

This February 2019 publication provides woolgrowers in NSW 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 NSW 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.

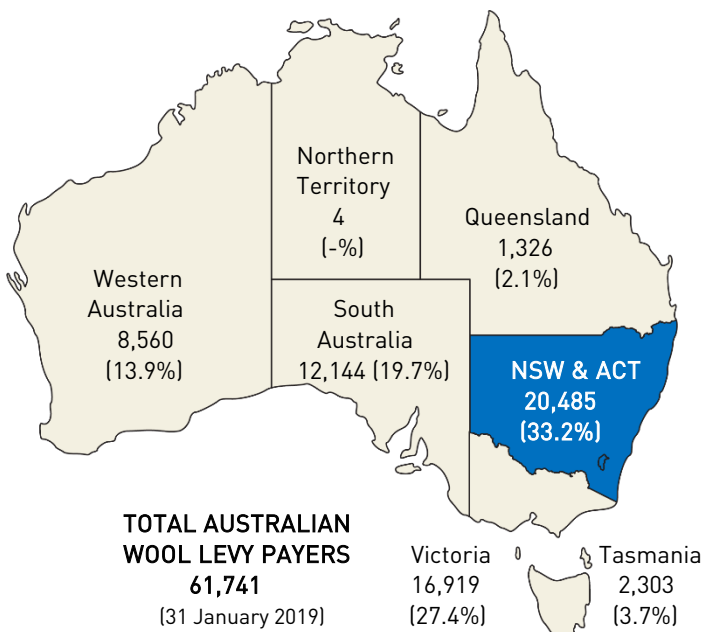
### Research and development (R&D):

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 NSW 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.

## NSW WOOLGROWERS



AWI works on behalf of **61,741** Australian woolgrowers that pay the wool levy and therefore fund the company. About a third (**20,485**) of all wool levy payers are located in NSW & ACT.

At 31 January 2019, there were **15,962** levy payers in NSW & ACT that had paid more than \$100 in levies in the past 3 years and so were eligible to become an AWI shareholder. **7,822** (49%) have become a shareholder and can vote at AWI AGMs.

## NSW WOOL INDUSTRY

The NSW wool industry has a long and proud history, since the first Merinos arrived from Cape Town in 1797 and were shared between early settlers, including Captain John Macarthur and Reverend Samuel Marsden.

The NSW industry currently accounts for about a third of Australian wool production. If NSW was a country, it would be the second largest wool producer in the world, behind China.

Wool is grown across a diverse range of landscapes from the high rainfall areas towards the eastern seaboard to the drier pastoral areas of the west.

### SHEEP NUMBERS SHORN

| million  | NSW  | Vic  | WA   | SA   | Tas | Qld | Total |
|----------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-------|
| 2016/17  | 27.4 | 16.0 | 15.1 | 11.2 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 74.3  |
| 2017/18  | 28.3 | 17.2 | 14.8 | 11.9 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 76.8  |
| 2018/19* | 25.0 | 16.8 | 14.5 | 11.1 | 2.5 | 1.9 | 71.7  |

Source: Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee Nov 2018

\* Forecast

### SHORN WOOL PRODUCTION

| mkg      | NSW            | Vic           | WA            | SA            | Tas         | Qld         | Total       |
|----------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2016/17  | 126.0          | 67.4          | 71.1          | 57.9          | 9.2         | 8.5         | 340         |
| 2017/18  | 125.7          | 73.5          | 65.1          | 59.5          | 9.3         | 8.3         | 341         |
| 2018/19* | 100.0<br>32.8% | 70.7<br>23.2% | 62.7<br>20.6% | 54.7<br>17.9% | 9.3<br>3.0% | 7.1<br>2.3% | 305<br>100% |

Source: Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee Nov 2018

\* Forecast

### AWTA TEST DATA

|                    | 2016/17 |           | 2017/18 |           |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|
|                    | NSW     | Australia | NSW     | Australia |
| Greasy weight* (t) | 129,901 | 357,785   | 130,456 | 360,017   |
| Yield (%)          | 65.5    | 65.1      | 64.3    | 64.8      |
| VM (%)             | 3.1     | 2.3       | 3.1     | 2.5       |
| MFD (µm)           | 20.6    | 21.0      | 20.6    | 21.0      |
| SS (Nkt)           | 34.8    | 34.3      | 35.9    | 34.5      |
| SL (mm)            | 86.2    | 87.9      | 85.0    | 85.8      |
| Mid-break (%)      | 49.0    | 48.4      | 52.6    | 50.8      |

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

AWI gratefully acknowledges the funds provided by the Australian Government to support the research and development activities detailed in this publication.

# NEW SOUTH WALES HIGHLIGHTS

## SHEEP HEALTH



Cameron Peardon & Deb Maxwell, Bellaine Merino Stud, **Guyra**, use WormBoss to apply best practice worm control.

### 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](http://www.paraboss.com.au)

- **Monthly State Outlooks** detail the current prevalence of sheep parasites across NSW.

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

- **Worm Control Programs** for the summer rainfall, non-seasonal rainfall and pastoral regions of NSW are available on WormBoss.

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

- **Flystrike Decision Support Tool** on FlyBoss is tailored for your location within NSW.

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

### BREECH STRIKE GENETICS PROJECT

This project was undertaken by CSIRO at Armidale, NSW (and by DAFWA at Mt Barker, WA). It demonstrated that breeding for breech strike resistant sheep is an achievable objective.

Outcomes included the identification of new breech strike indicator traits to help woolgrowers breed indirectly for breech strike resistance.

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

### BREECH FLYSTRIKE PUBLICATIONS

Publications now available include 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

Buccalgesic® (pre-operative gel administered inside cheek), Tri-Solfen® (post-operative topical application) and Metacam® (pre-operative injection) are registered pain relief products.

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

## PEST ANIMALS



Landholders and wild dog coordinators attending a wild dog control workshop at Moorabie Station north of **Broken Hill**.

### NSW WILD DOG CONTROL GROUPS

12 groups are currently supported in NSW, out of a total of 27 nationally. The number of past groups supported in NSW is 67 out of a total of 184 past groups nationally. AWI supports groups to overcome emergency pest animal challenges and lay secure foundations for sustainable long-term future pest animal control programs. AWI is currently investing in a Summer Baiting Program across the Western Division, supporting groups in the face of severe drought, and has also helped fund a Spring aerial baiting program along the NSW/SA wild dog fence in NSW.

➔ Funding forms are available at [www.wool.com/wilddogs](http://www.wool.com/wilddogs)

### NSW WILD DOG COORDINATORS

AWI funds two Wild Dog Coordinators in NSW: Dave Worsley in north-east NSW and Bruce Duncan in western NSW. Their role is to assist woolgrowers and other key stakeholders to work together to lessen the impact of devastating livestock predation by wild dogs in their areas. Their positions are helping to reduce these attacks and therefore improve on-farm productivity, rural community wellbeing and rural biodiversity.

➔ Dave Worsley 0429 638 078

➔ Bruce Duncan 0409 515 471

### PAPP WILD DOG BAIT

An additional baiting option, PAPP, for reducing wild dog and fox numbers is now available to woolgrowers and other landholders across NSW. It enables baiting to still be an option in places where 1080 use is restricted.

➔ [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 nationally.

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

## GENETICS



The Merino Lifetime Productivity field day was held at the MerinoLink site at **Temora** in March 2018.

 **MLP**  
Merino Lifetime Productivity Project

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 3 in NSW: MerinoLink (Temora, Moses & Son), Macquarie (Trangie, NSW DPI) and New England (Armidale, CSIRO).

➔ [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 sites across Australia including 3 in NSW: MerinoLink (Temora), Macquarie (Trangie) and New England (Armidale).

➔ [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 (including 24 in NSW) 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 summarises a wide range of industry tools available to help woolgrowers achieve their breeding goals. Topics include shows, wether trials, flock ewe competitions, Merino Sire Evaluation, MERINOSELECT, Visual Sheep Scores, RamSelect, workshops, sheep classers and saleyards.

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

# NEW SOUTH WALES HIGHLIGHTS

## REPRODUCTION



John and Jenny Ridley, with son Sam, of 'Round Cowal' south of Forbes, benefited from doing a LTEM course.

### 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 a 10% increase in weaning rates and 30% reduction in ewe mortality. Nationally, more than 4,500 producers have undertaken the course, through 790 groups. At January 2019, there were 20 active groups in NSW (140 participants), with 24 other groups recently completed.

➔ Phone RIST on 1800 883 343

## ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS

### Picking Performer Ewes

This workshop available in NSW 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 NSW 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 NSW 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.

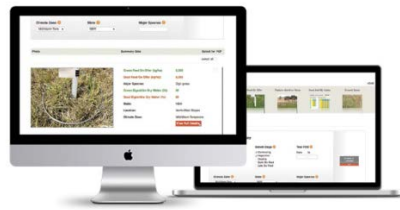
➔ SheepConnect NSW (back page)

### LAMBING DENSITY AND MOB SIZE

Research conducted at 85 sites across Australia, including 25 sites in NSW, shows that reducing the mob size of twin-bearing ewes that are in 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



The online Feed On Offer photo gallery contains images with corresponding nutritional information from across NSW.

### DROUGHT RESOURCES

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, 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?

➔ [www.wool.com/droughtresources](http://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 in the online library.

➔ [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 across NSW.

➔ [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 NSW.

➔ [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, are available.

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

## HARVESTING



Shearer trainer Ian Elkins training shearers at 'Ravenswood' near Yass, during an AWI-funded program.

## SHED TRAINING

### Shearer and wool handler training

AWI funds training for learner to professional shearers, and novice to professional wool handlers. In the past 2017/18 financial year, through AWI-funded programs:

- **shearer in-shed training** was delivered for 327 days across NSW resulting in 1,233 trained.
- **wool handler in-shed training** was delivered for 172 days across NSW resulting in 470 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 in NSW.

➔ AWI Shearing Industry Development Coordinator, Jim Murray, 0427 460 007

### 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

### NSW SHEARING COMPETITIONS

AWI provides support to local shearing competitions in NSW affiliated with Sports Shear Australia. 13 were supported in the 2017/18 year, including the NSW 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)

# NEW SOUTH WALES HIGHLIGHTS

## THE NEXT GEN



Felicity McLeod from **Wentworth** in western NSW was awarded the 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by AWI.

### PRACTICAL HANDS-ON TRAINING

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

- **National Merino Challenge** encourages new entrants into the wool industry by helping students across NSW 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 NSW, including Deniliquin and Hay.
- **Young woolgrower initiatives** supported by AWI in NSW include: Hay Inc rural traineeship program, Monaro Farming Systems traineeship program, University of New England Farming Futures, Charles Sturt University and University of Sydney Sheep & Wool Tour, and the Young Farming Champions program.

### LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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

- **Breeding Leadership course:** Eight participants from NSW in 2018.
- **Australian Rural Leadership Program:** 2018/19: David Young, Bookham. 2017/18: Stacey Lugsdin, Hay.
- **Nuffield Farming Scholarship:** Felicity McLeod from Wentworth.
- **Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture:** Dr Jamie Barwick at the University of New England in 2018.

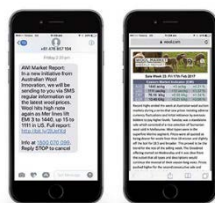
➡ [www.wool.com/leadership](http://www.wool.com/leadership)

### MAKING MORE FROM SHEEP

This is a best practice package of information and tools for sheep producers.

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

## MARKET INTEL



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

- **Daily Wool Market Reports** are available via SMS to NSW 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)

## AUTOMATION



Low-cost microwave technology can improve farm connectivity.

- **Smart sheep tags**, capable of tracking real-time location of sheep, are being trialled on-farm by AWI.  
➡ [www.wool.com/smarttags](http://www.wool.com/smarttags)
- **Products and systems for more effective wireless connections** across farm properties are being investigated by AWI.
- **Australian eChallenge Wool Innovation** program is finding technology solutions for the everyday problems woolgrowers face, such as farm connectivity.

## INFORMATION



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

NSW 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 NSW
- **AWI Helpline** 1800 070 099
- **Woolgrower representative groups:** National, NSW and regional



### AWI GROWER NETWORK IN NEW SOUTH WALES

**Sheep Connect NSW** is the AWI-supported extension network in NSW that provides opportunities for the state's woolgrowers to get involved in practical programs that focus on making positive changes to on-farm production and management practices.

All NSW woolgrowers are encouraged to get involved. Refer to the website or contact the network coordinator.

**Coordinator: Megan Rogers**  
0427 459 891  
[admin@sheepconnectnsw.com.au](mailto:admin@sheepconnectnsw.com.au)  
[www.sheepconnectnsw.com.au](http://www.sheepconnectnsw.com.au)  
Facebook: @sheepconnectnsw  
Twitter: @sheepconnectnsw