

This August 2019 publication provides woolgrowers in Western Australia with some of the results of AWI investment in **on-farm R&D and extension** that are benefiting woolgrowers in the state. It also provides **contact information**, for Western Australian woolgrowers who want to get involved.

## ABOUT AWI

Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) is a not-for-profit enterprise that conducts **research and development (R&D)** and **marketing** on behalf of Australian woolgrowers. AWI works along the worldwide supply chain for Australian wool – from woolgrowers to designers, manufacturers and retailers.

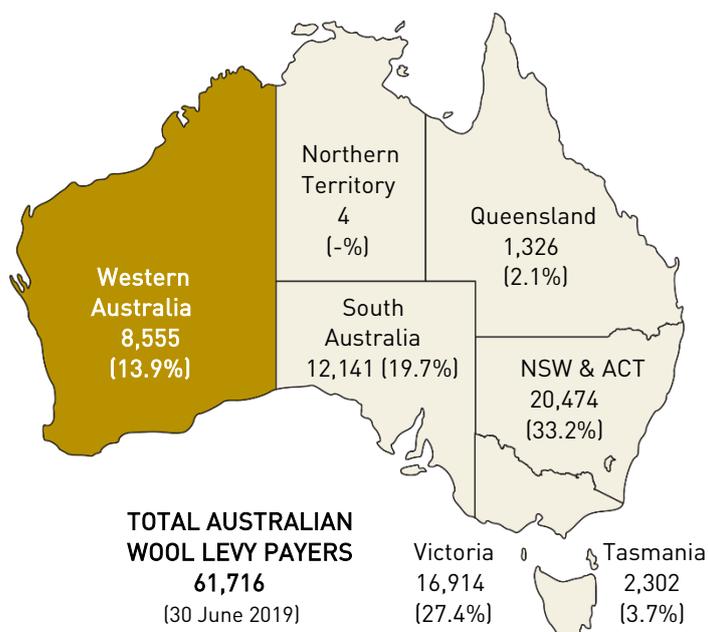
### Research and development (R&D):

AWI invests in both on-farm R&D and off-farm R&D. This publication highlights some **on-farm R&D** investments that are benefiting Western Australian woolgrowers.

### Marketing:

Through its extensive networks spanning the international textile and fashion industries, AWI and its marketing arm The Woolmark Company highlight the premium, natural qualities of Australian wool, to increase global demand for the fibre – for the benefit of all Australian woolgrowers.

## WA WOOLGROWERS



AWI works on behalf of **61,716** Australian woolgrowers that pay the wool levy and therefore fund the company. **13.9%** (**8,555**) of all wool levy payers are located in Western Australia.

At 30 June 2019, there were **6,514** levy payers in Western Australia that had paid more than \$100 in levies in the past 3 years and so were eligible to register and become an AWI shareholder. **3,362** (52%) have become an AWI shareholder and can vote at AWI AGMs.

## WA WOOL INDUSTRY

WA is the third largest wool producing state in Australia, producing about 21.8% of all Australian wool. If WA was a country, it would be the fifth largest wool producer in the world behind China, NSW, New Zealand and Victoria.

82% of WA sheep producers manage a flock of more than 500 sheep. Breeding ewes make up more than 50% of the flock. Sheep producers in the medium rainfall zone and the cereal sheep zone account for most of the sheep production in the state, with the producers in the medium rainfall zone running larger flocks than those in the cereal sheep zone.

### SHEEP NUMBERS SHORN

million	NSW	Vic	WA	SA	Tas	Qld	Total
2017/18	28.3	17.2	14.8	11.9	2.4	2.2	76.8
2018/19	24.8	16.7	14.6	11.8	2.4	2.2	72.5
2019/20*	22.0	16.3	14.1	11.6	2.4	1.8	68.2

Source: Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee Aug 2019

\* Forecast

### SHORN WOOL PRODUCTION

mkg	NSW	Vic	WA	SA	Tas	Qld	Total
2017/18	125.7	73.5	65.1	59.5	9.3	8.3	341
2018/19	99.1	66.9	62.2	54.3	9.0	8.1	300
2019/20*	87.8 30.7%	66.7 23.4%	62.1 21.8%	53.2 18.7%	8.7 3.1%	6.7 2.3%	285 100%

Source: Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee Aug 2019

\* Forecast

### AWTA TEST DATA

	2017/18		2018/19	
	WA	Australia	WA	Australia
Greasy weight* (t)	69,890	360,017	65,534	317,763
Yield (%)	63.1	64.6	61.5	63.1
VM (%)	1.7	2.5	1.9	2.1
MFD (µm)	19.6	21.0	19.3	20.5
SS (Nkt)	32.0	34.5	30.2	33.2
SL (mm)	85.1	85.8	83.8	83.6
Mid-break (%)	51.1	50.8	47.5	47.1

Source: Australian Wool Testing Authority (AWTA) \*WSA

AWI is grateful for its funding, which is primarily provided by Australian woolgrowers through a wool levy and by the Australian Government which provides a matching contribution for eligible R&D activities.

# WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HIGHLIGHTS

## SHEEP HEALTH



A **WormBoss worm control program** is available for the Western Australian winter rainfall region.

## PEST ANIMALS



With key equipment provided by AWI, work is under way on the **Esperance** extension to the State Barrier Fence.

## GENETICS



A **Merino Lifetime Productivity field day** is held each year in Western Australia at the **Pingelly** site.

## paraboss

ParaBoss is a suite of three web-based products LiceBoss, WormBoss and FlyBoss containing detailed management information to help sheep producers manage lice, worm and blowfly risks for their sheep.

➔ [www.paraboss.com.au](http://www.paraboss.com.au)

- **Monthly State Outlooks** detail the current prevalence of sheep parasites across WA.  
➔ [www.paraboss.com.au/news](http://www.paraboss.com.au/news)
- **Worm Control Program** for the WA winter rainfall region is available online on WormBoss.  
➔ [www.wormboss.com.au](http://www.wormboss.com.au)
- **Flystrike Decision Support Tool** on FlyBoss is tailored for your location within WA.  
➔ [www.flyboss.com.au/tools](http://www.flyboss.com.au/tools)

## BREECH FLYSTRIKE PUBLICATIONS

Publications now available include information on breeding for breech strike resistant sheep, a 'Managing Breech Flystrike' manual and a 'Planning for a Non Mulesed Merino Enterprise' booklet.

➔ [www.wool.com/flystrikelatest](http://www.wool.com/flystrikelatest)

## PAIN RELIEF PRODUCTS

Along with Tri-Solfen® (post-operative topical application), Buccalgesc® (pre-operative gel administered inside cheek) and Metacam® (pre-operative injection), which are all pain relief products for mulesing, castration and tail docking, a new product Numnuts, a ring applicator that provides pain relief for castration and tail docking, is now available.

➔ [www.wool.com/flystrike](http://www.wool.com/flystrike)

## DEALING WITH DAG

A factsheet and a manual for advisors that provide a guide to managing and preventing scouring and dag formation.

➔ [www.wool.com/flystrikelatest](http://www.wool.com/flystrikelatest)

## WA WILD DOG CONTROL GROUPS

Since 2011, AWI has supported 22 groups throughout WA in the regions of the Eastern and Central Wheatbelt, Esperance, Ravensthorpe, Carnarvon and Meekatharra. In 2019 AWI supported the West Midlands Recognised Biosecurity Group which includes landholders across 7 shires. AWI has supported the groups to overcome emergency pest animal challenges and lay secure foundations for sustainable long-term future pest control programs.

➔ [www.wool.com/wilddogs](http://www.wool.com/wilddogs)

## EXCLUSION FENCING UNIT

An AWI-funded Exclusion Fence Construction Unit is helping the WA DPIRD undertake the long-awaited Esperance extension to the State Barrier Fence (SBF). When not busy with the Esperance extension, the unit is trucked to other sections of the 1950 km long SBF for repairs and complete replacement in some sections.

➔ Craig Robbins 0427 198 224

➔ Matt Stadler 0409 107 200

## WA WILD DOG COORDINATOR

AWI funds a Wild Dog Coordinator position in WA: Meja Aldrich. Meja's role is to assist woolgrowers and other key stakeholders to work together to lessen the impact of livestock predation by wild dogs.

➔ Meja Aldrich 0417 622 780

## PAPP WILD DOG BAIT

An additional baiting option, PAPP, for reducing wild dog and fox numbers is now available to landholders across WA.

➔ [www.wool.com/wilddogs](http://www.wool.com/wilddogs)

## RHDV1 K5 RABBIT BIOCONTROL

A strain of rabbit calicivirus (RHDV1 K5) new to Australia was released in March 2017 at 382 locations across the country. There has been a 38% observed reduction in rabbit numbers at monitored sites.

➔ [www.wool.com/rabbits](http://www.wool.com/rabbits)



This 10-year project aims to better understand how current selection approaches relate to lifetime performance and to learn more about the genetics and economic interactions, across a diverse range of Merino types delivering high quality wool, lambs and meat through life. The project runs at five sire evaluation sites located across Australia, in diverse climates with genetically diverse ewe bases, including Pingelly in WA.

➔ [www.wool.com/MLP](http://www.wool.com/MLP)

## MERINO SUPERIOR SIRES

This initiative identifies the genetic component of diversity in sire breeding performance in the Merino flock by evaluating their progeny. There are 9 current sites across Australia including three in Western Australia: Yardstick (Katanning), Pingelly and Muresk (Northam).

➔ [www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au](http://www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au)

## MERINO BLOODLINE PERFORMANCE

This project enables woolgrowers to compare 73 commonly used Merino bloodlines from 25 wether trials over the past ten years to identify performance differences.

➔ [www.merinobloodlines.com.au](http://www.merinobloodlines.com.au)

## SHEEP SELECTION TOOLS BOOKLET

This 20-page booklet provides a summary of a wide range of industry tools available to woolgrowers to help achieve their breeding goals. Topics covered include sheep shows, wether trials, flock ewe competitions, Merino Sire Evaluation (and the MLP project), MERINOSELECT, Visual Sheep Scores, RamSelect, workshops, sheep classers and advisors and saleyards.

➔ [www.wool.com/publications](http://www.wool.com/publications)

# WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HIGHLIGHTS

## REPRODUCTION



A **RAMPing Up Repro** workshop held in July at **Frankland** in the Great Southern Region of WA.

### LIFETIME EWE MANAGEMENT COURSE

This course provides hands-on, on-farm training over a year, for small groups of producers (about 5-7) in the management and nutrition of breeding ewes to maximise reproduction rates and lamb and ewe survival. The average participant reports an increase in whole-farm stocking rate by 9.3% and lamb marking percentage by 7%, and reduced ewe mortality from 4.1 to 3.0%.

Nationally, nearly 4,000 producers have undertaken the course. At June 2019, there were 24 active groups in WA, with 15 other groups recently completed.

➔ Phone RIST on 1800 883 343

## ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS

### Picking Performer Ewes

This workshop available in WA for woolgrowers with commercial self-replacing Merino flocks places importance on the total lifetime productivity potential of the ewes.

### RAMPing Up Repro

This workshop available in WA is designed to give woolgrowers the skills to improve ram health, performance and longevity in their sheep breeding enterprises.

### Winning With Weaners

This workshop available in WA is designed to give woolgrowers the skills to lift the lifetime performance of their young Merino sheep and achieve 95% weaner survival to one year of age.

➔ The Sheep's Back (see back page)

### MOB SIZE AFFECTS LAMB SURVIVAL

Research conducted at 85 sites across Australia, including 30 sites in WA, shows that reducing the mob size of twin-bearing ewes that are in a reasonable condition at lambing will improve lamb survival. However, their stocking rate has little or no effect on lamb survival.

➔ [www.wool.com/mobsize](http://www.wool.com/mobsize)

## FEEDBASE



AWI and its partners responded quickly to outbreaks of subterranean clover Red Leaf syndrome in WA.

### CLOVER RED LEAF SYNDROME

Detailed guidance to help livestock producers manage the impacts of subterranean clover Red Leaf syndrome.

➔ [www.wool.com/weeds](http://www.wool.com/weeds)

### FEED ON OFFER ONLINE LIBRARY

A web-based photo library of Feed On Offer (FOO) standards contains 650 images to enable producers to estimate the FOO and nutritive value of grazed pastures.

➔ [www.wool.com/fo](http://www.wool.com/fo)

### EVERGRAZE

The EverGraze website presents regionally specific information about farming systems based on **perennials**, for producers. Packaged information covers South Coast WA, including 11 case studies.

➔ [www.evergraze.com.au](http://www.evergraze.com.au)

### GRAIN & GRAZE

The Grain & Graze website provides information, tools and calculators for **mixed farm enterprises** (grain and livestock) in WA.

➔ [www.grainandgraze3.com.au](http://www.grainandgraze3.com.au)

### WEED MANAGEMENT MANUALS

A range of weed management guidelines, including a new 66-page best practice management manual for silverleaf nightshade.

➔ [www.wool.com/weeds](http://www.wool.com/weeds)

### TIMERITE

Timerite® predicts the best date for spraying in spring to control **redlegged earth mites** (RLEM) the following autumn on any particular property.

➔ [www.wool.com/weeds](http://www.wool.com/weeds)

### WOOLGROWER SPOTLIGHT

Case studies of **environmental land management** undertaken by Australian woolgrowers, providing insights for retailers and consumers.

➔ [www.woolmark.com/about-wool/woolgrowers](http://www.woolmark.com/about-wool/woolgrowers)

## HARVESTING



AWI-sponsored Under 21 shearing competition at **Boddington Shears** in south-west WA.

## SHED TRAINING

### Shearer and wool handler training

AWI funds training for novice to professional shearers and wool handlers. In the past two years, through AWI-funded programs:

- **shearer in-shed training** was delivered for 450 days across WA resulting in 1,857 trained.
- **wool handler in-shed training** was delivered for 226 days across WA resulting in 766 trained.

In addition, **novice schools** and **workshops, online training**, and training in the **Shear-Jitsu technique** – the new way to perform the catch and drag – were undertaken.

➔ Phone the AWI Helpline on 1800 SHEARS (1800 743 277) to make contact with a training organisation in your local area.

### Training resources

AWI has produced a series of training videos to help advance the skills of novice, improver and professional shearers and wool handlers – to promote better techniques and improve clip preparation practices in the industry.

➔ [www.wool.com/trainingresources](http://www.wool.com/trainingresources)  
Also available on a free USB from the AWI Helpline on 1800 070 099

### WA SHEARING COMPETITIONS

AWI provides support to local shearing competitions in WA affiliated with Sports Shear Australia. Nine were supported in the 2018/19 year, including the WA State Championships. The aim of the support is to promote excellence in the wool harvesting industry, encourage young people to join the industry, and encourage continued development of techniques in shearing and woolhandling.

➔ [www.wool.com/competitionsupport](http://www.wool.com/competitionsupport)

# WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HIGHLIGHTS

## THE NEXT GEN



The team from the WA College of Agriculture – Cunderdin at AWI's 2019 National Merino Challenge.

### PRACTICAL HANDS-ON TRAINING

Young woolgrowers from WA take part in practical hands-on training initiatives:

- **National Merino Challenge** encourages new entrants into the wool industry by helping students across WA and the rest of Australia develop their industry knowledge, skills and networks.  
➔ [www.awinmc.com.au](http://www.awinmc.com.au)
- **Sheep classing workshops** are delivered to provide practical advice on increasing flock production. AWI has run them at several locations in WA including Katanning and Southern Cross.
- **Young woolgrower initiatives** supported by AWI in WA include the Murdoch University Sheep & Wool Tour.

### LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

WA woolgrowers recently supported in leadership courses and scholarship opportunities include:

- **Breeding Leadership course:** Six participants from WA in 2018: Stephen Chappell, Lake Grace; Daniel Dempster, Goomalling; Kyle Gumprich, Narrogin; Justin Haydock, Narrogin; Alex House, Claremont; Carl Storer, Cunderdin.
- **Nuffield Farming Scholarship:** David Cussons, Kojonup.

Other opportunities include the Horizon Scholarship and the Science and Innovation Awards for Young People.

➔ [www.wool.com/leadership](http://www.wool.com/leadership)

### MAKING MORE FROM SHEEP

This is a best practice package of information and tools for sheep producers. Ideal for young people starting out in the wool industry, the 12 modules contain useful information about the 'must dos' of managing a successful wool enterprise.

➔ [www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au](http://www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au)

## MARKET INTEL



AWI is sending wool prices and market intelligence direct to WA woolgrowers' mobile phones.

- **Daily Wool Market Reports** are available via SMS to WA woolgrowers' mobile phones.
- **Weekly Wool Market Reports and prices** are available each Friday via SMS, email and at Wool.com.
- **Monthly Market Intelligence Reports** are available as part of AWI's monthly e-newsletter for woolgrowers.
- **Wool pricing updates and reports** are available quarterly in AWI's *Beyond the Bale* magazine.
- **Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee Reports** are available three times each year.
- **AWI and MLA's joint Wool and Sheepmeat Surveys** of producers are conducted three times each year.  
➔ [www.wool.com/marketintelligence](http://www.wool.com/marketintelligence)

## AGRI TECHNOLOGY



An AWI 'Smart tags and future of wool production' workshop at Esperance on the south coast of WA.

- **AWI Smart sheep tags** are being used by different researchers to understand grazing and reproductive behaviour and to detect welfare and predation issues.  
➔ [www.wool.com/smarttags](http://www.wool.com/smarttags)
- **Farmers2Founders** program is supporting innovative woolgrowers to develop entrepreneurship and technology capabilities.  
➔ [www.farmers2founders.com](http://www.farmers2founders.com)

## INFORMATION



*Beyond the Bale*, AWI's quarterly magazine for wool levy payers, is posted direct to woolgrowers across WA.

Woolgrowers can keep up to date via regular communications from AWI:

- **Beyond the Bale** quarterly magazine  
➔ [www.wool.com/btb](http://www.wool.com/btb)
- **The Yarn** weekly podcast  
➔ [www.wool.com/podcast](http://www.wool.com/podcast)
- **Woolgrower monthly e-newsletter**  
➔ [www.wool.com/subscribe](http://www.wool.com/subscribe)
- **The Broader View**  
➔ [www.wool.com/publications](http://www.wool.com/publications)

Other communication channels include:

- **Wool.com** website
- **Social media:** @woolinnovation Twitter, @beyondthebale Instagram
- **Events:** AWI attends many sheep and wool field days and events in WA
- **AWI Helpline** 1800 070 099
- **Woolgrower representative groups:** National, WA and regional



### AWI GROWER NETWORK IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Sheep's Back is the AWI-supported extension network in Western Australia that provides opportunities for woolgrowers to get involved in practical programs that focus on making positive changes to on-farm production and management. All WA woolgrowers are encouraged to get involved. Contact the network coordinator or refer to the website.

**Coordinator: Andrew Ritchie**  
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(08) 9736 1055

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

Facebook: @sheepsback

Twitter: @sheepsback