



Western Sheep & Beef Producers

Bulletin – 25 August 2015

EAR MARKING

The PGA's current policy of supporting ear marking was discussed at the June meeting of the Livestock Committee. As this was a combined meeting of both the Livestock and Pastoral Committees, the issue was subject to a thorough debate.

The PGA acknowledges that there is a school of thought amongst some farmers who do not want to have to earmark crossbred lambs going to slaughter.

However, both committees resolved to continue to support the current PGA policy of mandatory ear marking and branding on the basis that it is an invaluable tool in the prevention of stock theft, but only if it is all-inclusive.

BJD – CALL FOR COMMENT

As readers would know, the National BJD Strategic Plan is under review. It is anticipated that a new plan will come into effect early next year. It seems very likely that the review's outcome will have implications for WA's BJD Free Zone status.

The Chairman is not convinced that maintaining the status quo is the wisest course of action, without further data collection, taking into account the science and determining the economic impacts of different levels of restrictions.

The Chairman said "I want as much grass roots input as possible as soon as possible", so the PGA can review its position.

WOOLPOLL

Committee member Ms Bindi Murray represents Western Australia on the AWI WoolPoll Panel. She reports; The WoolPoll launch will be held on the 28th of August, with the mailing of the voter kits on the 14th of September.

Voting opens on the same day and closes on the 30th of October at 5pm.

All woolgrowers who have paid a total of \$100 wool tax in the previous 3 years as at the 4 September 2015 are eligible to vote. Woolgrowers can vote by mail, online or by fax but will need the voting papers for all of these options. The result will be announced on the 20 November 2015.

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES PERMITS FOR THE USE OF 53.5M RAVS

The PGA has once again been successful in negotiating EC permits for the use of high productivity vehicles.

Permits have now been issued to all livestock operators that previously held them. However, any new operators will need to contact MAIN ROADS directly for a permit.

These permits will be issued up to 30 November 2015, at which stage the circumstances will be reviewed by MAIN ROADS to determine any further requirements.

EC permits are a concession over and above existing regulation, and have to be justifiable. The PGA thanks the Minister for Agriculture and Food for supporting the PGA's request for permit extensions.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

PGA Executive Committee and AGM

September 3

PGA Convention

September 17

ground floor, HPPL House, 28-42 Ventnor Ave, WEST PERTH WA 6005

Telephone: (08) 9212 6900

Facsimile: (08) 9485 0299

Web Site: www.pgaofwa.org.au

Livestock Chairman - Digby Stretch - 0428 540 521

Policy Officer Ian Randles - 08 9212 6900

Western Beef & Sheep Producers Bulletin is distributed free to members of the PGA for their information. Articles may not be reproduced without permission. It is not a press release. Any loss or damage arising from reliance on information in this News Fax is disclaimed.