

WINTER 2011

# SHEEP HEALTH AND WELFARE UPDATE

WOOLPRODUCERS  
AUSTRALIA

Welcome to the winter edition of the WoolProducers Australia (WPA) sheep health and welfare update. We hope you enjoy receiving our publication and please feel free to contact the WPA office if you have any questions on any of the stories in this edition of the newsletter.

WPA is the peak national body for the wool producing industry in Australia. We are the national voice on behalf of producers, advocating their interests to the Commonwealth and industry stakeholders in Australia and abroad. WPA develops and advocates policy, and represents the industry on issues as diverse as trade, animal health and welfare, research and development, marketing, accountability of grower funds, taxation and compulsory levies, climate change and industrial relations.

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## GET THE LATEST VERSION OF THE NATIONAL WOOL DECLARATION

The NWD Version 4.0 was released in March this year after the completion of the NWD Review, which occurs annually and looks at all aspects of the NWD including the document itself and the NWD – Integrity Program (NWD-IP). The latest Review closed for submission on the 29th of October, 2010.

AWEX received 15 written submissions, with many of these asking for changes to be kept to a minimum given that the use of NWDs is increasing.

This is the fourth review of the NWD and the AWEX Board has accepted a number of recommendations from the Industry Services Advisory Committee (ISAC).

The key changes to the NWD are as follows:

1. A combined Classer's Specification and NWD be developed to help align the declared mob information with the lines of wool produced at shearing. This documentation will be available in both portrait and landscape orientations to fit with individual broker's preferences.

A separate page NWD is still available for brokers who do not wish to change their Classer's Specification.

2. A change to the wording of the Ceased Mulesing property question. The revised wording (see dot point below) highlights the definition of Ceased Mulesing and removes ambiguities for those who have never mulesed.

- "Does this property qualify for **Ceased Mulesing** Status? Yes or No".

For further information on the NWD or to download the latest version please visit: [www.awex.com.au/publications/national-wool-declaration-nwd.html](http://www.awex.com.au/publications/national-wool-declaration-nwd.html) or contact WoolProducers.



WPA President,  
Don Hamblin

## UPDATING PRODUCERS ON INNOVATION, PROMOTION AND NATIONAL ISSUES

Over 40 wool growers attended a forum hosted by WoolProducers Australia and supported by the Victorian Farmers Federation in Ballarat on April 20.

Representatives from a number of leading wool organisations spoke on the day including Rob Langtry from AWI, AWEX's Mark Graves, James Rowe and David Tester from the Sheep CRC, Greg Weller from WPA and Chris Nixon from VFF.

WPA President Don Hamblin described the day 'as an opportunity for producers to hear the latest industry information presented by a number of key industry people.'

'The day also enabled producers to have their say on issues that are currently affecting them.' Mr Hamblin said.

Attendees were updated on a number of matters affecting the wool industry including animal health and welfare issues such as OJD and mulesing.

The day was deemed a success and WoolProducers look forward to partnering with other organisations to conduct future events aimed at educating and informing producers of the happenings in your industry.

## DECISION TIME LOOMING FOR THE FUTURE OF OJD MANAGEMENT

The current National OJD Management Program is due to finish in 30 June, 2012 and industry will have to decide what form the program will take after that date. In order to assist in these deliberations a review of the current program has been undertaken by Joan Lloyd Consultancy.

To date WPA has had input into the review focused on the animal health policies applied to the management and control of the disease in different regions of Australia and the success or otherwise, of the various approaches undertaken in the states and prevalence areas in meeting the aims of the National OJD Management Plan. In particular industries seek information to:

- Determine the relative success, merits and limitations of approaches adopted regionally for the control or exclusion of OJD.
- Identify key gaps in our current understanding of the effectiveness of OJD control and prevention.
- Identify any specific applied research projects that could enhance current understanding on OJD.
- Identify and assess the effectiveness of program to respond to emerging issues and opportunities and whether there are opportunities to consider alternate approaches to effectively manage and control OJD.
- Examine the Australia BJD control strategy to determine if any elements could be used as a model for the management of OJD.
- Examine overseas (particularly trading partners and competitors) JD control strategies and determine their applicability for an Australian Program.

WPA provided comment on the successes and limitations of the current program during the interview.

The Sheepmeat Council of Australia and State Farm Organisations have also had the opportunity to provide input into this part of the review.

The Review is due to be completed in July 2011 with the process from there including the development of an options paper from the recommendations made in the review. This options paper will be made available for public consultation which is expected around September this year. WPA encourages all interested parties to participate in this public consultation which will be well advertised at the appropriate time.

From there it is anticipated that a model will be agreed upon by industry by the end of December, leaving 6 months to educate and promote awareness to producers before implementation of a new program from July 1, 2012.

## PREPARING INDUSTRY FOR AN OUTBREAK

On 8 and 9 March Tasmanian sheep producers attended an Industry Liaison Officer (ILO) training course in Launceston organised by WoolProducers, the Sheepmeat Council and Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association.

ILOs play a vital role in the response by government and industry to an emergency animal disease such as foot and mouth. ILOs responsibilities during an outbreak include:

- providing advice on the nature of the local industry to assist with disease risk assessment,
- assist with developing and implementing plans for disease eradication/control,
- provide advice on the economic and other consequences of proposed actions, and
- act as a focus for consultation and advice to the local industry.

Further Sheep ILO training will take place in Roma, Queensland on the 15 and 16 June. This will leave Western Australia and NSW as the only remaining states to hold this training in recent time, with plans to hold training in these states in the near future.

## GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT ABOUT THE SHEEP CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE

You'll notice with this addition of the WoolProducers Sheep Health & Welfare update that there is also a copy of the Sheep CRC Autumn Update.

The Sheep CRC (CRC for Sheep Industry Innovation) is a partnership of Australia's leading sheep industry organisations and is supported under the Australian Government's Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Program.

The aim of the CRC Program is to turn Australia's innovations into successful new products, services and technologies, and make the Australian sheep industry more efficient, productive and competitive.

The Sheep CRC plays an important role in developing future technologies for the sheep industry and has conducted important work on numerous aspects of the industry including traceability, wrinkle score and internal and external parasite.

Please take the time to read the Sheep CRC Autumn Update to find out what other interesting projects the CRC has been undertaking for the betterment of industry.

## FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE ROUNDTABLE

Animal Health Australia recently convened a joint government-industry peak body roundtable discussion in Melbourne.

The likely Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) impacts will be greater than most other diseases of livestock. Therefore, it is essential that Australia can respond effectively and efficiently to an FMD outbreak to minimise disruption to trade and impacts on the community, as well as protect our international reputation.

Australia's current response policy for an outbreak of FMD is to eradicate the disease in the shortest possible time, while limiting the economic impact, using stamping out supported by a combination of strategies. The aim is to re-establish international trade lost during the outbreak as quickly as possible and to regain the FMD-free status of Australia.

The objectives of the day were:

- To gain industry and government recognition and understanding of the real risks and the enormity of handling an outbreak of FMD in Australia.
- For industries and governments to agree on a policy framework that recognises recent scientific and technical developments and enables their incorporation into the FMD AUSVETPLAN Disease Strategy.

Government and industry participants at the round table consultation meeting agreed to a revised risk-based response policy framework for FMD that incorporates flexibility to deal with the particular circumstances and phases of an outbreak, and that aims to balance effective disease control with business continuity.

For further information on this discussion and to download presentations and resolutions from the day please visit: [www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/eadp/ausvetplan/fmd-response-policy-review/fmd-round-table.cfm](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/eadp/ausvetplan/fmd-response-policy-review/fmd-round-table.cfm) or contact WoolProducers.