

QUEENSLAND

This August 2019 publication provides woolgrowers in Queensland 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 Queensland 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 Queensland's 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.

QLD WOOL INDUSTRY

Queensland's sheep industry began in 1840 when the pioneer and grazier Patrick Leslie drove a flock of 6,000 sheep to the Darling Downs. From then on, pastoralists prospered and established one of the most successful industries for the state. Unfortunately the wool industry in Queensland is nowadays much smaller than in its prime of the 1940s, when its sheep population was 25 million. But in the past few years, there has been a sense of renewed confidence in the state's sheep and wool industry, despite the current drought holding back sheep numbers and wool production.

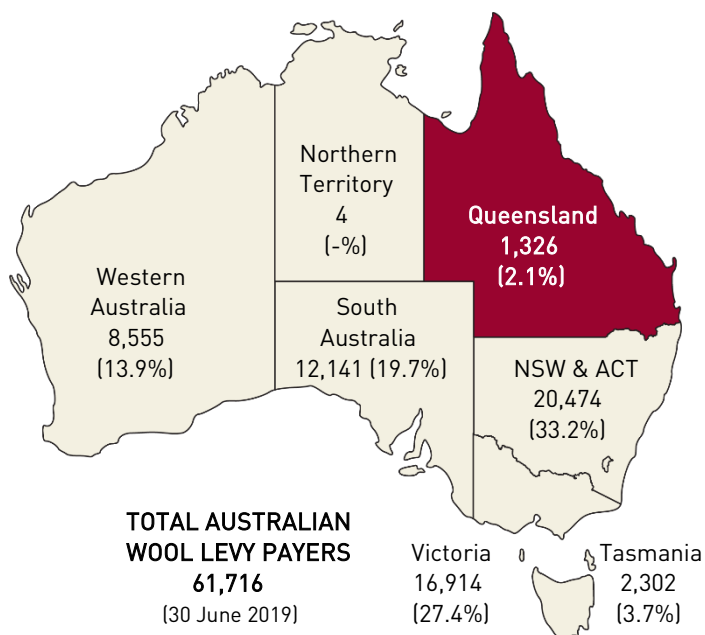
SHEEP NUMBERS SHORN

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

QLD WOOLGROWERS



AWI works on behalf of **61,716** Australian woolgrowers that pay the wool levy and therefore fund the company. 2.1% (**1,326**) of all wool levy payers are located in Queensland.

At 30 June 2019, there were **929** levy payers in Queensland that had paid more than \$100 in levies in the past 3 years and so were eligible to become an AWI shareholder. **519** (56%) have become an AWI shareholder and can vote at AWI AGMs.

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

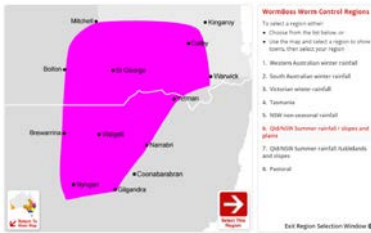
	2017/18		2018/19	
	Qld	Australia	Qld	Australia
Greasy weight* (t)	9,452	360,017	8,388	317,763
Yield (%)	61.5	64.6	61.5	63.1
VM (%)	4.2	2.5	2.8	2.1
MFD (µm)	19.9	21.0	19.5	20.5
SS (Nkt)	36.8	34.5	35.0	33.2
SL (mm)	84.8	85.8	81.7	83.6
Mid-break (%)	52.6	50.8	51.2	47.1

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.

QUEENSLAND HIGHLIGHTS

SHEEP HEALTH



WormBoss worm control programs are available for summer rainfall and pastoral areas of Queensland.

paraboss

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

- ➔ www.paraboss.com.au
- **Monthly State Outlooks** detail the current prevalence of sheep parasites across Queensland.
➔ www.paraboss.com.au/news
- **Worm Control Programs** for the summer rainfall and pastoral regions of Queensland are available online on WormBoss.
➔ www.wormboss.com.au
- **Flystrike Decision Support Tool** on FlyBoss is tailored for your location within Queensland.
➔ 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

PAIN RELIEF PRODUCTS

Along with Tri-Solfen® (post-operative topical application), Buccalgesic® (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

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

PEST ANIMALS



AWI provides a grant to Longreach Regional Council for an Exclusion Fence Construction Unit for woolgrowers.

QLD WILD DOG CONTROL GROUPS

Since 2011 AWI has supported a total of 59 Wild Dog and Cluster groups throughout Qld. Currently 3 Qld groups are being assisted out of 16 nationally. AWI has supported 15 Cluster Groups throughout Central and South West Qld with funding to employ doggers and other assistance, to clean out the Clusters. Currently AWI is supporting 2 Clusters in the Shires of Barcoo, Quilpie, and Murweh, AWI supports groups to overcome emergency pest animal challenges and lay secure foundations for sustainable long-term future pest animal control programs.

➔ www.wool.com/wilddogs

QLD WILD DOG COORDINATORS

AWI funds two Wild Dog Control Coordinator positions: Skyela Kruger in south-west Qld and Mick Schrag in central-west Qld. Their role is to assist woolgrowers and other key stakeholders to work together to lessen the impact of livestock predation by wild dogs.

➔ Skyela Kruger 0429 232 089

➔ Mick Schrag 0437 116 875

EXCLUSION FENCING UNIT

An AWI-funded Exclusion Fence Construction Unit based with Longreach Regional Council is available for use by woolgrowers at a minimal cost.

➔ Longreach Council (07) 4658 4111

➔ Jeff Newton 0488 400 447

PAPP WILD DOG BAIT

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

➔ 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

GENETICS



The results of the Merino Lifetime Productivity program will be of great interest to Queensland producers.



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. A full suite of independent visual classing and productivity traits will be assessed annually.

➔ 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, plus past sites at Bollon and Longreach.

➔ 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

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

QUEENSLAND HIGHLIGHTS

REPRODUCTION



Woolgrower Ben Banks from **Blackall** who believes pregnancy scanning can lift flock fertility by 10-15% annually.

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.

➔ Phone RIST on 1800 883 343

ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS

Picking Performer Ewes

This workshop available in Queensland for woolgrowers with commercial self-replacing Merino flocks places importance on the total lifetime productivity potential and value of their Merino ewes (including fleece, meat and surplus stock).

RAMping Up Repro

This workshop available in Queensland 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 Queensland 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.

➔ Leading Sheep (see back page)

MOB SIZE AFFECTS LAMB SURVIVAL

Research conducted at 85 sites across Australia 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

FEEDBASE



AWI provides a range of drought management resources for **Queensland** woolgrowers experiencing drought.

DROUGHT RESOURCES

For woolgrowers going into, enduring or recovering from **drought**, AWI provides a range of drought planning and management resources including: Managing Sheep in Droughtlots; Stock water – a Limited Resource; Lifetime Wool Feed Budget Tables; Feeding and Managing Sheep in Dry Times; Managing Fodder Prices for Droughts; Which Sheep do I Keep? AWI also provides links to AWI state network drought resources and useful government and other external resources.

➔ www.wool.com/droughtresources

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, by comparing their own pastures to reference photos.

➔ www.wool.com/foo

GRAIN & GRAZE

The Grain & Graze website provides information, tools and calculators for **mixed farm enterprises** (grain and livestock) in Queensland. It covers the overall management and mix of the feedbase, grazing cereals to boost winter feed supply, the use of pastures and fodders, and pasture cropping.

➔ 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, are available.

➔ www.wool.com/weeds

LAND, WATER & WOOL

The national Land, Water & Wool project developed more than 60 research-based practical information products on **natural resource management R&D**.

➔ www.wool.com/environment

HARVESTING



Students at an AWI-funded shearing and wool handling school at **Tambo** in central west Queensland.

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 35 days across Qld resulting in 109 trained.
- **wool handler in-shed training** was delivered for 10 days across Qld resulting in 30 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
Also available on a free USB from the AWI Helpline on 1800 070 099

QLD SHEARING COMPETITIONS

AWI provides support in each state to local shearing competitions affiliated with Sports Shear Australia. The Queensland State Championships were supported in the 2018/19 year. 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

QUEENSLAND HIGHLIGHTS

THE NEXT GEN



Felicity Brumpton from Mt Ascot who visited Chinese manufacturers in 2018 on an AWI-organised study tour.

NATIONAL MERINO CHALLENGE

This AWI initiative encourages new entrants into the wool industry by helping students across Australia develop their industry knowledge, skills and networks. It involves demonstrations from industry professionals and the participants compete through a series of 'mini challenges'.

➔ www.awinmc.com.au

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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

- **Breeding Leadership course:** Benn Wilson from Dirranbandi participated in 2018.
- **Horizon Scholarship:** Lauren Crothers, Dirranbandi.
- **Nuffield Farming Scholarship:** James Walker, Longreach.
- **Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture:** James Walker, Longreach.

Other AWI-supported opportunities open to Queensland woolgrowers include the Australian Rural Leadership Program and Young Farming Champions initiative.

➔ 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

STUDY TOUR OF CHINA

Young woolgrowers from across Australia have the opportunity to see wool's manufacturing process first-hand during an annual self-funded study trip organised by AWI to China. Felicity Brumpton, Thomas Perkins and Amy MacIntosh from Qld attended in 2018.

MARKET INTEL



AWI is sending wool prices and market intelligence direct to **Queensland's** woolgrowers' mobile phones.

- **Daily Wool Market Reports** are available via SMS to Queensland 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

AGRI TECHNOLOGY



A fantastic turn out at *Leading Sheep's Sheep Technology Field Day at Goondiwindi* in July.

- **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/smartsheep
- **Farmers2Founders** program is supporting innovative woolgrowers to develop entrepreneurship and technology capabilities.
- ➔ www.farmers2founders.com

INFORMATION



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

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

- **Beyond the Bale** quarterly magazine
➔ www.wool.com/btb
- **The Yarn** weekly podcast
➔ www.wool.com/podcast
- **Woolgrower monthly e-newsletter**
➔ www.wool.com/subscribe
- **The Broader View**
➔ 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 Qld
- **AWI Helpline** 1800 070 099
- **Woolgrower representative groups:** National, Queensland and regional



AWI GROWER NETWORK IN QUEENSLAND

Leading Sheep is the AWI-supported extension network in Queensland that provides opportunities for woolgrowers to get involved in practical programs that focus on making positive changes to on-farm production and management.

All Queensland woolgrowers are encouraged to get involved. Contact the network coordinator or refer to the website.

Coordinator: Andrea McKenzie
andrea.mckenzie@daf.qld.gov.au
(07) 4530 1262

www.leadingsheep.com.au

Facebook: @leadingssheep