

LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE



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

WOOLPOLL

The sheep producers on the Livestock Committee held a teleconference on September 21 to discuss a position for the upcoming election as votes close on Friday 6th November. The committee agreed that you, as a PGA member, should be provided with a list of comments from this meeting that may help you decide on the option you will vote for. The PGA encourages all levy payers to participate.

- Be careful of how preferential votes are used- your first and second preferred options could end up being your least preferred;
- AWI are likely to continue to push promotions/marketing spending over the next 3 years - what has this achieved for your bottom line?
- The PGA asked for an R&D only option which was ignored by the WoolPoll panel;
- There have been no market signals for non-mulesed wool over mulesed wool;
- The Federal Government matches levy funded R&D to a max of 0.5% of total wool production. This would cease with a 0% wool levy.

MLA BEEF LEVY REVIEW

The PGA continues to push at a national level for an ad valorem levy, similar to the wool levy, which would apply a percentage of sale prices to the levy in recognition of the lighter weight of cattle in W.A. PGA President Rob Gillam will attend the vote in Darwin in December to push for the implementation of the ad valorem at a later date, which would create a more equitable revenue stream and ask that returns to growers be quantified. We encourage you to vote on the beef levy, and whether you wish to keep a \$5.00 per head levy in place over a marketing exclusive \$3.50. All cattle producers are entitled to become members of MLA for free and can vote on whether to retain the \$5.00 cattle transaction levy via the 2009 MLA AGM. To have the opportunity to secure full voting entitlements for the AGM, producers must have signed up for membership by 18 September 2009. If you apply for membership between 18 September and 6 October you will have the opportunity to participate in the AGM with one vote. Cattle producers signing up for membership after 6 October will not be eligible to participate in the 2009 AGM.

BITS AND PIECES

- The Livestock Committee will partner with Wellards at a regional location for our next meeting (TBC). All members are encouraged to join us;
- The Stocktake report is due to become public soon and the PGA will discuss the recommendations with the Livestock Committee;
- An EU audit of the NLIS for sheep will commence soon and the PGA has assisted the state NLIS Committee in preparedness for the audit;
- Livestock Industry Development Plans from DAFWA are available from the DAFWA website.

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