

LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE



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From the Western Beef and Sheep Producers of the PGA of WA (Inc)

BEEF STOCKTAKE PROJECT

The final report from consultant Warwick Yates is due out next month. At a recent meeting between the Meat Committee and Warwick we were told that an all-industry consultative approach to all facets of beef production was required to create an efficient beef supply chain. The PGA looks forward to more details as they are released from the report.

FOOTROT CONTROL

At a meeting on July 26 of the WA Footrot Committee, it was agreed that a program of \$425,000 would be required over two years from 2009 to 2011 for the control of virulent strains in Western Australia. The committee supports a minimalist program largely and this is supported by the PGA. The proposing DAFWA expenditure would be \$50 000, with the rest being paid back by growers levied after the BAM Bill is enacted, likely July 2010. The PGA will discuss with Minister Redman the funding arrangements for the program at our next meeting.

MUCHEA TOUR

Anybody interested in touring the Muchea precinct should call the PGA. Tours are arranged through the Meat Industry Authority on Thursdays from 11am, and are catered for groups of six.

WOOLPOLL

This year's Woolpoll ballot options are the same as they were in 2006, which is disappointing from our view as the PGA were pushing for an "R and D only" option. The options are: 3%, 2.5%, 2%, 1% and 0%. Votes need to be in by November 6, with an announcement made on November 20. At this stage, the PGA encourages members to vote in Woolpoll and consider the requirements of the industry and consider how effective AWI has been in marketing and R and D for both mulesed and non-mulesed wool.

MEETING WITH AWI

The PGA met recently with Brenda McGahan (CEO) and David Webster (Board member) and asked for a unified position on the mulesing issue. They presented us with the new AWI Operating Plan, which completely strips expenditure across all departments. The PGA continues to encourage AWI to show support for the retailers who have listened to their customers and are going down the non-mulesing path, paying a premium for this wool. PGA's policy of letting market forces dictate how people deal with their lambs post 2010 is important if the price signals are there to growers, which in turn facilitates a natural shift to non-mulesed wool production.

MLA MARKETING LEVY

The Meat Committee recently held a teleconference with pastoralists and MLA's General Manager of Marketing, David Thomason, to discuss the merits of the \$1.50 marketing component of the \$5 per head cattle transaction levy. The levy is currently under review, and had a sunset clause attached which meant that the levy, unless supported again by industry for another term, would bring the cattle transaction levy back down to \$3.50 per head from July 2010. The meat committee recommended to MLA that the Levy Review Committee members meet beef producers throughout the state to discuss what the levy has achieved before people decide for themselves on whether to retain the \$1.50 levy.

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