



# Western Sheep & Beef Producers

## Bulletin – 14 September 2012

### **CATTLE COUNCIL – RISING CHAMPIONS INITIATIVE**

Cattle Council is seeking applications from people aged between 21 and 35 for its Rising Champion Initiative. State finalists will travel to Canberra to share their views on the 'real-life' beef industry challenges with Cattle Council, attend tailored workshops, meet with politicians and tour Parliament House. The 2013 Rising Champion will win an all expenses paid trip to Perth to attend the MLA AGM and there is also a scholarship to Marcus Oldham College on offer courtesy of the Australian Beef Industry Foundation. [Applications](#) close midnight 21 September 2012.

### **AWI WOOLPOLL**

The PGA member Mr Wayne Duffield of Darkan is Western Australia's representative to Wool Poll 2012. The panel has met to put together the WoolPoll Voter Information Kit. This kit will be sent to growers to assist them to vote to determine the rate of Wool Tax for the next three years. It should be noted that although the panel endorsed the document, it was not required and did not endorse AWI's recommended rate or specific content or its rationale for the recommendation. The panel is only required to ensure the information is presented as per the Regulations. There are five levy rate options in WoolPoll 2012 - 3% / 2.5% / 2% / 1% / 0%. Following a thorough debate at both the Livestock and Executive Committee meetings, the PGA has decided to recommend that its members vote for **no more than 1% in Wool Poll 2012**. Voting for WoolPoll 2012 opens on September 21 and closes on November 2. Voting on-line is the quickest way to have your say. Just go to [www.woolpoll.com.au](http://www.woolpoll.com.au). The Chairman encourages all wool growers to exercise their voting rights. In a recent media release he said "If you think not voting is a protest, you're wrong, you just won't count. Apathy will ensure more of the same."

### **LIVE EXPORT**

It is the PGA's firm belief that live export has an on-going role to play in the future prosperity of Western Australian farm businesses. Livestock exporters and primary producers are partners in the industry. Whilst it may not always be apparent, behind the scenes, industry leaders are putting their shoulder to the wheel. Last week, the President of the PGA had a private meeting with Minister Ludwig. The Vice-Chairman of the WA Live Exporters Association Mr Nick Daws attended the recent meeting of the Livestock Committee to brief members on the progress of ESCAS arrangements. The PGA warmly welcomes any assistance its members may wish to offer.

### **AUSTRALIAN FARMER OF THE YEAR**

The Chairman is pleased to congratulate livestock committee member Ms Bindi Murray as Australia's "Young Farmer of the Year". The Australian Farmer of the Year Awards is an initiative of the Kondinin Group. It celebrates the professional, innovative and sustainable approach of farmers and showcases their passion for the important role they play in Australia. Bindi beat out competitors from 5 other states and territories.

### **AUSTRALIAN PEST LOCUSTS**

The EO attended the Australian Pest Locust industry briefing on behalf of the President. APL is a declared species. The last outbreak was in 2006. DAFWA will not conduct aerial spraying. The cost of aerial spraying during the last outbreak was \$13 million. DAFWA will conduct surveillance and will make an offer to coordinate local operations. The most likely location for any outbreaks will be in the South Coastal areas of Jerramungup, Ravensthorpe and the Fitzgerald River. However, the Mt Marshall area is also a traditional hot spot due to summer rainstorms. Notes on this meeting are available from the EO. Further information is available on the DAFWA web site at [www.agric.wa.gov.au/locust](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/locust)

### **Upcoming Meetings – 2012**

PGA Convention - 26 September; Pastoral - 17 October; Executive - 18 October; Kimberley Div. - 24 October