitments to combine efforts and resources to support Australia's farmers to adapt to a changing climate whilst growing on-farm productivity. We will be watching closely. Honouring these commitments will help ensure Australian farmers continue to provide Australians and customers abroad with the cleanest, safest and most nutritional food in the world. We have the opportunity to tackle the key driver of climate change and make deep emissions reductions in this decisive decade. It's time to take that opportunity."





## DEEP WATER BORDER LEICESTER ANNUAL RAM SALE

Friday 6 October 2023  
2.00pm (SA time)



**ON PROPERTY** | RALPHS ROAD BINNUM SA  
LUNCH & INSPECTION FROM 12.00PM

**ALL RAMS  
MICRON  
TESTED**



**CATALOGUE** | AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER  
ONLINE : [WWW.RAMS4EWE.COM.AU](http://WWW.RAMS4EWE.COM.AU)

SALE INTERGRATED WITH





Measured for Profit





4% Rebate to outside agents introduced in writing 24 hours prior to sale

160 BORDER LEICESTER RAMS

Josh 0407 642 565

Brucellosis accredited and MN3V | Delivery available

**AGENTS:**



**Richard Jennings**  
0428 616 554



**Ali Haynes**  
0439 350 252

# Livestock producers helped

ELECTRONIC identification for livestock will be rolled out, with the state government pledging funds in the 2023-2024 budget.

The package will support critical infrastructure across the supply chain and provide eID tag subsidies for livestock producers.

The eID system for sheep and goats is vital for improved traceability, enabling a quick and efficient biosecurity response if a disease such as Foot and Mouth occurs in Australia.

It would also ensure that recovery from an outbreak would be quicker and the path to re-gaining overseas market access would be shorter.

South Australia's livestock industry is a key economic contributor to the state which supports 21,000 South Australian jobs, across red meat and wool industries.

The Malinauskas Labor Government's package is in addition to the Federal Government's contribution, which together will help sheep and goat producers transition to the new system with a national start date of 1 January 2025.

Stage one of the investment involves a 50 per cent per tag subsidy in 2023-24 and 2024-25 for newborn lambs and kids, to encourage early adoption that aligns with the national start date. Essential infrastructure required for implementation of eID across the supply chain will be subsidised by 75 per cent.

The State Government will be working with industry to prepare for the second stage, which will involve a requirement for all sheep and goats leaving property to be tagged with eID by January 1, 2027.

Adopting a national approach to the individual tracking of sheep and goats will improve South Australia's world-leading livestock traceability systems and ensure they remain fit for purpose.

For more information visit: <https://pir.sa.gov.au/eid>

Treasurer Stephen Mullighan said the package will support South Australian producers by delivering subsidies for individual eID tags and assist producers, processors, saleyards, agents, feedlots, depots, and ag shows to install critical infrastructure required to support the implementation of eIDs.

"Access to export markets is critical to the success of Australia's sheep and goat industries," he said.

Minister for primary industries and regional development Clare Scriven said the investment prepares South Australia for the best re-



Minister Clare Scriven with vice president of Livestock SA Allan Piggot, and CEO of Livestock SA Travis Tobin.

covery if there is an emergency animal disease outbreak (EAD).

"The faster and more accurately animals are traced, the faster we can respond to and recover from a disease outbreak such as foot and mouth disease (FMD)," he said.

"Moving from the current visual tag approach to eID for sheep and goats will greatly improve the accuracy and efficiency of livestock traceability.

"This reform will strengthen our growing

livestock industry which in turn, strengthens South Australia's regional communities."

Vice President Allan Piggot, Livestock SA said they were pleased that the State Government has listened to industry and made the initial funding commitment to assist the transition towards the 1 January 2025 implementation date.

"We have always supported equitable funding across the supply chain to assist with the infrastructure requirements and been firm

that the government recognise that producers will bear the majority of the costs associated with a mandatory eID system. The commitment to cover 50 per cent of the cost of eID tags for the two years will help producers ensure lambs to be retained for breeding stock are only handled once.

We will continue to work with the State Government on the second stage of implementation, due in 2027, and the support that will be required to enable a full transition.

## New EDGE to help achieve less carbon

MEAT and Livestock Australia is launching a new program called Carbon EDGE for Australian red meat producers, an addition to the industry's well-known EDGE network training program including Business EDGE, Breeding EDGE, Nutrition EDGE and Grazing Land Management EDGE.

The red meat industry's target to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 (CN30) will only be realised with the adoption of emissions avoidance and carbon storage practices and technologies.

Although there is wide interest in these practices and technologies, producers have indicated that they are looking for more information to make sense of the options available to them and how these could be applied within their businesses.

According to MLA's Program Manager for Adoption Sally Leigo, the development of a Carbon EDGE training package will address the knowledge and skill gap.

"This will be done by providing producers across Australia with the knowledge and skills required to generate and interpret a carbon account and formulate a customised plan to address emissions and production benefits at an enterprise level," said Ms Leigo.

Carbon EDGE will run over two days and will provide independent, research and



fact-based information.

Carbon EDGE has been developed by industry, for industry. The product has been developed by a Working Group of producers, advisors, and technical experts from across Australia.

MLA's Carbon Neutral 2030 (CN30) Manager, Margaret Jewell, notes that the workshops were developed following in-depth discussions and feedback from producers.

"Carbon EDGE will integrate the outcomes from our major sustainability investments, keeping participants up to date with emerging research and technologies," Dr Jewell said.

"These workshops will respond to the enquiries that we at MLA are getting from the industry about what this all means at an individual business level.

"Adoption at this level is imperative if we

are going to move forward as a sustainable industry."

The program is for grassfed beef, sheep and goat producers who are looking to build on their understanding of carbon.

The program will help participants develop their understanding of carbon and move into a planning and action phase, identifying practices and technologies that could be incorporated into their business to benefit their bottom line and the environment.

It is also suitable for advisors and other service providers looking to enhance their understanding of the current operating environment.

"Five pilot workshops for Carbon EDGE will be delivered throughout Australia to seek feedback and further input from producers," Ms Leigo said.

Pilot workshops are planned to take place from August 2023, with full roll out of the program in 2024."

The pilot workshops will be held in Central Victoria, Western New South Wales, Central Queensland, Southern Western Australia and the fifth location will be confirmed in August 2023.

Register an Expression of Interest to participate in the pilot workshops. Availability for pilot workshops will be limited.

Find out more at CarbonEDGE

# National flock at 78.5 million

THE national sheep flock has grown to its highest level since 2007 at 78.75m head, according to the latest Sheep Industry Projections update from Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA), released earlier this year.

Driving this increase are optimal breeding conditions nationwide, a genetically superior flock, improved lambing percentages and medium-term industry confidence at the farm gate level.

Growth is forecast across all states in 2023, with larger improvements in flock numbers expected from South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania. The key sheep producing states of New South Wales and Victoria are also forecast to lift numbers, although not as significantly as other states.

In 2024, the national flock's growth is projected to moderate and plateau, reaching 79.5 million head, a rise of 1 per cent, or 750,000 head year-on-year. While in 2025, the national flock is estimated to fall to 2023 levels, although it will remain above the 10-year average.

According to senior market information analyst at MLA, Ripley Atkinson, the growth of the national flock in 2023 will lead to increased slaughter numbers and production.

"Lamb slaughter is forecast to reach 22.6m in 2023 as a result of large numbers of breeding ewes and strong marking rates. This is a rise of 595,000 head or 2.7 per cent year-on-year," Mr Atkinson said earlier this year.

"2022's slaughter performance showed that small stock processors had a greater ability to increase their throughput in line with higher supply, a trend MLA expects will continue in 2023.

"Looking further ahead to 2024, we forecast it to be a record year for lamb slaughter, reaching 23.2m head. This would be a rise of 3 per



Overall, Australia's sheep industry is in an exciting position of continued growth and development, according to the MLA.

cent, or 560,000 year-on-year and higher by 1.1m head or 5 per cent on the 10-year average," said Mr Atkinson.

Carcase weights are also forecast to increase in 2023. This is primarily due to structural genetic investment and productive improvement in the national flock over the past two years.

In 2023, lamb carcase weights are forecast to remain high at 25.1kg. This would be 11 per cent, or 2.5kg/head, above the 10-year average. This is despite weather forecasts suggesting drier conditions will occur in the second half of 2023.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has forecast that the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) will enter a positive phase in 2023. A positive IOD results in less rain across southern Australia, where most of Australia's sheep population is located.

As the second largest sheepmeat exporter in the world, New Zealand plays an important role in the global lamb and mutton market. However, according to Mr Atkinson, a decline in the New Zealand sheep flock size presents an opportunity for the Australian sheepmeat industry.

"New Zealand, like Australia, has good market access, quality assurance schemes and a strong reputation internationally meaning that they are an international competitor to Australian lamb and mutton.

"However, new opportunities may be made available to Australian producers and exporters as New Zealand flock size decreases, wool and lamb production become less profitable compared to dairy production, and land availability decreases.

"In recent years, successive Australian Governments have made considerable strides in gaining European market access, with talks

ongoing for an Australia (AU)-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the AU-UK FTA signed in December 2021.

"As New Zealand sheepmeat exports have increasingly shifted away from Europe, and towards China, improved opportunities for Australian sheepmeat in European markets may continue," said Mr Atkinson.

Overall, Australia's sheep industry is in an exciting position of continued growth and development, with local production and the flock forecast set to rise, while global demand for high quality sheepmeat in established and emerging markets continues.

The industry's ability to continue to deliver high quality protein and be a world-leading producer will define 2023 as a positive and optimistic year.

View a full copy of MLA's 2023 Sheep Industry Projections at [bit.ly/3jXcXhg](http://bit.ly/3jXcXhg)



Barry Maney GROUP



## MEET JACK GAZZARD

Our newest Kenworth/DAF Sales Consultant

Jack has worked at BMG for over four years and over that time has proven himself to be a dedicated and accomplished team member.

He completed his apprenticeship and became a qualified truck technician in June and is now transitioning into truck sales.

Jack's technical knowledge will be a huge asset in his new role as a Kenworth / DAF Sales Consultant in which we know he will develop and thrive.

Well done Jack and we look forward to your growth and development at BMG!

## TRUCK SALES



Jim Cornolo  
0407 722 145



Rob Angus  
0484 318 591



Michael Biasibetti  
0407 088 874



Jack Gazzard  
0408 062 938



## FINANCE



Nic Lattin  
08 8721 3400



Jason Edwards  
0427 656 674

Nic Lattin and Jason Edwards, working in conjunction with a variety of Finance offerings including PACCAR Financial Services and also with Hino Financial Services can tailor a finance package to suit your business requirements for your new or used truck purchase.



It's nice to go to someone who Cares

199 Jubilee Hwy West, Mount Gambier, 08 8721 3400 | 987 Raglan Parade, Warrnambool, 03 5560 5477 | 141 Stawell Rd, Horsham, P. 03 5382 6110

# Willswood a cut above rest

By Sophie Conlon

MUNDULLA'S Willswood Farm, run by the Williams family, was named JBS Australia's Great Southern Lamb Producer of the Year recently.

Tim Williams said it was very exciting and humbling to win the award for a second time.

"There were 500 of the top beef and lamb producers in Australia that sell through JBS, so it was very exciting to be in a room with all those people and then to actually win it was very humbling," he said.

He said producers had been judged on several criteria, like loyalty and lamb weights, over a year and they were lucky to come out on top.

"It gives us confidence that we are on the right track, producing the product that the lamb companies are after," he said.

As part of their winnings, Willswood was given a \$10,000 travel voucher and Mr Williams said the generous prize would be put to good use.

When they last won the award in 2018 Mr Williams said they were given a similar prize and were able to travel to Japan to see how the lamb and export market worked there.

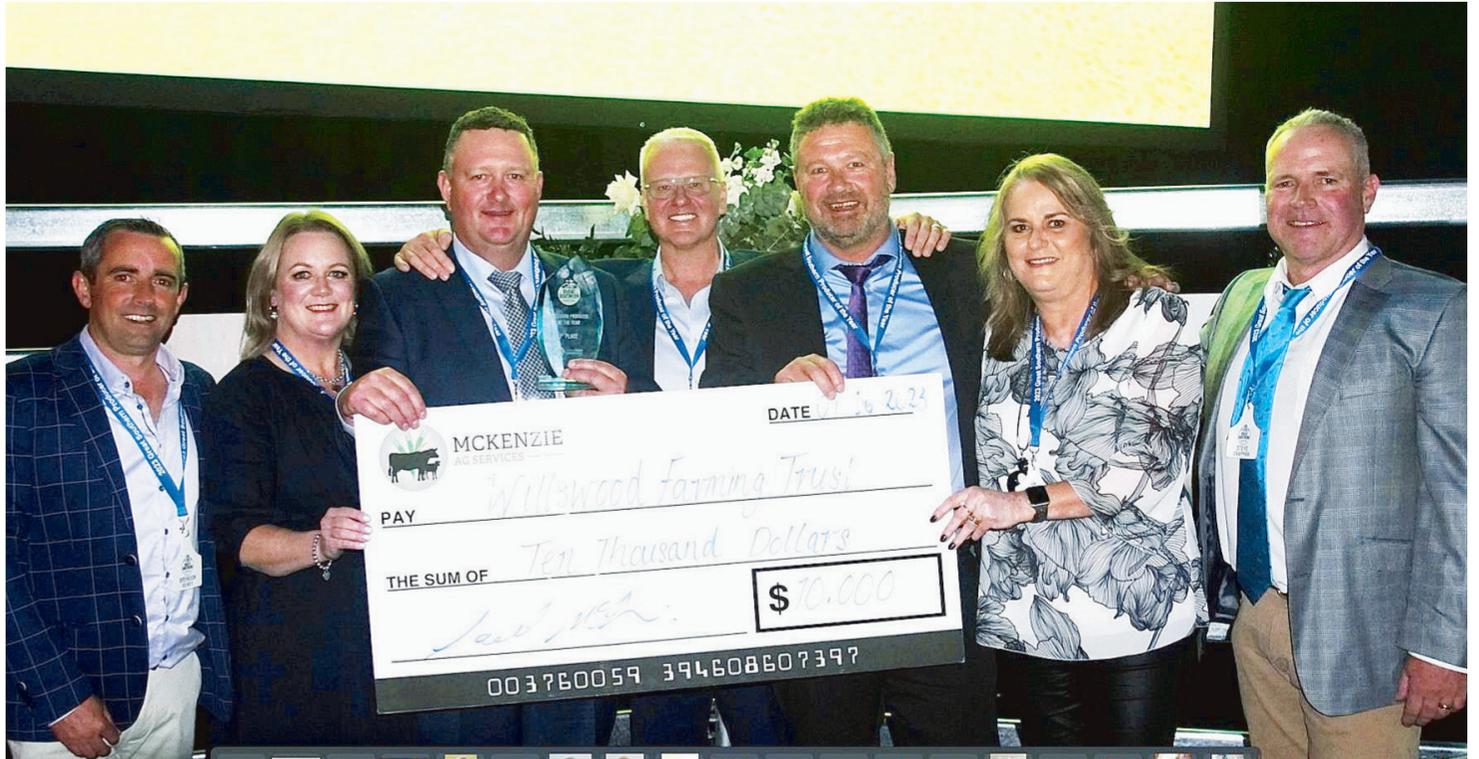
Mr Williams said he believed there were several reasons for their success, one being the farm was so close to the Bordertown JBS plant.

"We actually walk our lambs in, we don't have to have the freight component, and there's probably less stress on the lambs walking them in," he said.

"Being so close, if they need a few extra lambs they can just call us and we can supply them if we've got them."

Another factor Mr Williams thought contributed to their success was supplementing their lambs feed with the families own Willswood Pellets.

"We've got our own Willswood Pellets, we



Willswood Farms' Greg, Toni, Josie and Tim Williams accepting their award from JBS Southern division COO Sam McConnell, livestock manager Steve Chapman and buyer Brendon Geary during Friday night's Great Southern ten-year anniversary celebration. Picture: Jon Condon/Sheep Central

make and manufacture stockfeed pellets and our lambs are supplemented on them as well as the green grass," he said.

"We auto-draft and auto-weigh our lambs all the time to make sure we get them in the right bracket that JBS are after."

Mr Williams said the family was committed to staying with JBS and continuing to put out quality lamb products.

"We are very loyal to JBS, they're a great company and I don't think we'll be going anywhere else with our lambs," he said.

JBS Southern livestock manager Steve Chapman said Great Southern worked closely with producers to ensure a product that is of the best eating quality through great care in hand-selecting and rearing livestock.

"Great Southern has a fantastic relationship with its farmers, who have shown enormous commitment to our Farm Assurance Program," he said.

"This commitment allows us to consistently deliver a product that tastes exceptional and is better for the consumer, the farmer,

and the planet.

"We can be assured of our claims to be 100 per cent grass fed and finished, free range, ABF free, GMO free and HGP free because of the rigorous standards set by our Farm Assurance program."

The awards were held in conjunction with a industry conference which featured a Meat Standards Australia (MSA) grading session.

The event also featured workshops, seminars, industry updates and insights, live boning techniques and chefs demonstrations.

## MLA notes industry sustainability cred

MEAT and Livestock Australia (MLA) has launched a new report highlighting the sustainability credentials and achievements of the Australian red meat and livestock industry from the last 12 months.

The Sustainability Impact Report for 2023 has highlighted major industry achievements in sustainability. This includes industry's ongoing reduction in methane emissions, the release of new tools to help producers manage pasture for productivity and sustainability, and an ongoing commitment to successful integrity systems and biosecurity.

The Sustainability Impact report's purpose is to highlight MLA's sustainability focused programs and projects that have achieved significant outcomes over the past 12 months and have supported the industry's progress in demonstrating its sustainability performance.

MLA's Managing Director, Jason Strong, explained all of industry's investments must be evidence-based and scientifically proven and contribute to building the economic, environmental and social capacity of our stakeholders and supply chains.

"As custodians to over half the nation's land mass, producers are exposed to extreme weather and climate change, so sustainability is at the core of our industry," Mr Strong said.

"The industry's commitment to sustainability helps to meet the needs of our customers, consumers and community, and to building trade access and robust markets for our products."

### Sustainability and environment

MLA's Sustainability Impact Report highlights the continued success of the carbon neutral by 2030 program (CN30), where in 2020, the Australian red meat sector reduced carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions by 64.8 per cent since the 2005 baseline.



Meat & Livestock Australia has launched its Sustainability Impact Report for 2023.

This is a reduction in industry's proportion of national greenhouse gas emissions from 22 per cent in 2005 to 10.3 per cent in 2020.

In addition, 68.5 per cent of Australian natural resource management regions are achieving above healthy ground cover thresholds, protecting soil health and maintaining ecosystem services.

The Australian Beef Sustainability Framework (ABSF) also set the blueprint for the Greenham Beef Sustainability Standard.

The Sheep Sustainability Framework

(SSF) garnered strong support at its inaugural stakeholder engagement events, the industry forum and external stakeholder consultative committee forum.

### Technologies and adoption

MLA's investment in producer adoption focuses on latest technology and science to increase the uptake of on-farm research and development (R&D) by producers.

The primary focus is ensuring producers follow best practice management across all areas of on-farm management.

Major highlights include the launch of the

Digitised greenhouse gas calculator to help producers set up carbon accounts and the launch of the world-first Australian Feedbase Monitor tool, which is supporting more than 1900 producers (covering 2400 farms) with their grazing management decisions.

### Biosecurity and animal welfare

In a year that featured concerns around the potential incursion of exotic animal diseases into Australia, MLA developed a series of technologies that strengthen Australian farm biosecurity and ensure transparency.

Importantly, Australia remains free of exotic diseases that affect livestock including foot and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease.

MLA is investing in Australia's first mRNA vaccine, which would enable rapid mass production of a vaccine for lumpy skin disease once registered for use in Australia, should a vaccine be required.

MLA's subsidiary company Integrity Systems Company (ISC) also released its eNVD Livestock Consignments app this year. The app overcomes connectivity issues by using QR codes to transfer consignment details from producer to transporter, saleyard, feedlot and to the processor, saving time and preventing errors.

"This report highlights the breadth and depth of sustainability investments across MLA's programs, priorities and projects," Mr Strong said.

"It tells the story of how MLA's sustainability programs have delivered significant outcomes and impacts over the last 12 months, especially when it comes to supporting our stakeholders to demonstrate their sustainability credentials.

"The industry can be very proud of its ongoing commitment to sustainability," Mr Strong said.

Find a full copy of the MLA Sustainability Impact report 2023 on the website.



Picture: File

# Livestock SA backs initial funds boost

LIVESTOCK SA has welcomed the State Government's announcement of key dates and the associated initial \$9.3 million funding package, to assist producers and the broader industry start the transition towards mandatory sheep and goat eID in South Australia by January 2025.

Livestock SA vice president, Allan Piggott said the organisation was pleased that the State Government has listened to industry in making its phase 1 commitment, which together with the Federal Government contribution, will assist the initial transition towards the 1 January 2025 'go live' date.

"Confirmation that South Australia will adopt a staged implementation provides much needed certainty for businesses to plan and a more realistic timeline to work towards," Mr Piggott said in June.

"The non negotiables for Livestock SA in any commitment were equitable funding across the supply chain to help cover the cost of installing essential infrastructure and recognition that producers will bear the majority of the costs associated with a mandatory eID system.

"Under this phase 1 package, the commitment to cover 50 per cent of the cost of eID devices for the next two years will help producers start to prepare their breeding flocks and herds for January 2027, when all farmed sheep and goat movements will require eID.

"We also thank the Minister for recognising that some producers have already started tagging 2023 drop future breeding lambs and kids so they only need to handle stock once, with the tag rebate applying from 1 January 2023.

"We support the 75 per cent contribution towards essential eID infrastructure across the supply chain as everyone needs to have some skin in the game. For most producers it will be business as usual, as they will not need equipment to read tags, just the tags and an applicator.

"We will continue to work with the State Government on the second stage of implementation and the support that will be required to enable a full transition to a mandatory eID system in South Australia."



## Key dates:

- **1 January 2025:** All sheep and managed goats born on or after this date will require an eID device before leaving their birth property. Sheep and managed goats born before 1 January 2025 do not need eID to be sold during 2025 and 2026.
- **1 January 2027:** All sheep and managed goats leaving property, irrespective of age,

will require an eID device.

- **Tag rebate:** Designed for breeding stock that will be retained to avoid doubling handling post 1 January 2027. Terminal lambs and kids do not need an eID device for the next 2 years (only after 1 January 2025).

For more information, visit the Livestock SA website on eID: [livestocksa.org.au/eid](http://livestocksa.org.au/eid)

## SFO meeting in SA

LEADERS from the nation's state farming organisations - NSW Farmers, Livestock SA, Victorian Farmers Federation, AgForce Queensland, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, WA Farmers and the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA - met recently in Adelaide and online to discuss reforms to sheep and goat traceability announced by Agriculture Ministers last year.

### It was agreed to achieve a harmonised approach that:

- State and federal governments need to invest increased funding to financially assist producers to transition to individual electronic identification to meet state government implementation requirements. Education for producers should be included in this funding.
- Continued efforts by industry and governments to reduce producer costs associated with electronic identification infrastructure and devices.
- The need for the National Livestock Identification System database to have the required capability and capacity to handle increased data prior to states commencing mandatory electronic identification, and this includes to ensure that the user interface is accessible and usable by producers.
- Support Goat Industry Council of Australia (GICA) recommendations for traceability

After such a productive meeting, attendees agreed to hold another meeting of SFO representatives in August to progress these issues.

## Live export talks over

CONSULTATION to help inform how and when to phase out live sheep exports by sea has largely been completed, according to the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

The National Farmers' Federation said the report acknowledges the significant impacts on sheep and cattle producers, the wool industry, broadacre cropping, other businesses in the supply chain, wellbeing, communities, animal welfare, trade markets and more.

The panel has found the "overwhelming majority of those people who attended our public meetings voiced their opposition to the government's decision", the NFF said in late July.

It also found the "discussing the policy and its potential impacts on livelihoods has been unsettling for many people".

This sentiment was reflected in three separate analyses recently released by Rabobank, jointly by Australian Wool Innovation and Meat and Livestock Australia, and Voconiq, according to the NFF.

Further, the NFF says it stands with 24 other peak agriculture bodies and farmers across Australia to oppose the ban or any process to phase out the trade.

"We knew [the] majority of the community was behind us and this should be a reality check for the government," said NFF president, Fiona Simson.

"The government now needs to make a choice, will it support Australian farmers and regional communities or radical activists pushing vexatious and misleading agendas?"

"We've said from the beginning this is a red line issue for all of Australian agriculture.

"Let's now see a red line drawn through this policy so farmers can get back to what they do best - producing food and fibre for Australia and the world."

295 Commercial Street West,  
 Mount Gambier  
**Phone: (08) 8725 2155**

WE OFFER C-SECTION DOMESTIC SHEDS, PERGOLAS, CAR PORTS, GARAGE DOORS, PANEL LIFT DOORS, AUTOMATION, AND SERVICING.



**Thomson Bilt** is a locally owned company established in 2013. We manufacture and install hay sheds, yard covers, machinery sheds and all other industrial and commercial projects. We service The Southeast of South Australia and Western Victoria.

We offer structural steel, hot dipped galvanised and customised sheds to suit your individual needs.

Proudly supporting local suppliers.

Planning is made easy with our 24 hour turn around free measure and quote.

We offer council lodgement, concrete, supply and install. We do it all.

Call us on 1800 624 351 or come and see us at 295 Commercial Street West.

Our sheds are more than just sheds.

**IF YOU SIGN UP FOR A 3 or 4 BAY HAYSHED/MACHINERY SHED FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST & SEPTEMBER WE GUARANTEE THAT YOUR SHED WILL BE MANUFACTURED & BUILD 3 MONTHS AFTER COUNCIL APPROVAL.**

**PROUDLY SUPPORTING  
 OUR LOCAL SUPPLIERS**