



Western Sheep & Beef Producers

Bulletin – 24th June 2013

NATIONAL VENDOR DECLARATIONS FOR SHEEP

The Sheepmeat Council of Australia this week announced that from July 1 sheep producers will be required to pay for the NVD books they must use for livestock transactions. For the past nine years, sheep NVDs have been available to producers free of charge with costs subsidised by the SCA from National Residue Survey (NRS) levies. The NRS is part of the Government and industry strategy to minimise chemical residues and environmental contaminants in Australian food products and promote market access.

Producers will now pay \$35 per NVD book of 20 forms. They will also have the option to use the cheaper electronic NVD forms, currently \$1 each.

SCA is concerned that this change may cause a potential rush on for 'free' NVD books that may result in stocks becoming fully used. This could result in the need to undertake additional print runs, and unnecessarily increase the cost to industry.

AUS-MEAT, at SCA request, has introduced an upper limit on book orders (i.e. no more than one book per order) for the month of June in an effort to deal with this issue.

OJD

On July 1 a new national OJD Plan comes into effect that enables producers to take greater responsibility for biosecurity. This is the result of extensive consultation. Central to the plan is a new simplified sheep health statement giving producers a greater level of information to make informed buying decisions. A new OJD website, www.ojd.com.au, will act as a reference point for producers and industry on OJD management in Australia.

LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

The May meeting of the committee included a presentation by the AWI Industry Relations Manager, Mr Simon Crump on general AWI activities, and its strategic planning process. The committee sent a strong message back to AWI that the wild dog issue is not improving and that all parties need to work cohesively.

The Chairman of the Sheep Industry Liaison Council, Mr Rob Egerton-Warburton also joined the meeting by tele-conference. He was able to provide some insight into the relationship between AWI and the Sheep Industry Innovation CRC over extension bids for research programs. Other business included ear marking, the Cattle Council restructure, BJD and OJD, the Katanning saleyards and the Muchea Livestock Centre.

Elections for office holders were conducted and Mr Digby Stretch was returned as Chairman, with Ms Bindi Murray elected Vice-Chair. Both were elected unopposed. Mr Robert Keamy of Watheroo and Mr John Snell of Waroona were co-opted to the Committee.

Mr David Lovelock continues as the PGA representative to the Cattle Council of Australia, and Mr David Boyle as the PGA representative to the Sheepmeat Council of Australia. Mr Boyle has performed this duty on a "temporary" basis since 1991 and has indicated he would welcome a replacement.

UPCOMING MEETINGS – 2013

Executive Committee – 1 August

PGA Convention – 26 September (to be confirmed)

1st Floor, Pastoral House, 277 Great Eastern Highway, BELMONT WA 6104

Telephone: (08) 9479 4599

Facsimile: (08) 9277 7311

Web Site: www.pgaofwa.org.au

Livestock Chairman - Digby Stretch - 0428 540 521

Executive Officer Ian Randles - 08 9479 4599

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