

13 November 2019

Matters Arising

- NWD Review: WPA CEO and Vice President are on the NWD Review panel through positions on the Industry Standards Advisory Committee. A final teleconference will be held on 18 November and recommendations will go to the AWEX Board on 29 November.
- Agricultural Resilience Policy: an update on progress was provided.

Terms of Reference – WPA H&W Board Advisory Committee

The draft terms of reference were discussed.

MOTION	That the WPA H&W Committee agrees to the amended Terms of Reference for the H&W Committee.
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Member issues

- WA Farmers: WA research flock funding.
- AHA: focus on pork industry with African Swine Fever – communications, EAD awareness.
- AgForce: AgForce has revised their mulesing policy position to strongly encourage pain relief for mulesing and use of the NWD-IP audit system.
- Clarification needed on classification of freeze branding by AWEX (mulesed or non-mulesed).
- WPA Youth Ambassador: Concern around the national sheep flock and wool clip declines with current drought situation. Need to focus on Australia’s ability to remain competitive.
- WPA Youth Ambassador: Non-mulesed at forefront of fashion designer concerns; designers are being targeted to shift to non-mulesed wool.
- Livestock SA: Reviewing mulesing policy. Drought remains an issue in SA. Rebuilding the national flock is a concern as are the flow-on effects to the processing industry. No welfare issues related to drought being reported. Deer and kangaroos ongoing issue.
- Viability of farmers with ongoing drought conditions.
- VFF: mandating of pain relief is going ahead in Victoria for mulesing. There is a push by some stakeholders for tail docking and castration to have pain relief mandated for these procedures but is not included in the draft regs. Legislation should be enforced from mid-2020. Animal sentience is also being discussed and believed it will be on the Agricultural Minister’s agenda following the POCTA review completion. National flock composition is a concern with many farmers moving to composites.
- TFGA: TFGA is reviewing their mulesing policy. Drought issue on the eastern side of the state. Increasing moves to lamb production over wool production.
- AASMB: Mulesing has been discussed by the membership and with varied production systems implemented by members, the management decisions are left to producers as to whether they mules or not. AASMB recommends best practice including the use of pain relief for mulesing in the Merino standards on the AASMB website. Membership are not looking for leadership from AASMB in its role as a breed society on mulesing. Drought is a major issue particularly for NSW with large numbers of Merino sheep going to processors.
- Abattoirs preferencing non-mulesed sheep. Issue selling non-mulesed sheep from WA to eastern states. Trials in WA underway for twice yearly shearing opposed to eight and 12 months and whether the cost-benefit analysis for production differences.
- AWGA: need for more work to be undertaken on freeze branding. Concern for increased chemical use for flystrike and with regard to drench resistance.
- AVA: AWI report adoption of pain relief demonstrates move to 100% use by growers is not unachievable. Fit to load issues because of drought.

- NSWFA: reluctance by some members to move to pain relief but market forces likely to increase adoption rates.

2 AHA Service Agreement with WoolProducers

Policy Manager report

The Committee noted the Policy Manager report. The Policy Manager thanked the Committee members who have provided input to requests for submissions that have been sent since the last meeting.

3 Market Access Support

Traceability update

The paper was taken as read and an update on the Sheep Traceability Working Group (STWG) was provided by the STWG Chair. The issue of the phantom sheep flock was discussed including the issue of non-Victorian abattoirs receiving Victorian sheep.

SAFEMEAT Advisory Group

The SAFEMEAT Advisory Group Chair presented on recommendations from the Jurisdictional Traceability Group (JTG). WPA will consult with its members (not in conjunction with other peak councils). The recommendations from the JTG were discussed and feedback was provided by the Committee.

Australian Wool Industry project

The paper was taken as read and the committee noted the verbal update provided.

Pain relief for mulesing policy update

A verbal update was provided to the Committee on the progress of implementation of the policy and broader issues related to mulesing. The letter received from NSWFA Wool Committee was tabled and discussed. Retention of breech modification options and the need for these alternative techniques to be separated from mulesing was discussed. It is important it is clearly communicated when procedures are not mulesing alternatives but breech modification procedures.

4 Biosecurity Services

SheepMAP update

The paper was taken as read and the committee noted the verbal update provided by AHA. The proposed changes were discussed and agreed to, except for WPA not supporting relaxation of the requirements for the flock veterinarian to not be APAV accredited. The retention of the requirement for post-mortem veterinary examination of thin sheep will be consulted on by WPA.

National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy update

The paper was taken as read and the committee noted the verbal update provided.

Feral pig control strategy update

The paper was taken as read and the committee noted the verbal update provided.

Footrot project proposal

The paper was taken as read. The H&W Committee discussed the project proposal and potential funding arrangements were considered.

MOTION	That the WPA H&W Committee agrees to co-fund the footrot project contingent on AHA approval with equal contribution from AWI and/or SPA, or alternatively, fully fund the project if AWI / SPA do not commit funding.
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Ovine pneumonia project proposal

The paper was taken as read. The H&W Committee discussed the project proposal and potential funding arrangements were considered.

MOTION	That the WPA H&W Committee agree to co-fund the ovine pneumonia project with MDC contingent on AHA funding.
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ALRTA RICP effluent management in livestock supply chains

A verbal update on the development of a Registered Industry Code of Practice for effluent management in livestock supply chains was provided. WPA will not support feed and water curfews being included on the Sheep Health Declaration.

5 EAD Preparedness and Response

Future EAD training opportunities

The item was carried over to the next WPA H&W Board Advisory Committee meeting.

6 Special Initiatives

Youth Ambassador policy presentations

The new WPA Youth Ambassadors presented their policy papers to the H&W Committee.

Wool production eligibility under the Carbon Solutions Fund

The paper was taken as read. Issues with the length of the Emissions Reduction Fund process were outlined and the alternate policy approach outlined in the advocacy plan was presented to develop a wool industry specific carbon accreditation programme.

MOTION	That the WPA H&W Committee support the wool production eligibility under the Emissions Reductions Fund advocacy plan and exploration of opportunities to introduce policies for the wool sector.
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European market demands for non-mulesed wool

The H&W Committee discussed the revised policy proposal and the advocacy plan. The issue of direct contracts and solutions to address how these could be captured by AWEX data was discussed.

MOTION	That the WPA H&W Committee support the market demands for non-mulesed wool advocacy plan.
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Wool youth network

The H&W Committee discussed the Youth Ambassador policy proposal.

MOTION	That the WPA H&W Committee support the Future Wool advocacy plan.
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Sheep Sustainability Framework

The paper was taken as read.

Lamb marking training guide

The paper was taken as read.

MOTION	That the H&W Committee agree to the release of the 'Lamb marking training guide' through the proposed release process.
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7 General Business

NSWFA request to consider NSW DPI Biosecurity Planning project proposal

The Biosecurity Planning project proposal from NSW DPI (received from NSWFA) was tabled for discussion.

MOTION	That the WPA H&W Committee support in-principle the NSW DPI Biosecurity Planning project plan.
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Mulesing status inclusion on NVDs

The value of including mulesing status on NVDs supporting the National Wool Declaration was discussed. The issue in approval from SAFEMEAT for this change to occur would be unlikely to occur. Inclusion on the Sheep Health Declaration was discussed as an alternative and the option exists for this to be included already and explanatory notes could be updated outside of a SHD review.

Regional Biosecurity Plan Areas (RBPs)

Coonamble RBP has sought advice on continuation as an RBP. This was discussed at the last joint meeting with WPA/AHA/SPA. WPA's policy position was discussed. Following the last meeting, all RBP coordinators received emails with only one responding they are still operating.

Chemical use rates for flystrike

Potential for resistance from decreased rotation rates for existing chemicals was discussed as well as changes in efficacy of products also being a potential issue.

Flystrike vaccine

An overview of the project was given following the issue of mulesing and chemical resistance being discussed.

Ontario veterinary conference feedback

An overview was provided on insights gained from the recent veterinary conference in Ontario. Comparisons in production systems were provided. Lamb survival was discussed with a focus on predation, which is an issue in Canada given the protected status of many of their predators.

8 Next Meetings

- 27 February (H&W) & 28 February (Exec), 2020
- 20 May (H&W) & 21 May (Exec), 2020
- August 2020 (Wool Week; TBC)
- 18 November (H&W) & 19 November (Exec), 2020

Meeting close: 4.54pm