

QUEENSLAND

This February 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.

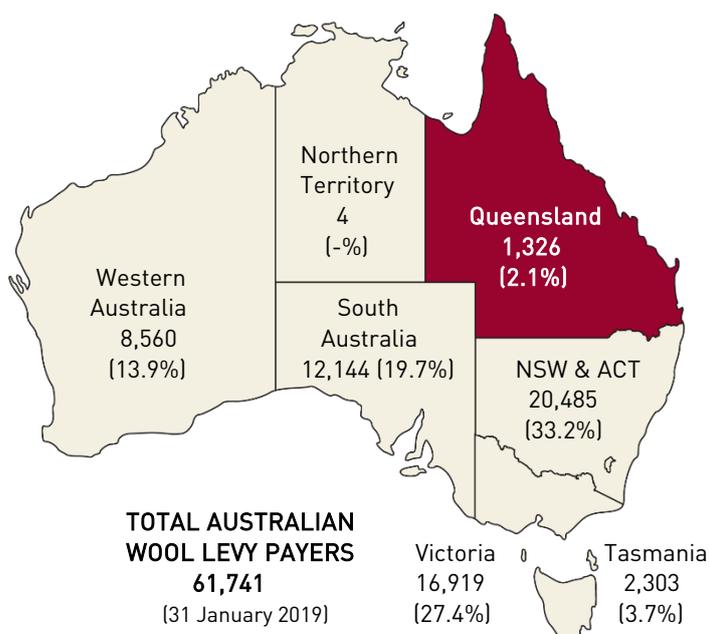
Research and development (R&D):

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 WOOLGROWERS



AWI works on behalf of **61,741** 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 1 January 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. **518** (56%) have become an AWI shareholder and can vote at AWI AGMs.

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 from the rich grazing land throughout the western regions 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 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-------|
| 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 | 70.7 | 62.7 | 54.7 | 9.3 | 7.1 | 305 |
| | 32.8% | 23.2% | 20.6% | 17.9% | 3.0% | 2.3% | 100% |

Source: Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee Nov 2018
* Forecast

AWTA TEST DATA

| | 2016/17 | | 2017/18 | |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| | Qld | Australia | Qld | Australia |
| Greasy weight* (t) | 9,778 | 357,785 | 9,452 | 360,017 |
| Yield (%) | 61.8 | 65.1 | 61.5 | 64.8 |
| VM (%) | 4.2 | 2.3 | 4.2 | 2.5 |
| MFD (µm) | 20.1 | 21.0 | 19.9 | 21.0 |
| SS (Nkt) | 35.5 | 34.3 | 36.8 | 34.5 |
| SL (mm) | 86.6 | 87.9 | 84.8 | 85.8 |
| Mid-break (%) | 51.5 | 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.

QUEENSLAND HIGHLIGHTS

SHEEP HEALTH



Woolgrower Don Perkins from **Dirranbandi** regularly monitors his flock's worm burdens.

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

- **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 STRIKE GENETICS PROJECT

This project 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

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

PAIN RELIEF PRODUCTS

Buccalgescic® (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

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 8 Qld groups are being assisted out of 27 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 6 Clusters covering an area of 547,985 ha in the Shires of Quilpie, Murweh, Paroo, Maranoa and Blackall-Tambo. AWI supports groups to overcome emergency pest animal challenges and lay secure foundations for sustainable long-term future pest animal control programs.

➔ Funding forms are available at www.wool.com/wilddogs

QLD WILD DOG COORDINATORS

AWI funds two Wild Dog Control Coordinator positions: Skyela Kruger in south-west Qld and Kristy Waddell 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

➔ Kristy Waddell 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

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, resulting in a 38% observed reduction in rabbit numbers nationally.

➔ 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 sites across Australia.

➔ 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



An 'It's Ewe Time!' forum at **Dirranbandi**, one of four held in Queensland in August 2018, jointly funded by AWI and MLA.

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.

➔ 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)

LAMBING DENSITY AND MOB SIZE

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



The online Feed On Offer photo gallery contains images with nutritional information from across **Queensland**.

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 in August 2018.

SHED TRAINING

Shearer and wool handler training

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

- **shearer in-shed training** was delivered for 62 days across Qld resulting in 172 trained.
- **wool handler in-shed training** was delivered for 37 days across Qld resulting in 171 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.

➔ 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
Also available on a free USB from the AWI Helpline on 1800 070 099

QLD SHEARING COMPETITIONS

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

QUEENSLAND HIGHLIGHTS

THE NEXT GEN



James Walker from **Longreach** in Queensland was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship supported by AWI.

PRACTICAL HANDS-ON TRAINING

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

- **National Merino Challenge** encourages new entrants into the wool industry by helping students across Australia develop their industry knowledge, skills and networks. It involves presentations and demonstrations from industry professionals and the participants compete through a series of 'mini challenges'.
➔ 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 Queensland including Mitchell and Goondiwindi.

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.

➔ 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

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

AUTOMATION



Low-cost microwave technology can improve farm connectivity in Queensland.

- **Smart sheep tags**, capable of tracking real-time location of sheep, are being trialled on-farm by AWI.
➔ 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 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