



May 2006

INFORMATION THAT MOHAIR PRODUCERS NEED TO KNOW

What's On...

June 2006

6th-8th Elders Farmfest – Tamworth NSW

16th – AMMO's B06 Sale Narrandera –all welcome.

July 2006

1st – Western Region AGM at "Cardui", Molong NSW

8th-9th – NSW Judging forum and school – Nandewah, Cowra.

14th – 15th – Mudgee Small Farm Field Days.

21st-24th– Australian Sheep Breeders Assn Show – ASBA Bendigo Vic.

30th – East Central Vic AGM – Nangana Vic

August 2006

5th -NSW Division AGM Goulburn Soldiers Club

6th – Central NSW AGM at Cudal Hotel, Cudal.

7th – 8th – Sheepvention Hamilton, Victoria

8th-10th – Eyre Peninsula Field Days Cleve SA

12th – WA Division AGM (venue to be advised)

September 2006

1-9th – Royal Adelaide Show

19-21st –Henty NSW Machinery Field Day

21st – Oct 1 – Royal Melbourne Show

October 2006

14th -MAL AGM – and more Narrandera

ANGORA INDUSTRY ON A ROLL

Field Days, competitions, research, fibre sales, products sales, judging schools, animal shows and sales and TV and print media. – its all happening for our industry right now!

Mohair producers, supporters, brokers, MAL directors and staff are out in the wider world drawing attention to our industry at every opportunity!

See inside this issue for details of other events attended.



Members from Vic East Central Region spent a weekend on a bus visiting angora properties in the North West of that state recently.

This mob of angoras, on David and Michaela Holroyd's property at Moorool, are pictured with Doug Nicholls, David Holroyd and his daughter Lucy looking on.

MAL AGM at NARRANDERA Again...

Saturday, October 14th

Put this date in your diary and watch this space for further details of planned events to be held in conjunction with this important event.



Doug Nicholls inspect goats on Sue Oldfield's property at Rockbank with Wilma Smart (foreground) and Sue Oldfield looking on.

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DIVISION/REGION PRESIDENTS (not on the Board above)

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Schedule of fees and charges

Animal Registration:

On-line registration of a buck.....	\$11.00
On-line registration of a doe.....	\$ 3.30
Paper registration of a buck.....	\$16.50
Paper registration of a doe.....	\$ 5.50

*Minimum registration fee is \$25.00 for a batch—
(applies to on-line registrations only.)*

(For animal "recording" contact the Office)

Transfer of animals:

Transfer of bucks and does using on-line Generated Registration Certificates.....	\$ 5.50
Transfers using certificates generated by the office for those producer not using on-line facility..	\$7.50

Lease fees

Applied when a producer leases a buck for a
period of time that they do not own.

On-line	\$ 5.50
Using paper certificates.....	\$ 7.50

Re-issue of Certificates (paper only)..... \$ 3.30

Corrections to on-line or paper entry details
(per entry)..... \$ 3.30

DISCLAIMER

The opinions in this news sheet may not be those of
Mohair Australia Ltd. Reported facts may not be true and
if they are not let Mohair Australia know and we will try to
correct them next time. Mohair Australia cannot
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- ✓ +150 kg BALES = LARGE REDUCTION IN HANDLING CHARGE*
- ✓ REDUCTIONS AND REBATES AVAILABLE

May 2006 SPECIAL PRICE:

S A FH at 1575 cents/kilogram

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**SUPPLIERS OF GREASY, SCOURED &
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NSW Division AGM

MOHAIR AUSTRALIA LIMITED

ABN 40 008 585 135

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION**

will be held at the

Soldiers Memorial Club, Goulburn NSW commencing at 3 pm.

Saturday, 5th August, 2006

AGENDA

- Opening of the Meeting
- Record of Attendees and Apologies
- Adoption of Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting
- Adoption of the Division's Annual Accounts for the Fiscal Year 2005/2006
- Adoption of the President's Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 2005/2006
- Other Business at the discretion of the Chair
- Close of Meeting.

Steven Roots, Honorary Secretary,
NSW Division of Mohair Australia Ltd

Field Day Round-Up!

The board of Directors would like to congratulate those members and producers who give of their time to promote angoras at Field Days, Farm Fairs and shows and commend them on their positive outlook and enthusiasm for the industry

BAILINGUP SMALL FARM FIELD DAY

Western Australia. Saturday 29th April 2006

The Field Day was held in the center of Balingup, set amongst the brooks and rolling hills 3hrs south of Perth. The whole day attracted over 13,000 visitors interested in a wide range of small farm machinery and equipment, agricultural, and nursery supplies, including animals

on display – goats, sheep, Llamas, cattle, poultry, and alpacas.

The Western Australian Division Angora/ Mohair Industry was represented by Jane & Don Orchard 'Marbellup Brook Angoras' Albany, and who were also awarded the '**SMALL FARM INFORMATION AWARD**', for the most effective presentation of relevant information and material to encourage small farmers to improve economics, and sustainability. Feasibility studies presented on the display reflected profitable returns for mohair, which prompted many farmer inquiries. They were encouraged by the beneficial attributes of the new genetics in regards to ease of management and quality and softness of mohair.



TOCAL FIELD DAY

5th – 7th May – Hunter region This annual event was well attended, despite the desperate need for rain in this area, with the three days of the Field Days warm and fine.

Mohair Australia Ltd - Hunter Region members manned an extensive exhibit providing demonstrations of shearing, husbandry, hand spinning and a large display of mohair products all creating considerable interest.

Many people attended, even travelling from Sydney, as well as local, other regional areas and interstate. Members were able to hand out literature and answer queries on the Mohair Industry, fencing requirements etc. A number of positive enquiries were received and the Mohair Australia Information Pack distributed.

MURRUMBIDGEE FARM FAIR

12 –13th May – Mohair Australia joined with other Narrandera businesses in the Narrandera feature tent at the farm fair. Held at Yanco NSW each year, this year's fair, whilst attracting fewer visitors than previous years, was a great success for Narrandera tent participants. Sales of mohair products were brisk with a lot of people receiving mohair products for Mother's Day! We spoke to four new potential producers – one of which was an Ag teacher from Hay who would like to introduce Angoras to the Ag plot at the school. Justine and Cheryl with the help of a visiting producer were kept very busy through both days.



MOHAIR BUYER

AUSTRALASIAN MOHAIR TRADING PTY LTD

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WE BUY MOHAIR DIRECT FROM THE GROWER

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WE ONLY SELL TO PROCESSORS AND WORK CLOSELY WITH OVERSEAS
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WE TAKE GREAT CARE IN CLASSING MOHAIR NOT ONLY TO CUSTOMERS REQUIREMENTS
BUT ALSO BY EXPLOITING THE NATURAL FEATURES OF OUR FIBRE (STYLE AND CHARACTER)
TO GAIN THE MAXIMUM PRICE.

WE ARE SUPPORTING FURTHER PROCESSING OF AUSTRALIAN MOHAIR IN AUSTRALIA
FOR ALL AUSTRALIAN GROWERS.

IF YOU NEED ANY ASSISTANCE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL US.

CONTACTS

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HOME	03 9527 2640
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JOHN HOORNWEG	0428 488 422

FORWARD YOUR MOHAIR TO US AT OUR DEPOTS –

Victoria.

Melbourne.

2/114 Fairbairn Rd. Sunshine.3020. (Near Techwool.)

Pakenham.

Pakenham Produce & Saddlery. 62 Station St Pakenham.

Bendigo.

T.J. Atherton Transport. 52/58 Hattam St. Golden Square. Bendigo.

Nhill.

Goodwin Freight Services. 6 Opal St. Regency Park Adelaide.

N.S.W.

Albury.

Hodge Wool. Pty Ltd. 547 Wagga Rd. Lavington NSW.

S.A.

Adelaide.

Goodwin Freight Services. 6 Opal St. Regency Park. Adelaide

WA.

Bibra Lakes.

Z&D Transport. Cnr Fenix & Sudluw Rd. Door 2, AWH store
Spearwood Bibra Lakes. Phone (08) 9434 5133

Full bales (160kgs and heavier) no freight charge.

To facilitate ease of handling, please consolidate all bags into one (or more) bag or wool pack
Ensure all bags, bales are clearly marked.

Another Step for EGT Classing

Friday 28th April saw the first application of the Sirolan Fleecescan® instrument and Laserscan® technology to test whole fleeces and class mohair for sale. This initiative is part of the RIRDC sponsored research project on high specification mohair marketing being carried out by National Mohair Pool and advances the application of the Every Goat Tested (EGT) concept.

Some 775 fleeces from 5 growers were tested in the one-day trial at NMP's Cudal warehouse.

The emphasis was on first shearing kid fleeces though it was recognised that there may be more significant benefits from testing fleeces from older animals.

Earlier EGT trials have used mid side tests provided by growers. This produced promising results but involved logistical problems at shearing time in larger sheds. For the current trial mohair growers were only required to skirt fleeces and bag those which displayed high quality and adequate length.

By testing these fleeces in the warehouse, classers could accurately place the fleeces into closely defined lines, thus reducing the variation normally encountered with visual or subjective classing. (Subjective classing has been shown to place as many as 30% of fleeces in grades two or more away from the line as described in micron terms.)

The testing process combines normal fleece testing for breeding assessment with classing for sale thus increasing the efficiency of animal and fleece evaluation.



Whole fleeces are sampled using 6 mini cores taken from the compressed fleece

Mini cores are scoured and placed into the liquid medium through which laser interference patterns are analysed to measure micron and other fibre characteristics.



The EGT work is now half way through the planned two year project which is aimed at increasing the efficiency of classing, providing real benefits from isolating superior mohair for sale, and testing the attitudes of buyers to this method of classing and marketing of mohair.

It is hoped to expand the trial to include second shearing kid fleeces produced in spring, and which will be sold at NMP's November sale.

Some 7 preliminary papers have been produced so far and are available from the Principal Investigator (Doug Stapleton, dstaplet@netwit.net.au) or from the Mohair Australia web site (www.mohair.org.au) research section).

Wedding bells!



NICK & KATE GORRIE - HONEYMOON IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Friday 12th May 2006

Nick and Kate Gorrie 'Dulark Angoras' NSW were on the last leg of their honeymoon in Western Australia. After their stop over in Denmark, and on their way to Albany, they called in to visit Jane and Don Orchard 'Marbellup Brook Angoras' just off the South Coast Highway. Kate had specified "no angora goat visits in W.A. on their honeymoon", however, Nick's persistence prevailed and Kate relented, allowing us to enjoy their company over Devonshire Tea and then a quick tour to see Marbellup Angoras.



Kate, Jane and Nick all smiles at Jane's WA property

Going Natural - Wearing Natural

At the Zone 7 final of the CWA State Fashion Competition – "Going Natural – Wearing Natural" held in Narrandera recently, Mohair Australia mounted a static display of mohair clothing and goods. MAL Member, Merle Grant from Wagga Wagga also attended to demonstrate hand spinning and we even had time to teach the younger generation about hand carding fibre for spinning. Sadly none of the Zone finalists saw fit to use mohair in their creations for the competition, but we did make an impression on the ladies who attended and have had subsequent business in the shop and enjoyed some local media coverage as well. Zone winners were: Evening wear – Coral Mitton from Grenfell; Day Wear -Freda Cook from Oura; Casual Day Wear –Coral Mitton; Creative Craft Garment - Helen Sheridan from Eurongilly; and Accessories - Glenys Church from Jerilderie. The State final was held in conjunction with the Gala Dinner in Narrabri on May 3rd and the overall winner was actually a people's choice award for a 4 piece white cotton suit to Freda Cook from Oura who took away \$2000.00.



Above : MAL's display at the Zone 7 Final, Narrandera.

Right: Justine Hall provides support for a junior spinner in her efforts to comb mohair staples for hand spinning.



NATIONAL MOHAIR POOL P/L

The Escort Way, CUDAL NSW 2864
Phone 02 63642097, 0263642132. Fax 0263642323 Email dstaplet@netwit.net.au

Demand and prices soften at Sydney Auction 19th May 2006

At its scheduled 6 monthly auction of mohair in Sydney, NMP offered 27,265kg of fibre and obtained a total clearance with a gross value of \$402,475.90, an average of \$14.76/kg greasy.

This average was up 75c or 5% on the last NMP sale in November 2005.

Despite the near record prices the sale was somewhat disappointing and failed to reach price levels achieved in the Cape over the previous 3 months. Buyers commented that demand had softened and that their limits had been reduced by their clients. In line with comments made in South Africa, the mohair processing sector is apparently offering some resistance to what it considers to be excessive prices resulting from short supply and a high fashion demand for mohair.

The difficult sale conditions saw some lots initially passed, then sold after auction at negotiated prices.

A feature of this sale was the offering of six lots of mohair prepared using the EGT (Every Goat Tested) technique where individual fleeces with superior visual characters were tested and placed into lines based on their individual Laserscan® measurement. This made possible the presentation of an ultra fine FFKID lot which achieved a core test of 21.5 microns. As expected, the EGT lots all achieved a lower CV than the traditionally classed lines. While stronger EGT lines achieved a premium, the fine lines failed to reach expected levels. It is suggested that the softer demand for mohair and the restricted competition for kid fibre was responsible for this result.

Quotations. (A\$ greasy)

Kids. EGTFK 29.10, EGTFK 29.40, BFKID 29.50, AKID 18.95, BKID 25.80, CKID 19.40, EGTSKID 20.30, ASKID 15.90, BSKID 16.85

Young Goats. EGTYG 17.80, AYG \$16.00, BYG 16.88, BYGK 14.60, CYG 17.85

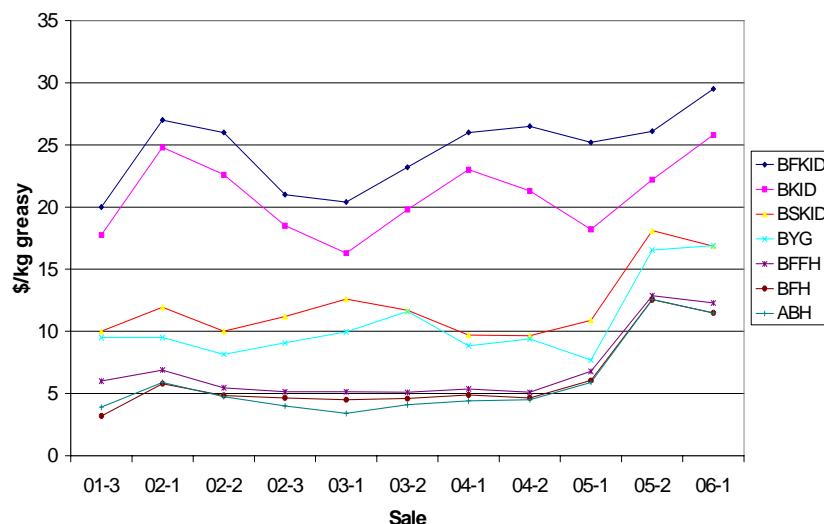
Adults. EGTFH 12.90, AFFH 12.95, BFFH 12.30, AFFHK 12.80, BFFHK 12.40, CFFH 11.20, FHKK 11.20, BFH 11.50

Outsorts. COT 18.30, HCT 8.00, LSTN 11.80, HSTN 7.70, KIDV 17.00, FHV 10.05.

A full summary of test results and prices next page.

Doug Stapleton
Manager

PRICE TRENDS FOR B LENGTH MOHAIR SINCE 2001



NATIONAL MOHAIR POOL P/L

ABN 15 008 614 177

The Escort Way, CUDAL NSW 2864

Phone 02 63642097, 0263642132. Fax 0263642323 Email dstaplet@netwit.net.au

Test Results Summary and Prices for Mohair Sale 06-1, Masonic

Centre, Sydney, Friday 19TH MAY 2006, 10.30am.

Lot	Class	Nett Kg	No. bales	IWTO Yld %	Schlum Yld %	Diameter um	VM %	Split %	Clean Kg	CV %	Colour Y-Z	Price \$/KG	Amount \$
1	FHKK	1231	6	88.4	84.6	33.2	1.1	0.4/0.7/0.0	1088	38.6	11.3	11.20	13787.20
2	BFFHK	1603	8	87.5	82.6	34.1	1.8	0.3/1.4/0.1	1403	33.7	11.6	12.00	19236.00
3	BFFHK	1618	8	87.3	84.0	33.7	0.8	0.0/0.8/0.0	1413	33.5	10.9	12.80	20710.40
4	AFFHK	591	3	89.1	85.4	33.7	1.1	0.0/1.0/0.1	527	34.4	11.0	12.80	7564.80
5	CFFH	1801	9	85.3	82.3	33.6	0.7	0.0/0.7/0.0	1536	32.4	11.2	11.20	20171.20
6	BFH	819	4	86.8	83.1	38.0	1.1	0.2/0.8/0.1	711	33.2	10.7	11.50	9418.50
7	BFFH	1794	9	83.9	80.2	34.4	1.1	0.1/1.0/0.0	1505	31.7	11.4	12.00	21528.00
8	BFFH	1808	9	83.1	79.3	34.5	1.1	0.3/0.8/0.0	1502	30.7	10.7	12.60	22780.80
9	AFFH	997	5	86.5	83.1	35.0	0.9	0.0/0.8/0.1	862	31.4	10.4	12.95	12911.15
10	BYGK	581	3	84.4	79.4	31.6	1.8	0.2/1.5/0.1	490	31.6	11.0	14.60	8482.60
11	CYG	618	3	84.1	81.1	30.2	0.7	0.0/0.7/0.0	520	31.8	10.9	17.85	11031.30
12	BYG	1231	6	83.8	80.6	31.9	0.8	0.0/0.8/0.0	1032	30.1	11.2	16.20	19942.20
13	BYG	1151	6	84.2	79.9	31.0	1.4	0.0/1.4/0.0	969	30.3	10.3	17.60	20257.60
14	AYG	185	1	85.0	80.9	32.5	1.3	0.0/1.3/0.0	157	28.6	11.7	16.00	2960.00
15	BSKID	1025	5	82.5	78.7	30.9	1.1	0.0/1.0/0.1	846	29.4	11.2	16.85	17271.25
16	ASKID	414	2	83.9	80.3	31.5	1.0	0.0/1.0/0.0	347	25.3	11.3	15.90	6582.60
17	CKID	414	2	87.2	83.5	23.7	1.1	0.0/1.1/0.0	361	31.6	10.5	19.40	8031.60
18	BKID	816	4	85.9	82.3	26.9	1.0	0.1/0.9/0.0	701	30.5	10.7	25.80	21052.80
19	AKID	203	1	84.3	80.3	29.7	1.2	0.0/1.2/0.0	171	27.9	10.2	18.95	3846.85
20	BFKID	1010	5	86.6	82.5	23.4	1.3	0.0/1.3/0.0	875	29.9	9.8	29.50	29795.00
21	COT	1205	6	83.3	80.4	28.7	0.6	0.1/0.5/0.0	1004	34.8	11.3	18.30	22051.50
22	HCT	183	1	88.9	84.9	35.2	1.2	0.0/1.2/0.0	163	34.9	12.6	8.00	1464.00
23	LSTN	2849	14	83.8	77.8	31.9	2.5	0.5/1.9/0.1	2387	37.9	11.3	11.80	33618.20
24	HSTN	400	2	76.0	70.1	34.7	2.4	0.2/1.9/0.3	304	38.3	0.0	7.70	3080.00
25	LKS	200	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0	0.0	0.0	2.50	500.00
26	FHV	1017	5	87.7	75.9	32.2	6.4	0.2/6.0/0.02	892	36.3	11.2	12.05	12254.85
27	KIDV	407	2	88.9	79.4	23.7	4.8	0.1/4.5/0.2	362	31.2	9.9	17.00	6919.00
28	EGTFFH	136	1	84.4	81.2	33.6	0.8	0.0/0.8/0.0	115	26.8	12.2	12.90	1754.40
29	EGTYG	200	1	86.7	83.7	31.0	0.7	0.0/0.7/0.0	173	26.5	11.2	17.80	3560.00
30	EGTSKID	208	1	87.7	84.1	28.7	1.0	0.0/1.0/0.0	182	27.2	11.5	20.30	4222.40
31	EGTKID	207	1	88.7	84.5	26.3	1.4	0.2/1.2/0.0	184	27.4	11.1	27.30	5651.10
32	EGTFKID	191	1	88.3	84.4	23.5	1.2	0.0/1.2/0.0	169	29.4	10.1	29.40	5615.40
33	EGTFFKID	152	1	90.9	87.4	21.5	1.0	0.0/1.0/0.0	138	27.4	10.2	29.10	4423.20
TOTAL		27265	136										\$402,475.90

Average sold = \$14.76/kg up \$0.75 or 5% on Nov 2005 sale. Total Clearance . Trends: Adults steady, YG steady, Kid up \$2-\$4, Outsorts up \$1-\$3. A\$=US\$0.76. Note. The sale demonstrated some softening of demand against recent Cape and Australian sales and failed to meet expectations..

SHOP ITEMS REQUIRED

The Mohair shop associated with our office here in Narrandera is in need of more stock.

Have you got some beautifully created, modern hand-crafted, or locally produced mohair items that may be appropriate?

The shop is now accepting goods on consignment that we can offer for sale to the public. Payment will be made for these items when they are sold and can be made by cheque or direct credit.

Contact the office today!

MOHAIR FARM BENCHMARKING – April Update

Bruce McGregor

Primary Industries Research Victoria (PIRVic)

Department of Primary Industries, Attwood.

Introduction

The mohair industry farm benchmark project was introduced in the December issue of Mohair News. So far 14 producers indicated their willingness to participate by returning signed commitment forms. Each participant has been forwarded a detailed questionnaire and has agreed to undertake certain on-farm measurements.

Progress

Producers have weighed different classes of Angora goats. So far there are some interesting results.

Figure 1 shows the weaning weights at six different farms. The figure is presented as box plots that show the mean and the range in live weights.

The explanation of a box plot figure is given in Figure 2.

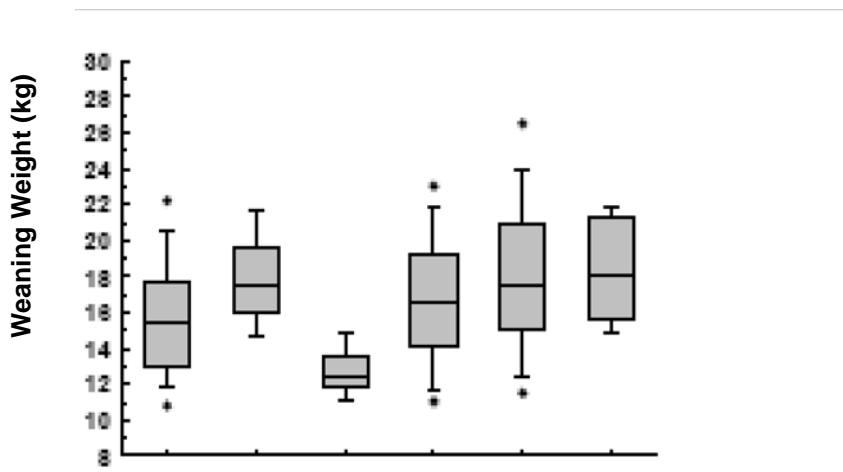


Figure 1. Box plots showing the weaning weights of Angora goats from six different commercial farms in southern Australia.

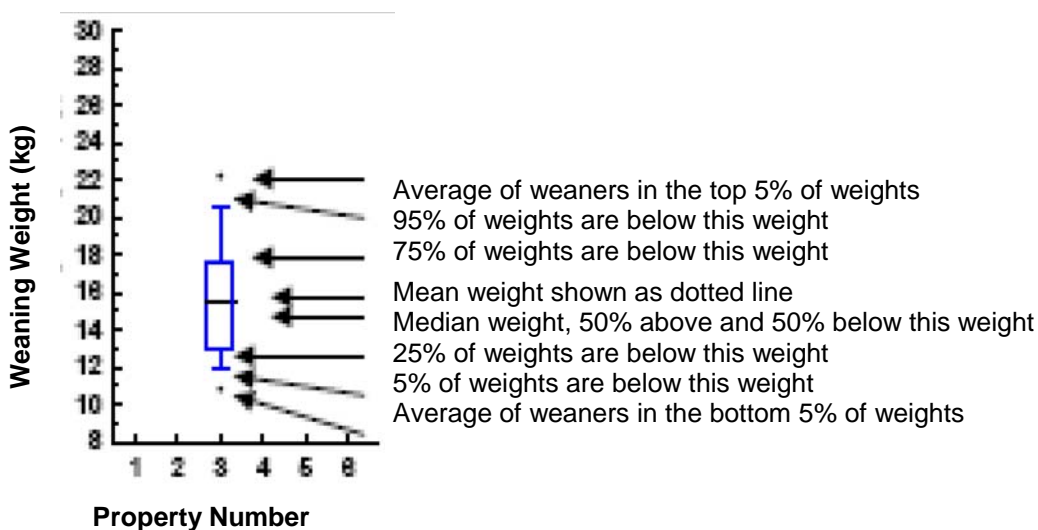


Figure 2. An explanation of the information in a box plot

All Welcome
**FOR ALL CURRENT OR ASPIRING
 JUDGES & PRODUCERS**

Mohair Australia NSW Division is holding a Judging Forum and Judging School on Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th July 2006.

The Saturday event will be an open forum, Bill Smith will be the Chairperson for the forum.

The Forum will start at 10am and end at 4pm. morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea will be included in the cost of \$15.00 for the day.

The Sunday event will be run by Doug Stapleton & Andrew Gossip

The School will start at 10am and end at 3:30 pm. Morning tea, lunch & afternoon Tea will be included in the cost of \$15.00 for the day.

If you attend both days, the total cost is \$30.00 per person

A get together in Cowra will be organized for the Saturday night if there is sufficient people. Please advise Janet Leigh of your attendance to the Forum or School or both and your attendance at the Saturday night function.

The function will be at the Lachlan Valley Hotel/Motel. RSVP by 30th June 2006.

Ph:- 02 63453200.

Email phezulu@bigpond.com



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N.S.W. Division - Mohair Australia Ltd

INVITATION TO MEMBERS

On the 8th & 9th July 2006 a Judging Forum & Judging School will be held at John & Janet Leigh's Property COWRA.

Saturday 8th July 2006 From 10am to 4pm. Open Judging Forum.

Sunday 9th July 2006 from 10am to 3:30pm Judging School.

Morning Tea, Lunch & Afternoon Tea will be provided at a cost of \$15.00 inc GST per person per day.

You may attend either or both days.

Your **RSVP** is required by Friday 30th June.

There will be a get together on the Saturday Night in Cowra at the Lachlan Valley Hotel/Motel At 7pm.

Accommodation for the Saturday Night is to be booked by yourself.

Lachlan Valley Hotel/Motel.

Ph:- 02 6342 2900

Normal tariff \$65 a double

Please indicate with your RSVP if you are going to the get together on the Saturday Night .

All correspondence to:-**Janet Leigh. Ph:- 02 6345 3200 Email:- phezulu@bigpond.com**

Continued from Page 10

It is clear that there is considerable range in weaning weights. Some producers do better than others, which is no surprise. The real questions are:

1. Does the great range in weaning weights compromise production and financial returns? If there is a lot of time spent managing 11 to 13 kg weaners is this worthwhile if greater returns can be made on improving the 18 to 24 kg weaners? Are other farmers are put off farming Angora goats when they see all the small weaners needing extra care and attention?

2. Can the industry as a whole lift financial returns if weaning weights are increased or made more compact? It is more difficult to manage small weaners weighing 14 kg or less compared with larger weaners of 18 kg or more? Do small doe weaners produce the same number of kids compared with larger doe weaners when they reach the breeding herd? Are there mating, feeding or rearing strategies that can reduce the large variation within these mobs of weaners?

A different comparison from three flocks of weaners is shown in Figure 3. This also shows that there is a great range in the percentage of weaners in different weight categories. Which flock of weaners is better?

Even Flock 8 which has the greatest percentage of weaners greater than 20.0 kg still has 32% of weaners less than 16 kg.

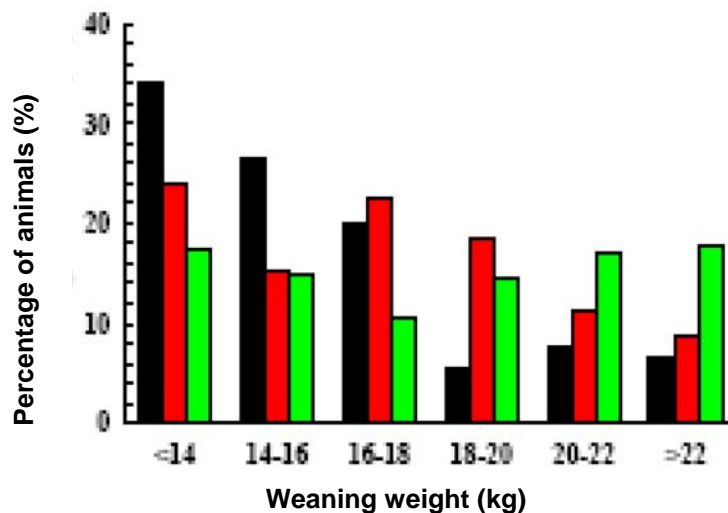


Figure 3. The percentage of weaner Angora goats in different weight classes from three different properties.

Legend: Black bar, Property 3; Red (medium Grey) bar, Property 7; Green (light grey) bar, Property 8.

Financial questionnaires are currently being returned and data is being entered. Once each farm has had their detailed financial analysis completed the outputs will be returned to them. The data from all farms will then be analysed to prepare an overall report for last financial year. Mohair samples have been collected and are being forwarded to my laboratory. Once all the samples are provided they will be carefully evaluated and tested.

Acknowledgments

The financial support of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation is gratefully acknowledged. Riverina Fleece Testing Services is thanked for sponsoring mohair testing. AMMO, Australasian Mohair Trading, National Mohair Pools and Mohair Australia are thanked for assisting with this project.

LAMENESS & DIET IN LIVESTOCK

Lameness as foot scald is a continuing problem on many properties around Australia. While it is often associated with wet weather, the real reason is high levels of dietary crude protein which results in an energy deficit and sub-clinical acidosis.

Extensive trials in the US have confirmed 90% of lameness in ruminant animals can be attributed to diet. Research also shows many foot injuries are also indirectly attributed to diet which result in feet being more susceptible to damage.

In 1980, Dr Bob Scott of the US lectured on the role Excess dietary Crude Protein (ECP) played in inducing lameness in form of foot abscess or foot scald. Hot feet or muscle soreness are also a result of excess ECP. Dr Scott recommended iodine and high levels of Vitamin A as a preventative against the incidence of lameness.

In Australia and New Zealand, the assumption has always been that we are different – we have pasture, and our stock are not subject to the same stresses as those fed high rates of grain. In fact our stock have higher dietary stress levels than those on total grain rations.

Following rain, our pastures go from dry to very fresh in a matter of days. This means protein levels increase from 9% or less to as high as 40%. Remember that ewes and does only require 12 – 14% crude protein in their diets and have to dispose of the surplus.

Pasture composition changes not only from paddock to paddock but also weekly and seasonally. A sudden increase in green feed can result in scouring, weight loss, break in the wool, reduced lambing percentage and lameness.

The real issues leading to these symptoms include reduced rumination time, reduced rumen pH, reduced appetite and energy depletion as rumen organisms use dietary energy for their own purpose when breaking down degradable protein and converting it to ammonia. Then we see the loss of body fat as it is used to produce urea from the ammonia and dispatched in the urine, shown as pasture burns.

High protein diets result in the production of histamines, causing dilation of the central arteries and forcing blood to the outer extremities of the body, such as feet. With the resulting blood pooling, we see animals with hot feet, often resulting in infection and foot scald. Rams flushed in preparation for mating are a target for this type of lameness.

Results published from dairy trials in England (2000) showed a direct relationship between ECP and lameness. As dietary crude increased above 19% so did the incidence of lameness. The level of crude protein (CP) in winter, spring and irrigated pasture can range between 20% and 40%. Dry pasture will be lower and urea applications can result in levels to the higher end of the scale.

(The above article was compiled by Bryan McLeod from Sth Aust Ag Dept and was taken from the latest edition of "Genelink Livestock Newsletter" which is edited by Denis Russell) Submitted by Mick Doak

Diazinon and Ectoparasiticide Review*

Wool Producers have, this week, been advised of two important developments concerning the ongoing use of Diazinon and other Ectoparasiticide products.

Firstly, Wool Producers have been sent a copy of the Preliminary Review Findings for the reconsideration of approval for all ectoparasiticides by the Australia Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

Whilst the lengthy report will require significant analysis, it would appear that in regards to concerns over environmental and occupational health and safety concerns, the APVMA are proposing that the vast majority of chemicals will remain on the market providing that certain restrictions are in place concerning the withholding before shearing period.

In response to this, the APVMA propose to rename the current Wool Withholding Period (WWP) label statements to Wool Harvesting Interval (WHI), to draw a distinction between wool residues and other withholding periods relating to food. This new WHI is then expected to be increased significantly for the majority of products.

Due to specific EU requirements for residues not yet being published, the APVMA found it difficult to quantify the trade related WHI's. It has therefore proposed that a generic statement be included on all products that advises that the use of this product may not comply with EU standards in force after 2007.

Products that do not have WHI recommended in this paper are deltamethrine and chlorfenvinphos, due to a cited lack of data. If sufficient data is not sourced, it is recommended that these labels may be cancelled for use on sheep.

Comments on these proposals are being sought from industry by 31 October 2006.

Secondly, we have been advised that the corresponding Preliminary Review Findings on diazinon will not be released in April as previously indicated, and will be available later this year.

Whilst it has not been confirmed, it could be expected that the following consultation and review process will likewise be pushed back.

Jenny Tame

Policy Adviser

Victorian Farmers Federation Livestock

***Note: Diazinon is a lice treatment registered**



New \$2,500 national fashion award at Henty Field Days 2006

NATURAL FIBRE will be in sharp and fashionable focus this Spring on the catwalk in Henty Machinery Field Days' big Country Lifestyle marquee.

The Henty Machinery Field Days Co-Operative Ltd's board of directors today announced its inaugural Natural Fibre Fashion Award to be held during Henty 2006. The award carries a \$2500 first prize and is expected to attract entries from professional, amateur and student designers from around Australia. The fashion stakes are being staged at the Henty Machinery Field Days by the Co-Operative through its Country Lifestyle section, under direction of coordinator, Lynn Jacobsen. Henty Machinery Field Days chairman Colin Wood says the award is open to designs made only from natural fibres such as wool, mohair, cashmere and cotton "or a combination thereof". "What we're aiming to do here is to use this prize to support our natural fibre producers and to grow the award into a major national country event in the fullness of time," Colin Wood says. A pre-eminent steering group has enthusiastically volunteered its time and expertise to help launch the inaugural natural fibre fashion award.

The group includes:

- Woollen clothing manufacturer Dinah Toohey of Wagga
- Macquarie Textiles managing director John Lewis of Albury
- Renowned designer "Sam" Stolhand of Young.
- CWA State President – Judy Richardson.
- TAFE NSW Riverina Institute Head of Studies BAIT Joy Stocker
- HMF D executive director Doug Meyer
- HMF D Country Lifestyle section coordinator Lynn Jacobsen
- Regional CWA representatives
- Regional fleece and fibre producers

The \$2500 first prize for the award will be determined by a panel of industry judges. Award judges will represent a range of fashion skills including design, processing and manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing blended with some "general country credibility." Lynn Jacobsen says the purpose of the new award is allow designers to bring to the notice of the public their skills in fashion design using natural fibre. "As part of a major wool and fibre producing region, Henty feels a responsibility to do its bit in promoting natural products in a highly competitive fashion marketplace," she says.

Judges will be looking for garments and creations that are wearable in every sense of the word and those that are viable at the retail level. Entry forms are available by phoning the field days management office on 02 6929 3305 between 10am and 4:00pm, or by faxing 02 6929 3180. Further information is available from Lynn Jacobsen by phone 02 6043 3301 or by email at quandong-park1@bigpond.com

Completed entry forms, addressed to Natural Fibre Fashion Award, P.O. Box 79A; Henty NSW 2658 must be received by Friday, 1 September 2006.

Lang Lang Field Day – Victoria



Blustery wintry conditions did not stop Mohair Australia stalwarts from promoting the industry at the inaugural Small Farming Victoria Field Days at Lang Lang on 5th and 6th May 2006.

Justine Hall was invited to make a presentation on the mohair industry at the event. As a result of this there several enquiries into farming angoras.

EAST CENTRAL REGION VICTORIA BUS TRIP

6th - 7th May 2006. - by Wilma Smart

We left Margaret Nicholls home at Berwick at 9-05am on Saturday Our first stop was for an egg and bacon muffin then along the Henty Highway to the Sue Oldfield “Coolbaroo” stud at Rockbank .Sue is trying to keep her fleeces fine by using a very fine buck, (22micron at 3rd shearing) explaining that this is giving her a premium price for her fleeces. She said that due to drought hay making implements haven’t been out of the shed during the last 10 years and that lack of feed had caused many problems in her AI program. After a lovely cuppa we were on our way to Geelong for lunch.

Our next stop was at David and Michaela Holroyd’s farm at Carisbrook. Their commercial run enterprise was based on goats from the ‘Sheralea” Stud , which was run by Mr & Mrs Gibb Michaela’s parents. I was fascinated by the stone fences around the paddocks with signs “Please don’t remove stones from walls” The rocky out crops providing protection for the goats. During a walk through the paddocks Margaret said Hello to a Maremma pup that she had bred that was guarding the flock.. Michaela was growing indigenous trees from the area to replant on their farm.. After a welcome hot cuppa, a talk about their goats we were on our way again.

On to Sylvania Farm for the night. Where there are two houses set up as B&B or farm stay with 8 bedrooms .The BBQ tea was ready and waiting along with members from the Western region to greet us , It was great. Next morning after a hearty breakfast of bacon and eggs Rowena Doyle gave us a tour of the property. They have a shop selling Mohair produces in the shearing shed and grow their own grain and hay for the goats She said that they were joining 6-700 does this season . All kids are tagged with a colored disc representing the buck so that at a glance they could tell which buck it was out of and a number for identification .

Proceeding on to Bob and June Liddy’s “Mulgowrie” Stud, just out of Horsham. (Rowena Doyle’s parents).They cull 20% of their maiden does. The buck kids are divided into two groups, the first group are culled, the second group kept through to shearing then reassessed keeping only the best bucks.

Our next stop 20km down the Henty Highway to the property of Stuart and Loretta Chance who run a commercial Angora herd. Their shearing shed had just been replaced Stuart explained to us the thought that went into the design, we were very impressed with the holding pens and the flooring which was an interlocking type of plastic panels called pig filter ease which was made in Canada. They use Alpacas to guard their herd, they have found that one Alpaca was better than two , as one will stay with the herd and two seemed to stay together away from the herd . Stuart is interested in developing native grasses for his pasture .After a discussion on goat farming we were off to East Trentham.

Les and Licia Kokocinski of “Kalmaldane” have been farming at Trentham for 5 years and run 94 goats, Alpacas guard their herd. Each paddock had good shedding, the sheds were made from two rows of 6 inch treated pine posts driven into the ground about 6 foot apart, 6x1 timber joining it all together and corrugated iron on the roof and sides. Licia is very interested in what can be done with mohair. She has had some fleeces carded for felting and some fleeces carded for making donnas. They have been very busy replanting trees along the gullies. Trentham was very cold. After hot soup and cuppa we were on our way home. Every where that we went we found people very welcoming and willing to share their experiences. I am sure that all goat breeders would get a lot out of these bus trips and we invite anybody interested to join our group next year.



Need help disposing of your chemical drums?
The following article may help!

DRUMMUSTER PREPARES FOR BIG EAST COAST COLLECTIONS

Farmers throughout Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland are being asked to clear their farm chemical drums from their properties for the big **drumMUSTER** round up during this month.

"It's time to rinse them out, round them up and run them in to collection points operated by local Councils in all three States", **drumMUSTER** Program Manager, Vernon Keighley, said today.

"**drumMUSTER** is Australia's biggest single environmental initiative, and farmers and Councils across the country are increasing their support of this valuable program", Mr Keighley said.

"We've already collected our one millionth drum for the current financial year, during the collection period just completed in Western Australia, and we're hoping to reach a target of 1.6 million drums by the end of June", he said.

"The millionth drum was delivered to a collection being run by the Tambellup P&C at the Tambellup Shire Depot and Mr Winton Nazzari will receive an award from **drumMUSTER** to celebrate this milestone".

"Collections along the east coast began in Mildura yesterday, and will continue throughout this month in all major regional areas in three States and the ACT. Farmers should contact their local councils to book their deliveries, and they'll find that there will be convenient collection points in their area".

"The **drumMUSTER** program is jointly undertaken by farmers and chemical users, local government and the crop production and animal health industries in Australia. Through involvement in the **drumMUSTER** program, all those in the supply chain are clearly demonstrating a commitment to a cleaner and safer environment. Councils across Australia have adopted the program as it ensures that drums are kept out of landfill and are recycled", Mr Keighley said.

"Farmers, vineyard operators and spraying contractors tell us they value the program because of the ease of delivery, the removal of residue problems on their properties, and the added value to their quality assurance programs", he said.

Farmers' response to the program can be summed up by Brian Burrow from Springvale, at Hyden in Western Australia, during delivery of his drums to the Pinjarra Transfer Station in March.

"Our chemical bills are \$100,000 dollars a year for our wheat and sheep operation. Everywhere you used to go there were always chemical drums blowing around and you'd get big winds and they'd shift everywhere", Mr Burrow said.

"We just triple rinse the drums to make sure they're clean, take them to the depot, record who we are and where we're from. Just about every farmer we know – all our neighbours – return them", he said.

Mr Keighley said the support of the President of the National Farmers' Federation, Peter Corish, who presents the current **drumMUSTER** television commercials, was invaluable.

"Mr Corish is one of the most prominent farmers in the country, and we're sure farmers will respond to his statement that using **drumMUSTER** is 'just good farming practice'", Mr Keighley said.

For more information please contact:

Niree Creed

Media

drumMUSTER

0418 625595