

# ASHEEP News



a s h e e p  
Esperance

## ASHEEP Spring Field Day– A review

November 2018

Newsletter # 51

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This year's Spring Field Day coincided with the October school holidays and any worry that this would result in a smaller crowd was put aside when nearly 60 people turned up on the day. It was great to see a few younger people turn up while they were home from school too.

A full bus departed town for the Wallace's property on Plowman's Road. Here Stu Wallace showed us the effect red clover syndrome has on their grazing system. The paddock we saw was going to be sown to Canola but, short on feed, the Wallace's decided to keep the paddock as sub-clover pasture. By mid-September the clover was very red and dying however it was able to grow through it to be set stocked at 12 DSE. Aphids were controlled with spray as research is indicating they are a factor in red clover syndrome. Stu believes there are many stressors that contribute to clover going red. In this situation it was possibly water logging as the clover recovered after it was destocked and the water stress was reduced.

Stu wants to keep sub-clover as it works well in the Wallace's system. They find they struggle with cape weed in serradella pastures and the winter cleaning required to keep on top of it results in loss of feed availability. The spray-grazing management of sub clovers suits their system well.

Brad Nutt said that root rot is always present in the soil & roots and anytime there is a factor that restricts growth (acid soil, frost, waterlogging) the root rot will begin to be expressed as red clover.

Ron Yates thinks we ask too much of the sub-clover system with the tightening of rotations, herbicide residues and high stocking rates. Our modern farming practices have moved beyond what our sub-clovers were bred to handle.

During the discussions Angelo Loi tested the soil of Stu's paddock and it was borderline for clover (becoming too acidic). Angelo reminded the group that every time the soil is cultivated it acidifies the soil. Most sub clovers grow well at pH 5-6.

*Continued on page 2*



*The group drew a curious crowd while checking out the biserrula at the Wallace's property.*

## ASHEEP Spring Field Day– A review

John Wallace then showed us a paddock of biserrula. This paddock was also set stocked at 12 DSE. The stock are used as crop toppers as they will eat everything else before they touch the biserrula. The group discussed the problems with photosensitivity that biserrula can cause in livestock. Angelo gave an update on the research work that is happening to address this issue. Researchers have identified some genotypes of biserrula that have lower risk of causing photosensitivity, however there is the chance that over the years it will just revert back to Casbah and we'll be back to square one. At this stage feedbase management is the only way to reduce the risk.

Over lunch the judging for the 2018 ASHEEP Nod King commenced. The competition was fierce but ultimately there could only be one winner and that was David Styles. David won a 500kg bag of inoculant donated by Alosca.



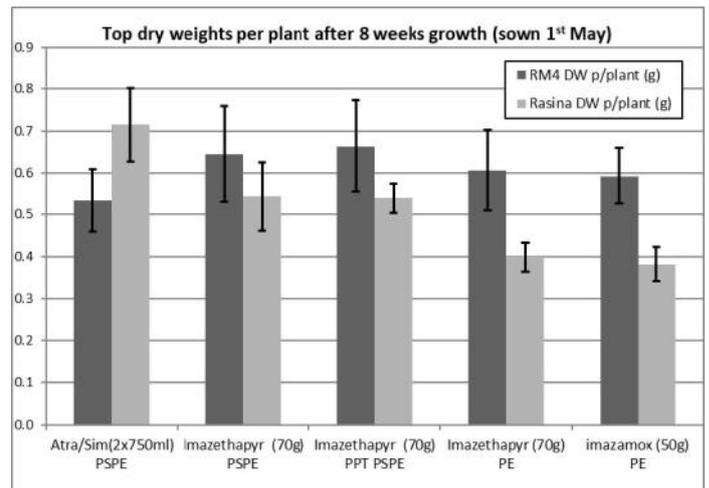
Floyd Sullivan from Alosca with the 2018 Nod King winner David Styles. David won 500kg of granular inoculant donated by Alosca and the equally as valuable ASHEEP Nod King trophy.

After lunch Tom Edwards and Ron Yates showed the group their Royalties for Regions funded vetch spray trial. The trial focuses on woolly pod vetch and common vetch varieties sown earlier in the season (1st May) and the effectiveness of herbicide applications in this scenario. Preliminary data is showing that RM4 is more tolerant to the applied sprays than Rasina. Rasina showed significantly reduced growth when imazethapyr and imazamox were sprayed post emergence. PPT is a fungicide coating and didn't appear to have an effect on production. Data on nodulation, peak biomass and yield are yet to be collected. The sowing procedure was as follows-

- 1.5 L/ha Glyphosate 2 weeks prior to seeding
- 1.5 L/ha Spray Seed prior to seeding

- 1.5L/ha Treflan prior to seeding
- CSBP Superphosphate at 100 kg/ha at seeding

And below are the results after 8 weeks growth.



From here the group travelled to 'The Oaks' where Nick Ruddenklau gave the group a great run down on their silage production process. The silage paddock was sown to 45 ha of rye grass & serradella and 20ha of wheat with 80kg of Agstar and 100L Flexi N. Nick uses pits covered with CBH tarp and gravel bags and a Giltrap silage wagon is used to feed the silage out. A cost analysis showed it cost \$71/tonne of dry matter to produce the silage, from sowing to covering the pits.



Checking out the gear used to feed silage at 'The Oaks'

## ASHEEP Spring Field Day– A review

The last stop of the day was at John Sharpe's property where Boston Whooley from CSBP ran through a pasture fertilizer response trial. The aim of this trial is to determine the key nutrient drivers of maintaining longevity in newly improved pastures on the Esperance coastal sandplain. For a full write up on this trial see our next newsletter in February 2019. Thanks to Boston for showing us his very well presented trial and we look forward to seeing more results in the future.

The day finished with a barbeque kindly hosted by John Sharpe. Thanks to David Howey from Elanco for not only supplying the barbeque trailer but also cooking everyone dinner! Thanks to CSBP for donated drinks. And as always thanks to ASHEEP's sponsors who make it possible for us to run these days.



*David Howey from Elanco keeping everyone fed and drinks donated by CSBP kept us watered.*

## Working Dog School– Expressions of interest

After the success of last year's working dog school another is being organised for the 26th & 27th of February 2019. Places will be limited to a max of 10 people so please register your interest in attending with Emma on 0457 937 774 or [eo@asheep.org.au](mailto:eo@asheep.org.au). Deposits will be required in January to secure your place. Location to be confirmed.

The school will be run by Simon Leaning from Marionvale Working Dogs. Simon not only runs working dog schools nationally and internationally, he also competes in and judges working dogs competitions. Most recently Simon has returned from a 5 week trip to Norway and Germany where he ran schools and seminars.

Simon has a facebook page called 'Marionvale Working Dogs'



## Agro spot: An update on summer crops

**Theo Oorschot, Esperance Rural Supplies 0427 715166**

“The opportunity to grow summer crops this year has never been clearer.” This was my opening line when I wrote an article for ASHEEP in 2016 and the same set of circumstances have presented themselves this year. Those growers that have the runs on the board are continuing to increase their hectares and there is continued interest from new growers wanting to have a go.

What have we learned from this year so far?

- **Ground temperature.** Crops showing less early vigour than what we have experienced in the past. Ground temperatures have not necessarily been ideal. Sowing temperatures may have been ideal and rising, but then temperatures have come off optimum as we went through some cooling temperatures during October and November. As a rough guide Shirohie Millet 14 C and rising. The others, including sudan types 15 C and sorghum types 18 C. Below shows an example of sowing sorghum at two different soil temperatures. Photo taken 10 days after sowing. Source The Forage Book.

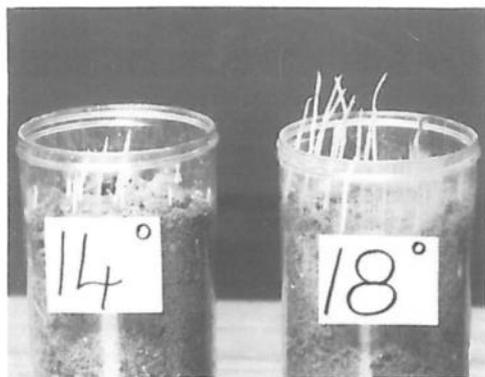


Figure 54 This shows the speed of germination of forage sorghum, sown at 5cm depth, at two different soil temperatures. Photo taken 10 days after sowing.

- **Watch out for insects.** If going into pasture country you should've sprayed early to conserve moisture and included an insecticide such as Alpha Cypermethrin. Continue to monitor.
- **Nutrition.** You may or may not have sown some phosphorus down the tube depending on soil levels, but, nitrogen drives the system. If you have the ability to deep band N then do so at 100 kg/ha Urea or similar with Flexi-N / UAN. If not, wait for the first available rain event you are confident with and top

dress the same amount of N once you are happy with the establishment.

- **Time of sowing.** I believe it is never too late particularly if you have moisture and depending on your location in the Esperance region. However, there are some caveats including soil type and when the requirement for feed needed. Growers have successfully sown shirohie millet in early January on a summer rain on the coastal strip.
- **Sowing depth.** If you need to sow to a depth to get the seed onto moisture then do it. There is no point sowing into the dry. As a guide, the OP millets to a depth of 35mm and the hybrid sorghum types 65 mm.
- **When to graze.** The Shirohie millets and SSS can be as early as 300 mm height. The sorghums and pennisetums 600mm to 1 metre. Graze down to 150mm. Don't be afraid to topdress more nitrogen post grazing if the season lends itself and the stand is a good one.
- **Varieties.** I keep it simple. For beginners a low cost entry is Shirohie millet. The cheapest seed doesn't necessarily grow you the cheapest feed! Those growers looking for something that will provide more bulk and is an early maturing variety, then it is SSS or Centaur. SSS by its name, Super Sweet Sudan is a well sort after variety. The pennisetum Pearler is still my favourite for the cattle producer, being a long season type with no prussic acid issues. Shirohie, also, does not have issues with prussic acid.
- **Feed quality.** Roughly speaking, Crude Protein can be as high as 20% and Metabolised Energy of around 10MJ/kg of Dry Matter.
- **Be positive** and learn from the experience of summer cropping. No two years are ever the same!



## Getting the best performance from your ewes and rams at joining

**Danny Roberts, DPIRD Veterinary Officer, Albany**

The recommend joining period is 5 weeks in February because this allows for two oestrus cycles in the Merino ewe. The recommended joining period is 7 weeks in December unless you use teasers to concentrate the oestrus cycle in which case joining should be for 5 weeks.

The mature ram-to-mature-ewe joining ratio can range from 1-2% but need a minimum of 4 fit, healthy rams per mob. Concentrate on the health and nutrition of rams commencing 12 weeks before the start of joining. Get shearing done at least 8 weeks before joining to avoid any potential effect on sperm production. Examine each ram's feet, teeth, palpate the testes and epididymis (firm, adequate size, no lumps); promptly treat any flystrike and give an effective summer drench. Ensure rams are free of brucellosis by testing, as visual checks are not enough to avoid ovine brucellosis in purchased rams. Feed between 500 and 750 grams per head per day of lupin seed for the eight weeks prior to start of joining to ensure firm, large testes.

In short, ram management needs to be excellent in the 8 weeks prior to the start of joining to prevent testicular degeneration and impairment of fertility.

Rams needs to be condition score 3.5 before the rapid weight loss that occurs during joining. If feeding ewes barley during joining, then rams also need feeding at the same rate before the start of joining.

Good management of the ewe also commences 12 weeks before the start of joining. Ensure optimum ewe weight and condition score at joining by maximising liveweight gain on green feed and manage 'fat' and 'thin' ewes differently after weaning.

Energy intake is the major factor influencing the number of pregnant ewes (pregnancy or fertility rate) and the number of potential lambs (reproductive rate). The higher the condition score of the ewes at joining, the lower the number of non-pregnant or dry ewes and the more likely they will produce their maximum number of lambs. Ewes should average condition score 2.5 to 3 at weaning and slowly increase to condition score 3.5 to 4 by late November.

Feed early and less rather than more and late. It is cheaper and more effective to maintain condition score from December than let ewes drop in condition and feed higher rates of supplement in the lead up to joining. For high pregnancy rates in maiden ewes, live weight must be 80% of mature body weight at the start of joining.

Good ewe management will result in more than 90% pregnancy rate in mature ewes across the flock. The

percentage of dry ewes at pregnancy scanning averaged 15% in 2015 and 2016 and 16% in 2017 in flocks from the southern agricultural region. This indicates a need for a significant improve fertility rates by better management of rams and ewes in the 12 weeks prior to the start of joining.

Reproductive losses or wastage at joining are due to ewes failing to mate (ram or the ewes fault); ewe mated but not pregnant, ewes ovulating more than once, but producing only one-foetus and ewe deaths. The cause may be multifactorial – nutritional (lack of energy and/or exposure to toxins), environmental (high temperature), physical (paddock size/shape/number of rams affecting ram-ewe contact) or disease e.g. *Brucella* infection in rams or clover disease in ewes. Investigate when more than 75% of ewes in a mob were in condition score 3 at the start of joining but pregnancy scanning detects less than 90% pregnancy rate.

Lastly, you need to know and understand how responsive your ewe flock's reproductive performance is. The potential reproductive rate at scanning is dependent on your genotype. Condition score 50 ewes at the start of joining and then later pregnancy scan the mob measuring the proportions of pregnant ewes with single or twin foetuses. The most accurate time to pregnancy scan ewes for multiple foetuses is at day 90 (80 to 100d) after ram introduction Some ewe flocks will have better response to higher condition at the start of joining. For example, do you have 96 per 100-mated ewes pregnant (high fertility rate) but get 69 per 100-pregnant ewes with a single lamb and 31 per 100-pregnant ewes with twin lambs?

The image displays a 'Lambing Planner' document. On the left, there are sections for 'PRE-JOINING' (Days 73-14), 'PREGNANCY' (Days 0-77), and 'LAMBING' (Days 150-210). On the right, there is a 'LACTATION' section (Days 210-234) and a circular 'Lambing Planner' wheel. The wheel is divided into months from December to December, with a central area for 'LAMBING' and 'LACTATION'. The wheel also indicates 'PRE-JOINING' and 'PREGNANCY' periods. A note at the top right of the wheel says: 'How to use the Lambing Planner: Place the lambing date on the desired lambing date. The outer ring indicates your ewe's pregnancy dates in your lambing calendar. Transfer the Planner to a pregnancy diary. Commencing at 75 days prior to pregnancy onset it will progressively identify fertility issues consistent with best practice. Problems should manifest at pregnancy in first scans. Depending on flock circumstances, particularly near introduction and subsequent scans, scans based on the wheel may be optional or unnecessary for your flock. Maximising the percentage of fertile, continued, mature and sound ewes will make a significant contribution to flock goals.'

Misplaced your copy of the lambing planner? Contact the ASHEEP office for a hard copy or download the app.

## Grain bag recycling available at Wylie Bay

The Esperance Shire will accept plastic grain bags for recycling at the Wylie Bay Waste Facility this year. The bags need to be very clean and rolled up. Call the Wylie Bay Waste Facility to make an appointment to drop the bags off, please don't turn up without first phoning.

**Wylie Bay Waste Facility-** 9071 7594

Opening hours are:

Monday to Friday 8am - 4pm

Weekends 10am- 3pm (Sept-April)

11am-3pm (May-Aug)

Public Holidays- Weekend hours



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## Stand by what you sell... National Vendor Declaration (NVD) and the impact on our red meat supply chains.

### *V & V Walsh– ASHEEP Gold Sponsor*

The Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) NVD system underpins Australia's meat and livestock food safety reputation. It meets the stringent requirements of our export markets, providing an assurance of the safety of red meat grown on Australian farms.

Food safety and traceability has become a significant measure for red meat consumers in Australia and in the 100+ countries which buy our red meat. LPA NVDs provides a food safety assurance to these customers and in doing so, supports the reputation and on-going economic viability of our industry and livestock producers. The LPA and NVD programs ensure our red meat industry remains viable, sustainable and competitive in the global markets.

LPA is an individual farmer's pledge that they have undertaken the necessary farm management practices on their property to ensure their livestock will produce safe food. These (LPA/NVD) programs enable cattle, sheep and goats to be traced from property of birth to slaughter providing valuable information to ensure Biosecurity, Meat safety, Product integrity and Market access.

In recent months there has been an increasing number of NVD forms received within supply chains (sale yards and processors) with the delivery of livestock (sheep and cattle) that have **NOT** been completed correctly or contain a range of errors or omissions.

It is the responsibility of the livestock owner/ manager, the livestock carrier and the livestock agent (if applicable) to complete and provide a signed declaration that all information is true and accurate. The NVD is a legal declaration and guarantee to the purchaser of the livestock. Please include your MSA number on the NVD sheet.

Non-compliant NVDs must be amended and re-signed by the producer before processing of

livestock can occur. This causes disruptions to processing and kill schedules and consumes time and resources to rectify the situation. Non-compliance rates remain unacceptably high across WA which impacts on processing and increased costs across the supply chain.

Livestock accompanied by non-compliant NVDs cannot be processed until the corrected document has been provided by the supplier and has been re-signed. The following resources (refer links below) provide some explanatory notes on NVDs.

NVD Notes- [http://edec.mla.com.au/eformsql/forms/eDEC\\_NVD\\_SheepLambs/Formid8\\_explnotes.pdf](http://edec.mla.com.au/eformsql/forms/eDEC_NVD_SheepLambs/Formid8_explnotes.pdf)

Documenting Livestock Movements - NVDs- <https://lpa.nlis.com.au/Modules/module4/pages/1-4-1.html>

MLA - NVD Information- <https://www.mla.com.au/meat-safety-and-traceability/red-meat-integrity-system/about-the-livestock-production-assurance-program/livestock/>

We appreciate your attention to the above and importantly, as we approach the end of another calendar year, we thank you for your continued support to our sheep industry in WA.

May you have a successful conclusion to the 2018 harvest and a Merry Xmas to all ASHEEP Group Members, associates and your families.

Best regards - V&V Walsh.

**Dale Miles-**

DMiles@vwalsh.com.au

0475 952 812



Stand by what you sell... National Vendor Declaration (NVD) and the impact on our red meat supply chains.

V & V Walsh- ASHEEP Gold Sponsor

An LPA NVD is a vital part of your business - make sure it is complete and correct

Who is responsible for completing the LPA NVD?

Part A: The sheep or lambs owner or the person responsible for the husbandry of the sheep or lambs.  
Part B: The livestock carrier.  
Part C: The livestock agent (optional).

Who keeps the copies?

Top sheet: (White) goes with the sheep/lambs to the purchaser.  
Middle sheet: (Green) goes to the carrier.  
Bottom sheet: (Pink) stays in the book and should be kept for auditing purposes.

How do I order copies of the LPA NVD?

1 Got to [www.mla.com.au/nvd](http://www.mla.com.au/nvd)  
2 Phone 1800 683 111  
Where do I go for more information?  
Go to [www.mla.com.au/nvd](http://www.mla.com.au/nvd)



**NATIONAL VENDOR DECLARATION (SHEEP AND LAMBS) AND WAYBILL**

Owner of sheep or lambs: **Sandra Smith, MS Smith** Propertyplace where the journey commenced: **Wangala, VIC 3672**

Property identification number of this property: **59** (Year born: **2000**) Description: **1" x BL x Mir** Date of birth: **09/09/09**

Wangala	Benalla	3	A	B	C	D	1	2	3

5. In the past 60 days, have any of the sheep or lambs in this consignment consumed any material that was still within a withholding period when harvested, collected or first grazed? Yes  No  If Yes, give details:

6. Have the sheep or lambs in this consignment ever in their lives been fed feed containing animal fats? Yes  No  (See Explanatory Notes)

7. Please include any additional information below eg, vaccination programs, animal health certification, additional declarations, etc.

**Declaration**  
I, **Sandra Smith**, **Wangala, VIC 3672** declare that, I am the owner or the person responsible for the husbandry of the sheep or lambs and that all the information in part A of this document is true and correct. I have read and understood the explanatory notes, and that, while under my control, the sheep or lambs were not fed restricted animal material (including meat and bone meal) in breach of State or Territory legislation.

Signature: **Sandra Smith** Date: **04.04.2012**  
Tel no: **02 9463 9000** Fax no: **02 9463 9111**

**Part B** To be completed by the person in charge of the sheep or lambs while they are being moved.  
Completion of this part is optional in SA and VIC.  
Movement commenced: **04.04.2012** (am/pm)  
Vehicle registration number(s): **02 9463 9000** (am/pm)

**Part C** Agents declaration for sheep or lambs sold at auction. (Completion of Part C is optional.)  
Agents completing Part C should retain the original or a scanned copy of the original declaration or a summary for a minimum of two (2) years, or three (3) years in VIC and supply a copy or summary to any buyer on request.

Stock agent company: **John Bennett, Bureau Livestock Agency** Agent's code: **020**  
Buyer's name: **Benalla, Vic** Destination PIC: **020**  
No. of sheep or lambs purchased: **1** Saleyard arrival time (am/pm): **09:00**  
Agent's signature: **John Bennett** Date: **04.04.2012**

Use the tools provided in the LPA program to help you answer Part A with confidence.

Once you have correctly completed and signed this form you have met the requirement to have a livestock travel document and declared that all livestock covered by the LPA NVD have met the LPA program requirements and animal material feeding restrictions.

The carrier should fill in Part B.

The agent may fill in Part C.

IF PIC IS PRE-PRINTED DO NOT CROSS OUT.

List in the Description Table in Part A all PIC numbers (other than the PIC printed) on tags of sheep or lambs in this consignment

Write the name of the person or business (and their address) that the sheep/lamb have been transferred to.

Write the address of where the sheep/lambs will be delivered (if different).

Do not send sheep/lambs to slaughter if they are still within the withholding period or export slaughter interval.

The LPA NVD is your guarantee to buyers - get it right.

© Copyright Meat and Livestock Australia 2011. The Meat and Livestock Australia logo is a registered trademark of AUS-MEAT Limited. \* The LPA NVD is for cattle, sheep and lambs, EU cattle, sheep and lambs, following treatment with any veterinary drug or ointment? Yes  No  If Yes, give details: (Record additional details in question 7)  
New South Wales, Tasmania and Queensland. They are optional in South Australia and Victoria. The LPA NVD is not recognised as a legal document for stock movements in the Northern Territory.

## Grazing sheep on cereal stubbles



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

**Danny Roberts & Mandy Curnow- DPIRD**  
**(0)8 9892 8535**

Stubbles are the major feed source for sheep during the summer-autumn period.

While there is often up to three tonnes of dry plant material per hectare available, sheep grazing stubbles eat only about 6% of it. With increased harvesting efficiency and better weed control, stubble paddocks now generally contain less grain and fewer weeds than in the past.

The energy content of the dry plant material determines how much the stock can eat. About a quarter of fresh wheat stubble has a digestibility of more than 55%, one third has a digestibility between 50-55% and the rest is indigestible stem material.

Grazing sheep are able to select the more nutritious parts of the stubble crop. Spilt grain remaining after harvest is eaten rapidly, so that even though it forms only a small proportion of the dry matter available in the stubble, grain is a high proportion of the diet selected. Once most of the grain has been eaten, sheep select the more digestible parts of the plant straw.

After six weeks in any stubble paddock it is highly unlikely that sheep will be gaining weight — rather, it is more probable that most sheep will be losing weight.

It is important to assess the amounts of grain available before sheep are put in stubble paddocks. A simple method to measure the amount of grain

available in a stubble is to use a 0.1 square metre ( $m^2$ ) square — approximately 30 centimetres (cm) x 30cm. At least 20 counts on a line across each paddock at right angles to the harvest runs are needed to get an indication of the average levels of residual grains. One hundred kilograms of grain per hectare equals, on average, approximately:

- wheat and oats — 28 grains per square
- barley — 25 grains per square
- lupins — 8 grains per square
- field peas — 5 grains per square
- chick peas — 5 grains per square
- faba beans — 2 grains per square.

There are variations between crops in the lengths of grazing. Because it is not possible to accurately predict the performances of sheep on stubbles, it is important to weigh, or at least condition score, sheep on stubbles regularly (preferably at three weekly intervals) to determine when they need to be shifted or supplemented. A sample of 50 sheep will provide a good indication of the performance of the flock. As well as measuring the sheep, stubble paddocks should be monitored for the amounts of residual grains. Paddocks should not be grazed after the amount of ground cover declines to 50% or less, because the paddocks are then susceptible to erosion and degradation.



Picture source: DPIRD

## Grazing sheep on cereal stubbles

### Cereal stubbles

The spilt grain in cereal stubbles contains starch that can cause acidosis if rapidly consumed. Acidosis is caused by the lowering of the pH in the rumen of sheep, leading to part of the microbial population being killed off and a lessened ability by the rumen to process fibrous feed. To minimise the chances of developing acidosis, sheep should be acclimatised to the grain before being put onto ungrazed cereal stubbles.

### Straw quality

The nutritional quality of cereal straw is generally very poor, mainly because of its low digestibility and low nitrogen content and straw alone is seldom able to provide a maintenance diet for sheep. Its main advantage is that it is readily available, cheap roughage that can be used together with other feeds to provide a source of roughage for feeding sheep during summer and autumn.

The digestibility of a feed is the main factor which determines the amount of energy provided by that feed. Concentrates such as barley or lupins are 80-90% digestible and provide a high energy diet, whereas roughages such as straw or hay are generally of lower digestibility (35-55%) and provide less energy.

Protein is also an essential component of any diet and different classes of stock have varying nutritional demands for protein. Demands for protein are high during late pregnancy and during lactation and high wool growth rates can only be achieved with a high protein diet. Lupin seeds are about 30% protein and are, therefore, a particularly important source of supplementary protein.

Straw, however, contains less than 4-5% protein and an additional source of protein is generally needed with straw diets.

The variations in digestibility between different parts of wheat straw show that the leaf blade and sheath in the stubble have a digestibility of about 59%, whereas the stem material is only 29%

digestible.

The proportion of leaf material compared with stem is low and sheep preferentially graze the leaf material.

Rain during summer and autumn can significantly reduce the digestibility of the stubble, mainly through leaching out the soluble or digestible components of the straw.

The nitrogen content of grazed stubbles is also too low to sustain adequate microbial growth in the rumen. This may restrict digestion of dietary fibre and with it the sheep's ability to digest the roughage diet efficiently.

Stubbles grown in wet areas will be of lower quality than those from drier areas, particularly late in the season when rain may have reduced digestibility further.

*This is an extract from Danny Robert's & Mandy Curnow's article on the DPIRD website. For the full article, with information on grazing lupin and canola stubble as well, please go to <https://agric.wa.gov.au/n/1744>*



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

*Rain during summer and autumn can significantly reduce the digestibility of stubble*



## Supplements for sheep on stubbles with low protein and digestibility

### Landmark– ASHEEP Platinum Sponsor

Author: L Harrison Edited 26 /9/2018 Bronwen Fowler

Cattle and sheep are exceptional in their ability to utilise dry standing feed or stubble and convert it into a useful energy source. However, to best utilise this feed source we need to know how to drive consumption to improve animal performance over the dry season.

#### Causes of reduced performance:

##### Plant maturity

The cellulose component of dry feed is digested by rumen microbes to provide energy to the animal. As plants become 'bulkier' and more fibrous with age, the indigestible fibre content increases. Digestibility declines and more feed passes through the animal undigested. The protein and energy content is low and insufficient to support optimum growth.

##### Low Dry Matter Intake (DMI)

The high fibre content reduces the amount of feed the stock are physically able to eat ('fill factor'). Adequate DMI is critical for optimum livestock production on low quality pasture.

##### Dry feed and stubbles are low in protein

When plant protein falls below 6-7%, rumen microbial activity slows. Reduced microbe activity results in slower digestion and subsequently a reduction in pasture intake.

#### Symptoms:

##### Low rumen activity

- Reduced cud chewing
- Stock not grazing out paddock
- Manure hardens (from slower digestion)

#### Treatment & Prevention:

##### Maintain a good population of rumen microbes

On dry feed, microbes require additional protein and minerals for optimum growth and reproduction. Protein can be in the form of 'Rumen Degradable' (RDP), 'UnDegradable' (UDP) or 'Bypass' Protein (e.g. Cottonseed meal)- which largely bypasses the rumen and is digested in small intestines via enzymes, and 'Non-Protein Nitrogen' (e.g. Urea). Microbes also require minerals (e.g. sulphur- protein synthesis) for improved digestion of dry feed. More efficient digestion increases the rate of passage of feed through the animal, ultimately increasing daily DMI – the driver of production.

#### Dry feed supplements

Promote / Stimulate rumen activity by providing a source of protein and minerals - the limiting nutrients lacking in dry feed.

#### Supplementary Options:

##### Blocks:

##### 4 Season Co (Salt Based)

*Stubblebuster* - Provides 30% Total Protein - (10% urea), designed as a maintenance block.

*Protein 50* - Provides 50% Total Protein - (11.5% urea), designed for breeding animals to drive production.

##### 4 Season (Molasses Based)

*Dry Spell* - Provides 32% Total Protein – (10% Urea)

##### Agricon (Molasses Based)

*Drimol 10 %* - Provides 36% Total Protein – (10% urea)

*Calcifort +10* - Provides 34.8% Total Protein- (10.5% urea)

##### Loose licks:

##### Superior Livestock Services.

Containing varying rates of NPN (urea) & true protein To provide the microbes with a nitrogen boost.

*Superior Young Lamb Cereal Buster* – Provides 11.5% Total CP

*Superior Cereal Buster*- Provides 20% Total CP with 6% NPN –Protected Urea (safe summer showers)

These products provide a complete range of minerals along with Bentonite @ 20 %

#### Management:

Put protein supplements out early in the season. It is far more economical to maintain condition early in the season than to try and regain condition later.

#### Placement of supplements

Initially placed close to watering points (<1 week). Once intake is established, the supplement should be moved further out into the paddock to encourage grazing and better utilisation of available feed.



## Grazing modern crop stubbles project

### Find out the grazing value of your chaff piles or lines

Dr Dean Thomas from the CSIRO is running a project which will comprehensively survey the feeding value of crop stubbles in WA. The overall aim of the project is to assess the quantity and quality of grazed stubbles/ chaff piles or lines and relate that back to seasonal conditions, location and farming practices. This will result in a web-based calculator being developed to assist grazing management of stubbles.

**There is the opportunity to have your own chaff feed quality tested as part of this project.**

To get this done please complete the survey at this address <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ModernStubblesSurvey>

Alternatively email the asheep office for the link.

Once you have completed the survey you will be sent a reply paid sample bag with instructions to collect your own sample to be tested for nutritional value. The results will be sent straight back to you, however it may take a number of weeks.

The project is funded by MLA and AWI. For more info contact Dean Thomas, Livestock Systems Scientist, CSIRO Agriculture and Food, [dean.thomas@csiro.au](mailto:dean.thomas@csiro.au), +61 8 9333 6671

## Are you having stock deaths of unknown cause?

### Find out the cause with the Significant Disease Investigation Program

The Significant Disease Investigation (SDI) Program boosts WA's capacity for early detection of such diseases by subsidising the cost of investigating diseases with specific signs. This encourages veterinarians and producers to carry out a thorough investigation to obtain an early diagnosis.

#### Subsidies available for veterinarians

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia (DPIRD) provides a subsidy of \$330 (GST inclusive) to private veterinarians for an initial field and laboratory investigation of significant disease incidents in livestock and wildlife approved under the SDI Program.

For disease investigations approved under the SDI Program, DPIRD waives all laboratory costs and provides a travel subsidy for a maximum of 200 kilometres.

#### What is a significant disease?

The SDI program has been introduced to increase the number of thorough disease investigation submissions where animals show signs of significant disease. DPIRD will not approve investigations for routine herd health checks that a private veterinarian would carry out as part of their normal service.

#### SDI criteria for livestock cases

For livestock cases to be eligible for the SDI Program, they must:

- be cattle, sheep, goats or pigs
- have multiple animals affected (but this is flexible in cases of potentially reportable diseases)
- be from a commercial herd/flock (at least 50 sheep or goats; or at least 20 pigs; or at least 10 cattle, but there is flexibility in cases of potentially reportable diseases)
- include the following characteristics:
  - an unusual disease incident, including high illness and death rates and/or rate of spread or
  - visible signs consistent with a reportable disease without a clear alternative diagnosis or
  - potential effect on trade, public health or the viability of a farm, industry or region.

To use this subsidy contact your local vet who will contact the DPIRD vets and seek approval to carry out the work under this program. **You must have prior authorisation from DPIRD to be eligible for this subsidy.**

## ASHEEP projects update

### Novel Pastures for Dryland Pasture Systems

#### Key Points

- State-wide project involving DPIRD, Murdoch, CSIRO, Mingenew-Irwin group, Corrigin Farm Improvement Group and ASHEEP
- 4.5 year research project
- Funded by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) and GRDC, MLA & AWI
- Key Researchers– Angelo Loi DPIRD, Ron Yates DPIRD and Brad Nutt Murdoch Uni

#### Aim

To develop low-cost legume pasture, forage or hay options with reliable, low cost establishment techniques and management packages that benefit both crops and livestock production on a range of soil types

#### 5 project components:

- a) Novel pasture legumes suited to dry farming systems
- b) Benefits of novel legume pastures to crop production systems
- c) Benefits of novel legume pastures to livestock production systems
- d) Farm economics/modelling of legume pastures to aid decisions and evaluation
- e) Extension and evaluation

#### What is happening in Esperance?

Two novel legume pasture variety trial sites were established in 2018, one in Cascade and one in Scaddan. Due to the poor start the Cascade site did not fair well and germination was limited. The Scaddan site hung on and was visited as part of ASHEEP's Northern Field Walk. Here are some highlights of the Scaddan site.



**Site info-** High Boron sites were selected. The sites were sprayed out with round up and sown in June. Insects were controlled with Talstar. It was a tough establishment year so some of the plants aren't looking as impressive as we'd like. Like everyone else we're hoping for a better one next year.

*Pictured- Scaddan trial site on 14th September 2018*

## Novel Pastures for Dryland Pasture Systems

### Spiny Scorpion Tail

This variety doesn't have the spines the original does but retains the same high level of feed quality. In its native location, Santorini, the value of land is based on how much of this plant is present in the pasture such is its quality as sheep fodder. It is highly valued by the sheep dairy farmers of Santorini.

Spiny Scorpion Tail– 22/10/2018



### *Trigonella Balansae*

An upright growing, aerial seeded variety of clover that gives off a distinct curry aroma. Further testing is needed on the effect this curry aroma has on eating quality of the lamb or beef produced from stock grazing this plant.



← *Trigonella Balansae* →  
22/10/2018



## Novel Pastures for Dryland Pasture Systems

### *Medicago Truncatula*– Sultan SU

An early flowering barrel medic that shows tolerance to sulfonylurea (SU) herbicides (eg Glean, Logran, Ally) and is Boron tolerant.

### *Trifolium Spumusum*

A variety of Bladder Clover that is a bit more robust than current bladder clovers and has a shorter season.

### *Ornithopus pinnatus* Slender Serradella

The niche for this variety of Slender serradella is winter waterlogging followed by a dry spring. It thrives in the spring.



*Medicago Truncatula*–  
Sultan SU finishing for the  
season. 22/10/2018



A variety of *Trifolium*  
*Spumusum*– Bladder  
Clover

A variety of *Ornithopus pin-*  
*natus*- Slender Serradella



Other species not pictured include-

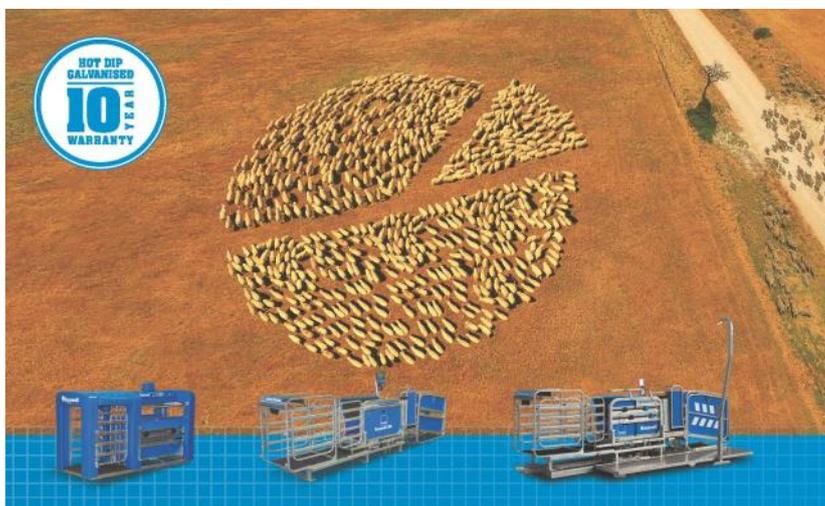
- A sub-species of common vetch that has underground branches with seeds as well being an aerial seeder. The two types of seed produced by the one plant are different, the under ground flowers are self pollinating where as the above ground flowers can be cross-pollinated.
- A hard seeded variety of serradella that is earlier than Margurita Serradella
- A clover with good Boron tolerance, it's an aerial seeder and shows some resistance to RLEM

## Novel Pastures for Dryland Pasture Systems

*This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural R&D for Profit program, the Grains Research and Development Corporation, Meat and Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Innovation. The research partners include the South Australian Research and Development Institute, Murdoch University, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, the WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and Charles Sturt University, as well as grower groups.*



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## Esperance Prime Lamb Development Group – A history

ASHEEP recently received a donation of just under \$1,000 from the Esperance Prime Lamb Development Group. The group ran from 1995 to 2001 in Esperance when lamb marketing was transitioning from 'fat lamb' to 'prime lamb'.

The group had approximately 15 members that met monthly to share information on the different 'fat tail' breeds that were appearing in the area such as Dorpers & Damaras. Management systems & techniques were also discussed such as crossing Texels with traditional 'fat tail' breeds to improve lean meat yield, a key profit driver. The role of the group was to promote discussion and information exchange more so than to do research or trials.

The main activity for the group was the 'Hook & Hoof' competition that was run every year at the Esperance Show. Farmers would enter lambs that were judged live and 'on the hoof' in the shed at the show. The lambs would then be taken to the local abattoir where they would again be judged 'on the hook'. Local butchers would bid on the carcasses and display them in their shop window along with the ribbon displaying their winning place in the

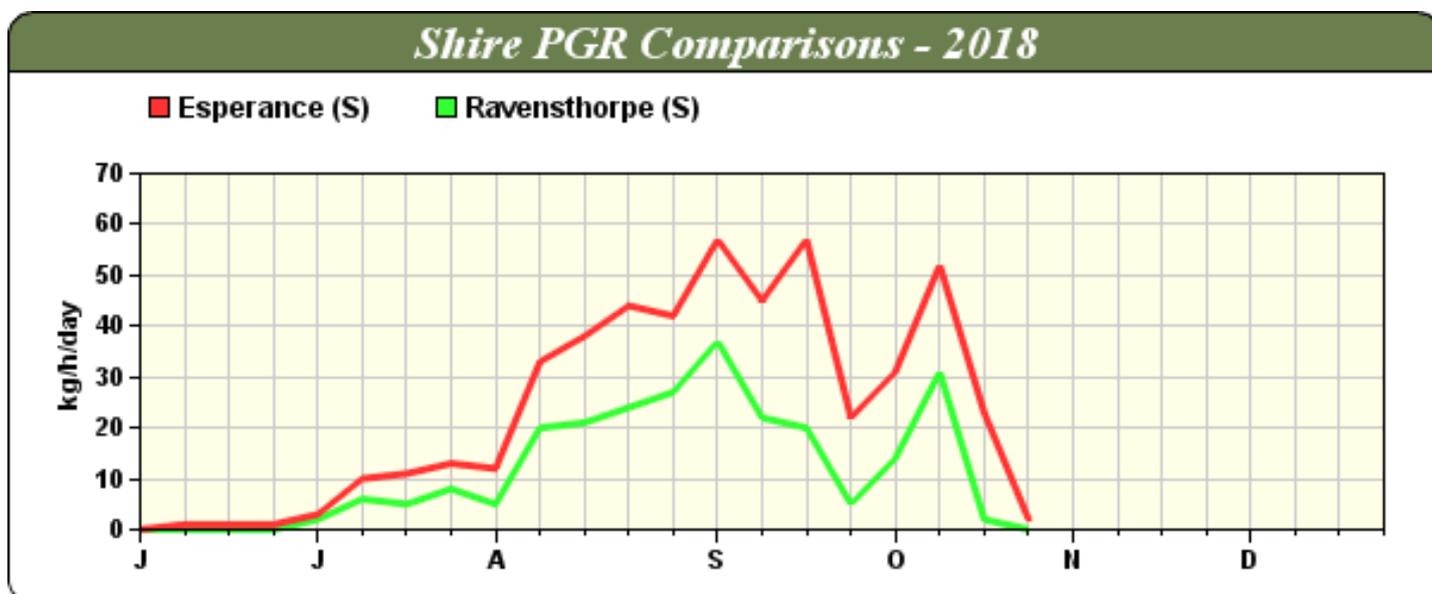
competition. One year a taste test element was added in to the competition and the results showed that you can't judge the eating quality of a lamb just by looking at it! The lambs that scored lowly 'on the hoof' were voted by the taste testers as the best eating quality! 17 years later we are still seeing the realisation of this fact in our production systems & abattoirs with the introduction of systems to better measure eating quality, including objective carcass measurement technologies in abattoirs and genetic indexes that allow producers to select for eating quality on-farm.

The group also organised study trips to places like WAMMCO in Katanning.

The Esperance Prime Lamb Development Group came to a natural close in 2001 after 6 years of operation. The donation to ASHEEP came about from the final wrapping up of the group and its accounts.

ASHEEP would like to thank the Esperance Prime Lamb Development Group for their donation and Lee Miller for the information provided for this article.

## Esperance & Ravensthorpe Pasture Growth Rates



## Effective parasite control proves cornerstone to profitable sheep enterprises Zoetis– ASHEEP Gold Sponsor

**An effective worm control strategy is critical for optimising production and minimising costs in any sheep enterprise.**

### Matt Playford

Current estimates indicate roundworms cost Australia's sheep and wool industry more than \$430 million dollars per year; up from a 2006 estimate of \$350 million dollars.<sup>1</sup>

The impact of roundworms represents the highest single animal health cost to the Australian sheep industry, estimated at about \$6/head, or an average of \$6000 for each mob of 1000 sheep. About 80% of the annual cost is associated with lost production and the remaining 20% with the costs of control.

Dr Matt Playford of Dawbutts was the lead investigator in a national survey of drench resistance in sheep, published in the Australian Veterinary Journal "Widespread resistance was found to almost all of the available drenches. Our study found resistance to white drenches (benzimidazoles) on 96% and resistance to triples on 28% of Australian sheep properties".<sup>2</sup>

The first case of resistance against monepantel, a new active released during 2010, has also been reported in Australia.<sup>3</sup>

### Effective option available

Derquantel, a member of the new spiroindole (SI) class of drench, is the only commercially-available anthelmintic option to which resistance has not been identified in Australia or overseas.

Startect combines derquantel with abamectin — a powerful macrocyclic lacton (ML) to create a highly-effective, combination drench. This powerful combination can substantially delay the development of resistance when used as part of a strategic worm control program<sup>4</sup>. With a meat withholding period (WHP) of 14 days and export slaughter interval (ESI) of 28 days<sup>5</sup>, Startect offers producers flexibility in a highly-effective short-acting broad spectrum drench of choice.

### Strategic approach

A strategic approach, combined with tactical drenching, is the key to effective worm control.

Drenching at critical times (e.g. pre-lambing, weaning or as a quarantine drench when introducing new stock) with

a highly-effective drench such as Startect, will reduce larval contamination of pastures<sup>6,7</sup> for the benefit of the whole flock and can delay the development of resistance to other drench classes when used in rotation.

Combined with tactical drenching, supported by regular faecal egg counts (FEC), and carefully-planned grazing management, the incorporation of Startect into the annual worm management program will reduce costs and support increased productivity across the board.

Carry out regular drench tests (every two to four years) to ensure your drench choice is effective and keep a record of FEC for individual paddocks to support strategic grazing management and drenching decisions.

"Research clearly shows that by using a highly-effective drench such as Startect in your drench rotation, you not only gain productivity benefits but you will also enhance the sustainability of your worm control program." Dr Matt Playford, Dawbutts.

<sup>1</sup> Lane J, Jubb, Shephard R, Webb-Ware J and Fordyce G (2015) MLA Final Report: Priority list of endemic diseases for the red meat industries. MLA

<sup>2</sup> Playford et al. (2014) Prevalence and severity of anthelmintic resistance in ovine gastrointestinal nematodes in Australia (2009-2012). AVJ 92: 464-71

<sup>3</sup> Love S (2015) Reduced efficacy of new drenches? Be alert, not alarmed <http://www.wormboss.com.au/news/articles/drenches/reduced-efficacy-of-new-drenches-be-alert-not-alarmed.php> (viewed 16 June 2016)

<sup>4</sup> Leathwick, DM, Modelling benefits of a new class of anthelmintic in combination. Vet Parasitol. 2012, 186: 93-100

<sup>5</sup> Startect Product Label, 2014.

<sup>6</sup> WormBoss Worm Control Program Tasmania <http://www.wormboss.com.au/programs/tas.php> (Viewed 16 June 2016)

<sup>7</sup> Love S ((2102) Don't import drench resistance <http://www.wormboss.com.au/news/articles/drench-resistance/dont-import-drench-resistance.php> (viewed 16 June 2016)

**STARTECT**  
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**Kills the Resistant worms that count in your Region**

- Contains the **NEWEST** active, Derquantel (10 mg/mL) in combination with Abamectin (1mg/mL)<sup>1</sup>
- Kills multi-resistant worms** - *Haemonchus contortus* (LEV, BZ, ML, CLOS & MONEPANTEL) and *Teladorsagia circumcincta* (LEV, BZ and ML) and *Trichostrongylus colubriformis* (including strains resistant to LEV, BZ, ML & MONEPANTEL)<sup>2</sup>
- Greater Sustainability** for every farm with Dual Drench Technology<sup>3</sup>
- Prolongs** the life of older more fragile drenches<sup>4</sup>
- Now registered** to kill MONEPANTEL resistant worms<sup>5</sup>

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**AUSTRALIAN OVERALL EFFICACY<sup>6</sup> 99.3%**

**RESULTS FOR GREAT SOUTHERN WA**

99.7% Overall efficacy against 100% of resistant worms

1. Lane J, Jubb R, Shephard R, Webb-Ware J and Fordyce G (2015) MLA Final Report: Priority list of endemic diseases for the red meat industries. MLA  
2. Playford et al. (2014) Prevalence and severity of anthelmintic resistance in ovine gastrointestinal nematodes in Australia (2009-2012). AVJ 92: 464-71  
3. Leathwick, DM, Modelling benefits of a new class of anthelmintic in combination. Vet Parasitol. 2012, 186: 93-100  
4. Love S (2015) Reduced efficacy of new drenches? Be alert, not alarmed <http://www.wormboss.com.au/news/articles/drenches/reduced-efficacy-of-new-drenches-be-alert-not-alarmed.php> (viewed 16 June 2016)  
5. Love S ((2102) Don't import drench resistance <http://www.wormboss.com.au/news/articles/drench-resistance/dont-import-drench-resistance.php> (viewed 16 June 2016)  
6. WormBoss Worm Control Program Tasmania <http://www.wormboss.com.au/programs/tas.php> (Viewed 16 June 2016)

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Quantity 500kg bulk bag (Treats 50ha)							
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