

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

This February 2019 publication provides woolgrowers in South 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 South 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 South 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.

SA WOOL INDUSTRY

The wool industry in South Australia dates from 1836 when the South Australian Co. imported Merinos from Saxony, and was sufficiently established for the first wool auction to be held in Adelaide in 1840. South Australia's overall dry climate has provided a healthy environment for wool-growing.

Today, South Australia is the fourth largest wool producing state in Australia, currently producing about 18% of all Australian wool.

If South Australia was a country, it would be the sixth largest wool producer in the world behind China, NSW, New Zealand, Victoria and WA.

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 32.8%	70.7 23.2%	62.7 20.6%	54.7 17.9%	9.3 3.0%	7.1 2.3%	305 100%

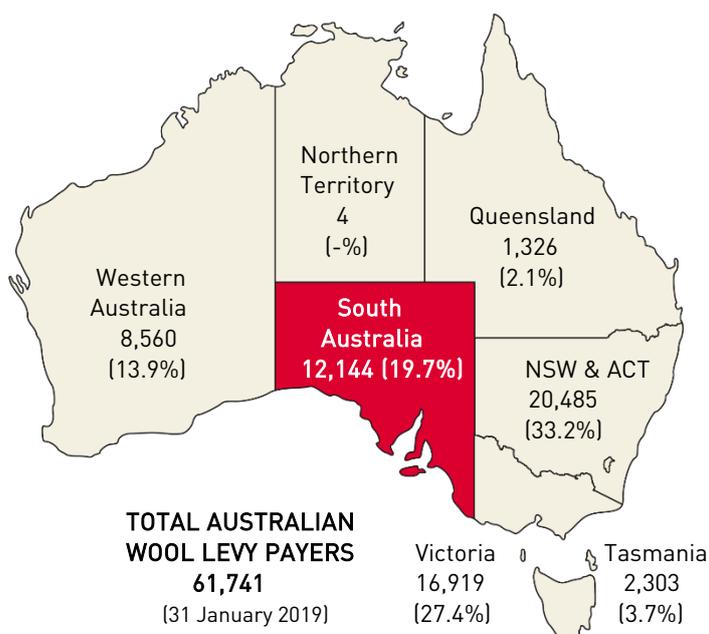
Source: Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee Nov 2018
* Forecast

AWTA TEST DATA

	2016/17		2017/18	
	SA	Australia	SA	Australia
Greasy weight* (t)	53,680	357,785	55,315	360,017
Yield (%)	62.9	65.1	62.6	64.8
VM (%)	3.2	2.3	3.1	2.5
MFD (µm)	21.2	21.0	21.1	21.0
SS (Nkt)	34.8	34.3	34.4	34.5
SL (mm)	90.2	87.9	87.9	85.8
Mid-break (%)	51.1	48.4	50.6	50.8

Source: Australian Wool Testing Authority (AWTA) *WSA

SA WOOLGROWERS



AWI works on behalf of **61,741** Australian woolgrowers that pay the wool levy and therefore fund the company. 19.7% (**12,144**) of all wool levy payers are located in South Australia.

At 1 January 2019, there were **9,088** levy payers in SA that had paid more than \$100 in levies in the past 3 years and so were eligible to become an AWI shareholder. **3,523** (39%) have become an AWI shareholder and can vote at AWI AGMs.

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

SOUTH AUSTRALIA HIGHLIGHTS

SHEEP HEALTH



A **WormBoss worm control program** is available for the South Australian winter rainfall region (and pastoral region).

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 SA.
➔ www.paraboss.com.au/news
- **Worm Control Programs** for the winter rainfall and pastoral regions of SA are available online on WormBoss.
➔ www.wormboss.com.au
- **Flystrike Decision Support Tool** on FlyBoss is tailored for your location within SA.
➔ 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

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

PEST ANIMALS



AWI co-funds the aerial wild dog baiting program in the **South Australian pastoral sheep zone**.

SA WILD DOG CONTROL GROUPS

Since 2012, AWI has supported the annual aerial baiting across the Arid Lands of South Australia, inside the Dog Fence. In effect AWI will be supporting 21 Local Wild Dog Groups across this area. AWI supports groups to overcome emergency pest animal challenges and lay secure foundations for sustainable long-term future pest animal control program. Commencing in 2018 AWI is supporting two full time Wild Dog Trappers in South Australia.

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

SA WILD DOG COORDINATOR

AWI funds a Wild Dog Coordinator position in South Australia: Marty Bower. His role is to assist woolgrowers and other key stakeholders to work together to lessen the impact of livestock predation by wild dogs. His position is helping to reduce these attacks and therefore improve on-farm productivity, rural community wellbeing and rural biodiversity.

➔ Marty Bower 0419 835 120.

PAPP WILD DOG BAIT

An additional baiting option, PAPP, for reducing wild dog and fox numbers is now available to landholders across South Australia. It is designed to allow baiting to still be an option in places where 1080 use is restricted, or for land managers who would prefer not to use 1080. It is available under the names DOGABAIT® and FOXECUTE®.

➔ 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, including South Australia. There has been a 38% observed reduction in rabbit numbers nationally following its release, based on data from 191 participating sites.

➔ www.wool.com/rabbits

GENETICS



Martin Ramsay of **Warooka** features in the AWI-supported AASMB 'Breed More Merino Ewes' campaign.



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, with one based in SA, currently at 'McPiggery', Lameroo, and formerly at Keyenton Station.

➔ 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 and sheep classers.

➔ www.wool.com/publications

SOUTH AUSTRALIA HIGHLIGHTS

REPRODUCTION



The business of Darren and Fiona Sanders at **Keith** has benefited from them 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 14 active groups in SA (79 participants), with 28 other groups recently completed.

➔ Phone RIST on 1800 883 343

ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS

Picking Performer Ewes

This workshop available in SA 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 SA 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 SA 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.

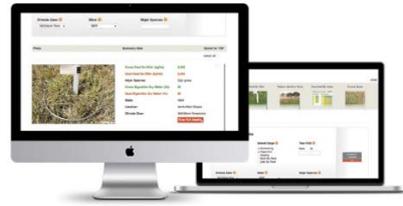
➔ Sheep Connect South Australia (see back page)

LAMBING DENSITY AND MOB SIZE

Research conducted at 70 sites across Australia, including 10 sites in SA, 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 SA.

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/fo

CLOVER RED LEAF SYNDROME

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

➔ www.wool.com/weeds

EVERGRAZE

The EverGraze website presents regionally specific information about farming systems based on **perennials**, for producers across the high rainfall zone of southern Australia. The information includes 4 case studies from south-east SA.

➔ www.evergraze.com.au

GRAIN & GRAZE

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

➔ 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**, including fact sheets, case studies, technical manuals and guidelines.

➔ www.wool.com/environment

HARVESTING



The AWI-supported shearing competition at the Yallunda Flat Show on the **Eyre Peninsula** held in October 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 124 days across SA resulting in 487 trained.
- **wool handler in-shed training** was delivered for 96 days across SA resulting in 224 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

SA SHEARING COMPETITIONS

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

SOUTH AUSTRALIA HIGHLIGHTS

THE NEXT GEN



South Australian teams from **Cummins**, **Cleve** and **Burra** at the 2018 National Merino Challenge in **Adelaide**.

PRACTICAL HANDS-ON TRAINING

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

- **National Merino Challenge** encourages new entrants into the wool industry by helping students across SA and the rest of Australia develop their industry knowledge, skills and networks.
➔ 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 South Australia including Jamestown, Cummins and Burra.
- **Young woolgrower initiatives** supported by AWI in SA include the SA Sheep Expo.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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

- **Breeding Leadership course:** Five participants from SA in 2018.
- **Horizon Scholarship:** Amelia Gibson of Port Augusta (2017); Royce Pitchford of Echunga (2015).
- **Australian Rural Leadership Foundation:** Miles Cockington, Port Vincent; Maurice Collins, Mount Pleasant.
- **Nuffield Farming Scholarship:** Jack England, Kingston; James Robertson, Renmark; Ben Ranford, Cleve.

➔ 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 SA woolgrowers' mobile phones.

- **Daily Wool Market Reports** are available via SMS to South Australian woolgrowers' mobile phones.
- **Weekly Wool Market Reports and Prices** are available each Friday via SMA, 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 SA.

- **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 woolgrowers across SA.

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 SA
- **AWI Helpline** 1800 070 099
- **Woolgrower representative groups:** National and South Australian



AWI GROWER NETWORK IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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

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

Coordinator: Ian McFarland
ian.mcfarland@sa.gov.au
0437 659 353

www.sheepconnectsa.com.au

Twitter: @SheepConnectSA