



Western Sheep & Beef Producers

Bulletin – 15 December 2014

ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION OF SHEEP FOR NLIS

Readers will recall that the PGA made a strong submission to ABARES opposing compulsory electronic identification of sheep using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags.

Although not widely reported, the PGA has been told that at the most recent meeting of the Agriculture Ministers' Forum (AGMIN), Minister Joyce said sheep NLIS was a matter for the individual states to determine.

This is clear win for the PGA and WA's current system of mob based life time traceability of livestock.

MUCHEA LIVESTOCK CENTRE

The centre's user group met on the 17th of November. PGA representative Mr Chris Patmore makes the following report;

The problematic cattle handling section is still not running efficiently. Livestock Logistics WA (LLWA), which runs the cattle section have software and staffing problems and the Manager has recently resigned. Chairman Warren Robinson has stepped in to run the operation until a new manager is appointed. Some improvement has been reported but they are still having bad days, as reported in the rural press.

Mr Patmore attended the cattle sale the previous week and it was constantly interrupted with wrong weights, slow weighing, wrong pen numbers, mixed cattle, etc. The frustration of agents, buyers and sellers was obvious.

WAMIA has had several responses to their call for expressions of interest to run the whole complex.

However none were suitable and none were from WA. The CEO Renata Paliskis has resigned and the Board has decided to wait for a new CEO to be appointed before deciding the future direction.

Although not mentioned at this meeting, WAMIA have released their latest Annual Report. Things have improved financially. A large loss has now become a small loss. However, WAMIA are not covering any of the depreciation, so it is still not sustainable. The report is on the WAMIA website.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

This year has seen a more positive focus in agriculture, with Free Trade Agreements negotiated with Korea, Japan and China and the repeal of the carbon taxes. However, animal activists continue to campaign against livestock export.

The Chairman is happy to note that the current Commonwealth Government seems to recognize the national significance of agriculture to Australia, by engaging directly with farmers, rather than taking notice of third party groups whose attitudes are antagonistic towards agriculture.

On behalf of the Livestock Committee the Chairman wishes all members and friends of the PGA a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

UPCOMING MEETINGS – 2015

Executive Committee – 26 February 2015 (proposed)

PGA AGM – 26 February 2015 (proposed)

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