



Western Sheep & Beef Producer Western Sheep & Beef Producers

Bulletin – 3 June 2014

INDUSTRY FUNDING SCHEMES (IFS)

The IFS were established under the provisions of the *Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007* (BAM Act). The cattle IFS contributions currently fund surveillance programs for bovine Johne's disease (BJD), bovine tuberculosis (BTB) and enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL), and the sheep and goats IFS contributions fund a program to control virulent footrot.

Growers who do not wish to participate in the schemes can 'opt out'. Opting out does not remove the legal requirement to deal with the pests and diseases to which the scheme relates, but does disqualify the grower from any benefits such as assistance to control the pest/disease and compensation. After opting out, producers need to contribute to the scheme for two consecutive years, before they can regain eligibility for any assistance.

Producers wanting to opt-out must do so **each year** during the June immediately prior to the financial year for which they want to opt-out – that is by 30th June this year.

At the end of the financial year, those that have opted-out of the Scheme can receive a full refund of any contributions paid during the year. To receive the refund, producers must complete the 'Refund of Contributions' form by 31st July 2014.

ELECTRONIC ID FOR SHEEP

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) received a total of 108 submissions from producers, industry bodies and state governments last year on the consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) for improving sheep NLIS.

All submissions received, other than those noted as confidential, are available to view at the following link - <http://www.daff.gov.au/ABARES/Pages/nlis-submissions.aspx>.

The PGA's submission to ABARES supported the current system that uses 'born on property' and 'introduced on property' (transaction) tags with mob based movement (MBM), reported to the NLIS computer database.

The PGA does not support electronic ID for sheep by government edict; there must be a market demand.

ABARES will use these submissions to refine its analysis in the consultation RIS and in due course, produce a decision RIS for comment.

MUCHEA LIVESTOCK CENTRE

Chris Patmore is the PGA representative on the user group. He reports the following issues were discussed:

- ✓ Incorporating a calf sale into the weekly cattle sales.
- ✓ Under the new 'identification & movement of stock' regulations, saleyard operators are legally required to check the NLIS record and update the database if necessary. This means that all cattle that are unloaded and loaded have to be scanned, even if they are only in transit. This may cause a problem for out-of-hours saleyard labour requirements.
- ✓ Cattle receivals, weighing and drafting has had a well publicised decline in service levels. Part of the problem is computer software upgrades which haven't gone to plan. Poor service levels have caused some producers and transporters to avoid using the centre, with a significant decline in cattle throughput.

UPCOMING MEETINGS – 2014

Executive Committee – 5 June