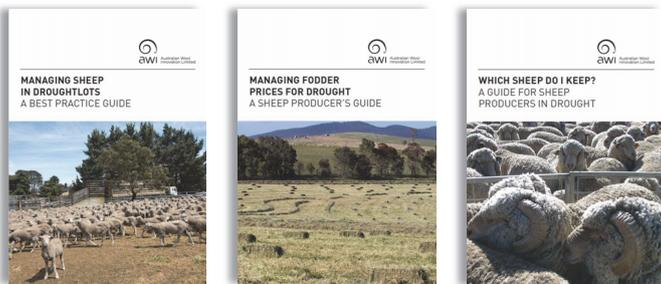


# RECOVERING FROM DROUGHT & BUSHFIRE

## DROUGHT RESOURCES FOR WOOLGROWERS

For woolgrowers going into, enduring or recovering from drought, AWI provides a range of drought planning and management resources, plus links to useful external resources. View a list of some of the resources here or visit [wool.com/drought](http://wool.com/drought) for more information.

### AWI DROUGHT PUBLICATIONS



#### MANAGING SHEEP IN DROUGHTLOTS

A best-practice guide that highlights the purpose, benefits and experiences of woolgrowers managing sheep in confined areas during drought.

#### MANAGING FODDER PRICES FOR DROUGHTS

A guide to strategies that help manage fodder prices and supply risks during droughts.

#### WHICH SHEEP DO I KEEP?

A guide to help determine whether to sell or supplementary-feed all, some or none of the flock.

#### STOCK WATER – A LIMITED RESOURCE

A fact sheet that helps calculate stock water budgets, especially when droughtlotting sheep.

#### FEEDING AND MANAGING SHEEP IN DRY TIMES

A publication with practical guidelines and examples on feeding and managing sheep during dry seasons and drought years, with a focus on containment feeding.

#### PLANNING FOR PROFIT – A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO ASSIST WOOLGROWERS RECOVER FROM DROUGHT

A practical guide offering a series of step-by-step, cost-effective breeding and pasture management options for producers to consider post drought.

#### RELEASING SHEEP FROM CONTAINMENT FEEDING

Managing the transition from containment to pasture must be done carefully to minimise the risk of any animal health issues, particularly for pregnant ewes.

### AWI DROUGHT TOOLS

#### COST OF PRODUCTION CALCULATOR

Cost of production (COP) is a key factor affecting the profitability of wool producing businesses. COP, measured in dollars per kilogram of clean wool, is an indication of the outlay required to produce each kilogram of wool.

#### LIFETIME WOOL FEED BUDGET TABLES

Feed budgeting for ewe flocks in the dry season.

#### FEED ON OFFER LIBRARY

The Feed On Offer (FOO) library allows users to estimate FOO and nutritive value of grazed pastures.

### GOVERNMENT WEBSITES

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

[agriculture.gov.au/drought](http://agriculture.gov.au/drought)

#### BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

[bom.gov.au/climate/drought](http://bom.gov.au/climate/drought)

#### NSW DPI

[dpi.nsw.gov.au/droughthub](http://dpi.nsw.gov.au/droughthub)

#### QUEENSLAND DAF

[daf.qld.gov.au/drought](http://daf.qld.gov.au/drought)

#### PIRSA

[pir.sa.gov.au/drought](http://pir.sa.gov.au/drought)

#### AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

[agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought)

#### WA DPIRD

[agric.wa.gov.au/climate-land-water/climate-weather/drought-and-dry-seasons](http://agric.wa.gov.au/climate-land-water/climate-weather/drought-and-dry-seasons)

#### TASMANIA DPIPWE

[dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/agriculture/government-and-community-programs/managing-seasonal-conditions](http://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/agriculture/government-and-community-programs/managing-seasonal-conditions)

## AWI STATE NETWORK RESOURCES

### SHEEP CONNECT NSW – WEBINARS

[sheepconnectnsw.com.au/tools](http://sheepconnectnsw.com.au/tools)

- Transitioning sheep from containment to pasture
- Livestock water requirements during drought
- Confinement feeding
- Drought feed budgeting 101
- Making sound decisions during drought
- Animal health considerations for grazing failed crops and during dry times
- Managing livestock nutrition in dry times and beyond
- Pastoral livestock nutrition for dry times
- What's your plan? - preparedness for dry times
- Taking the guess work out of feeding or selling sheep during drought

### SHEEP CONNECT SA – WEBINARS

[sheepconnectsa.com.au/webinars](http://sheepconnectsa.com.au/webinars)

- Considerations for restocking

### LEADING SHEEP (QLD) – WEBINARS

[leadingsheep.com.au/category/recordedwebinars-videos](http://leadingsheep.com.au/category/recordedwebinars-videos)

- Weaning in dry times
- How to have a successful lambing in dry conditions.
- Drought feeding to minimise ewe and lamb losses – a producer case study

### LEADING SHEEP (QLD) – DROUGHT SURVIVAL STORIES

[leadingsheep.com.au/category/ebooks](http://leadingsheep.com.au/category/ebooks)

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## BUSHFIRE RESOURCES FOR WOOLGROWERS

For woolgrowers recovering from bushfire, AWI provides a range of resources, plus links to useful external websites. View a list of some of the available resources here or visit [wool.com/bushfire](http://wool.com/bushfire) for more information.

### AWI BUSHFIRE PUBLICATIONS

#### SOIL HEALTH AND PASTURE RECOVERY AFTER A FIRE

There are several management options available to landholders to consider in the immediate aftermath of bushfires to mitigate the risk of soil erosion in bare paddocks and reduce the time taken to regenerate the paddock to productive feed.

#### MANAGING SHEEP IN CONTAINMENT AREAS AFTER FIRE

Containment feeding refers to 'maintenance' feeding sheep in contained areas and it can be a valuable tool to managing sheep after a fire.

#### STOCK WATER: LIMITED RESOURCE AFTER FIRE

After a fire, knowing the quantity, quality and reliability of stock water is essential.

#### LIVESTOCK SAFETY DURING BUSHFIRES

Guidance prepared by PIRSA about how to ensure the safety of your livestock during bushfires.

## AWI STATE NETWORK RESOURCES

### SHEEP CONNECT SA

[sheepconnectsa.com.au/bushfire-recovery](http://sheepconnectsa.com.au/bushfire-recovery)  
[sheepconnectsa.com.au/webinars](http://sheepconnectsa.com.au/webinars)

- Managing livestock after fires webinar
- Managing soils after fires webinar
- Four bushfire recovery webinars – SA producer experiences with Mark Modra from Green Patch, Glen Tilley from Tarlee, Charlie Crozier from Sherwood, and Troy and Netter Fischer from Wasleys.

### SHEEP CONNECT NSW – WEBINARS

[sheepconnectnsw.com.au/tools](http://sheepconnectnsw.com.au/tools)

- Classing fire affected clips

## GOVERNMENT WEBSITES

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

[agriculture.gov.au/bushfires](http://agriculture.gov.au/bushfires)

### NATIONAL BUSHFIRE RECOVERY AGENCY

[bushfirerecovery.gov.au](http://bushfirerecovery.gov.au)

### NSW DPI

[dpi.nsw.gov.au/bushfires](http://dpi.nsw.gov.au/bushfires)

### NSW LOCAL LAND SERVICES

[lls.nsw.gov.au/help-and-advice/emergency-and-biosecurity/bushfires](http://lls.nsw.gov.au/help-and-advice/emergency-and-biosecurity/bushfires)

### PIRSA

[pir.sa.gov.au/emergency\\_management/bushfire\\_support](http://pir.sa.gov.au/emergency_management/bushfire_support)

### QUEENSLAND DAF

[daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/disaster-recovery/natural-disaster](http://daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/disaster-recovery/natural-disaster)

### AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

[agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies)

### WA DPIRD

[agric.wa.gov.au/climate-land-water/climate-weather/fire](http://agric.wa.gov.au/climate-land-water/climate-weather/fire)

### TASMANIA DPIPWE

[dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/bushfire-information](http://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/bushfire-information)

# BE READY FOR RESTOCKING

If you have been lucky enough to get rain recently or have been affected by bushfires, then you may be considering purchasing sheep. However, you need to make sure you're not purchasing a whole heap of unwanted problems too. Here are some key issues to consider.

## KEY TOOLS

### ALWAYS ASK FOR A COPY OF THE NATIONAL SHEEP HEALTH DECLARATION FROM THE VENDOR

The Declaration enables livestock buyers to assess the risk for Ovine Johne's disease and a range of other biosecurity issues, including footrot, lice and ovine brucellosis. It recognises vaccination history and flock testing results, and features a series of 'yes/no' questions to allow buyers to quickly make informed decisions. Download a copy of the National Sheep Health Declaration at [www.farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au).

### CONSIDER QUARANTINE AND KEEP GOOD RECORDS

Isolation from other sheep or to a small area can be extremely useful in the event of a disease outbreak. Knowing where the stock have been on your property can also help narrow down the search for weed outbreaks, which could occur months or years later.

## THINGS TO WATCH FOR

### OVINE JOHNE'S DISEASE (OJD)

OJD has become endemic in some sheep production areas of Australia but in other areas the disease is not known to exist or exists at a very low level. You do not want to introduce the disease to your property. OJD is incurable and animals showing clinical signs, usually wasting and sometimes diarrhoea, inevitably die. Key points to consider are:

- Insist on a National Sheep Health Declaration from the vendor.
- Know the signs (wasting in older sheep and sometimes diarrhoea) and look out for mobs with a distinct 'tail'.
- Know the high risk OJD areas and the original origin of your sheep.
- Visit [www.ojd.com.au](http://www.ojd.com.au) for more information.

### WORM DRENCH RESISTANCE

The sheep you buy will be carrying worms. You do not want to buy in drench resistance with the sheep.

- Good quarantine and effective drenching are critical. A quarantine drench includes a combination of at least four unrelated actives with at least one of these

being the newest drench actives (monepantel or derquantel).

- Hold sheep in the yards or in a secure, quarantine paddock for 48 to 72 hours after drenching, longer when feed is dry, to make sure all introduced worm eggs have passed through the gastrointestinal tract. This is especially important if your paddocks have a low worm burden (eg if they have been destocked for some time). If feasible keep this quarantine paddock free of sheep and goats for three (summer) to six months.
- Use the Health Declaration to identify previous worm control practices.
- If you don't intend to drench, try to graze the sheep on your most heavily infested paddock(s) to dilute the incoming worm population.
- Visit [www.wormboss.com.au](http://www.wormboss.com.au) for more information.

### SHEEP LICE

Up to 30% of purchased sheep will be carrying lice and sheep lice are most difficult to find when the sheep are up to two months off shears.

- At a minimum, good quarantine is essential to limit the spread of any problem. Treatment can then be considered at shearing.
- Consider treating immediately, plus or minus shearing, but beware of chemical residues.
- Look for risk factors on the vendor's property, such as regular trading, poor fences and inability to get a clean muster or split shearings.
- Visit [www.liceboss.com.au](http://www.liceboss.com.au) for more information.

### PURCHASING PREGNANT EWES

It's best not to truck heavily pregnant ewes as they are susceptible to pregnancy toxemia.

- If unavoidable, load ewes lightly and offer food and water immediately on arrival.
- Remember the maximum time off water (24–48 hours) and spelling periods (12–36 hours) vary between classes of animals.
- If in doubt leave it out! Download MLA's *Fit to Load Guide* at [www.mla.com.au/isitfittoload](http://www.mla.com.au/isitfittoload).

### FOOTROT

Footrot can cause significant economic loss from reduced wool growth and quality, poor ewe fertility, poor growth rates, losses from blowfly strike, and reduced value of sale sheep. Control of the disease can also be very expensive.

The Health Declaration contains important information to allow you to make an informed decision on footrot.

## REMEMBER

- Keep an eye out for **possible contamination of wool and skin** with noxious weeds or grasses. This is often a property specific problem.
- If you have decided to go down the **non-mulesed** route, make sure any sheep you purchase are in fact non-mulesed. It is too late when they land at your property.
- When **transporting sheep**, try to ensure the shortest and cheapest route is chosen. If the sheep are woolly, it is important to ensure the truck is cleaned beforehand. Remember the potential, even small, of lice being spread by contaminated wool in the truck.
- Sheep are potential carriers of **cattle ticks**. Inspection of sheep for ticks needs to occur before transporting from cattle tick infested zones to cattle tick free zones.
- **National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)**. Keep a record of the property of origin of livestock and notify the NLIS database of relevant movements. See [www.nlis.com.au](http://www.nlis.com.au).
- **Do your research**. Seek out local knowledge as to the sheep and the vendor's property. If the sheep delivered differ from the description given, let your agent know ASAP. Question the vendor as to the origin of the sheep. Do not assume they are vendor bred or of the same bloodline.
- **Poisonous weeds**. If stock have travelled long distances and have been off feed for an extended period, don't put them into a yard or holding paddock with large amounts of potentially poisonous weeds. It's best to provide hay or a paddock with suitable dry grass initially.
- If you're claiming a **freight subsidy** for restocking or returning stock from agistment, such as through Queensland's Drought Relief Assistance Scheme or NSW's Drought Transport Subsidy, take the time to check the requirements and your eligibility first.
- **Can you afford it?** Be careful if you are buying stock on a high market. If you can't afford to restock through buying stock, then there are always other options to consider (agistment, lease, trading or breeding). Take the time to do your own calculations, and if unsure, seek help from a trusted advisor.

The above list may not be comprehensive and cover every aspect so please ensure you do your own research as each individual circumstance may be different.

## AWI STATE NETWORKS

AWI-supported extension networks in each state provide opportunities for woolgrowers to get involved in practical programs that focus on making positive changes to on-farm production and management. All woolgrowers are encouraged to get involved. Contact the network coordinator or refer to the website.



**NEW SOUTH WALES**  
Coordinator: Megan Rogers  
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0427 459 891  
[www.sheepconnectnsw.com.au](http://www.sheepconnectnsw.com.au)



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



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(03) 5761 1649  
[www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/bestwool-bestlamb](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/bestwool-bestlamb)



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