



Western Sheep & Beef Producers

Newsfax No. 1 – February 2012

CATTLE COUNCIL

Cattle Council has released a consultation paper on draft funding and structural reform of the National Representation of the Australian Grassfed Beef Industry (i.e. Cattle Council). Cattle Council has invited the industry to provide feedback and comment.

The paper can be accessed at www.cattlecouncil.com.au/nationalrepresentation.

CCA is also calling for nominations to establish the new sub-committees to assist the Cattle Council Board by discussing policy issues and making recommendations to the Cattle Council Board. These sub-committees will replace the previous Cattle Council Taskforces. The PGA needs to advise Cattle Council of nominations by COB 17 February 2012. For further information contact the executive officer.

AHA FMD POLICY REVIEW

Due to some successful lobbying by Cattle Councilor David Lovelock, the PGA has been able to broker a visit by Dr Peter Dagg of Animal Health Australia to speak to AHA's response to the Matthews report into Australia's preparedness for FMD.

A redraft of the Foot and Mouth Disease protocols is underway, and it includes the possible use of vaccination rather than the eradication by slaughter policy. This would depend on the size and location of any outbreak. The PGA will need to consider its position on this issue.

The meeting will be a whole of industry affair and is being held in the theatre at DAFWA Head Office, Baron Hay Ct, South Perth at 2.00 pm.

The Livestock Committee meeting on 27th February will be held at PGA at 8.30 am

OVINE JOHNES DISEASE (OJD)

The Chairman Mr Digby Stretch and the EO met with Geoff Power, President of WoolProducers Australia, Jane Brownbill, CEO and Jo Hall, Policy Officer to discuss the new National OJD Management Plan. The new program is necessarily a compromise position derived from the earlier review. The PGA still maintains that drawing lines on a map based on current technology is unnecessarily divisive and of dubious benefit.

AGRICULTURAL & VETERINARY CHEMICALS

An Agricultural & Veterinary Chemicals Amendment Bill is currently under discussion which seeks to reform the regulation of pesticides and veterinary medicines. A regulatory reform consultation meeting was recently held in the DAFF Regional Office at Perth International Airport. The PGA was represented by the Chair of the Pastoral Committee and the EO. The Western Graingrowers Committee made a submission to the initial discussion paper early last year and will follow up on this consultation session.

AWI WOOLPOLL

Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) must conduct a poll of levy payers (WoolPoll) every three years to determine the amount of levy to be collected for industry research, development and marketing activities.

The next poll must be delivered in 2012. Under the regulations, a panel of woolgrower representatives – the WoolPoll Panel – must be formed to

endorse specific voting documentation and poll processes. The Panel will comprise of ten representatives, a member of government and an AWI representative.

In WoolPoll 2012, AWI has made minor modifications to the poll process to ease the administrative burden on the WoolPoll Panel and allow it to focus on the important task of maximising voter turnout.

AWI has recommended the four national woolgrower representative groups (WoolProducers Australia, Australian Superfine Wool Growers Association, Australian Association of Stud Merino Breeders and Australian Wool Growers Association) – members of AWI's woolgrower Industry Consultative Committee – form the basis of the 2012 WoolPoll Panel.

Additional representatives will be appointed through a formal selection process, based on nominations from state farm organisations. **Nominations for one representative close on 15 February 2012.** Please direct all correspondence to Ms Casey Dunn,

WoolPoll Panel Secretariat, at:
Email: casey.dunn@wool.com
Phone: 0458 001 355.
Mail: Australian Wool Innovation
GPO Box 4177, Sydney, NSW, 2001.

Meetings

Livestock	27 February
AHA FMD policy review	27 February
Pastoral	TBA
AGM	29 February
Executive	29 February
Kimberley Div. -Broome	3 May
Pastoral Conference (Broome)	4 May
PGA Convention	September