



Western Sheep & Beef Producers Western Sheep & Beef Producers

Bulletin – 2 May 2014

CATTLE COUNCIL RISING CHAMPIONS INITIATIVE

The Cattle Council is calling for nominations for the 2014 Rising Champions Initiative. State finalists will travel to Canberra for judging and the opportunity to meet with established beef industry figures. This year's overall winner will get to travel to the United States to participate in the Five Nations Beef Alliance conference in 2015. Applications can be made online at www.cattlecouncil.com.au/risingchampions by 16 May 2014.

LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

The Livestock Committee met on the 20th of March. Digby Stretch was elected unopposed as Chairman of the committee, and Bindi Murray was elected unopposed as Vice Chair. David Boyle was confirmed as the PGA representative to the Sheepmeat Council of Australia, although he would be happy for someone else to takeover. David Lovelock was confirmed as the PGA representative to the Cattle Council of Australia.

As the Chairman has recently taken over the role of PGA Vice President, Chris Patmore of the committee has agreed he will take on more duties with respect to sheep. Mr Patmore is the current representative of the PGA on the Muchea Livestock Centre Users Group. He welcomes queries from members that he can present to user group meetings. He may also be in a position to provide further explanation as to the day to day operation of the centre.

HGPs

The management committee of the cattle Industry Funding Scheme has asked the PGA for its views on regulating HGP use and identification in Western Australia, using industry funds to do so. The PGA sees no value in using industry funds to regulate HGP use in WA.

All international bodies and national regulatory agencies, (including expert scientific committees of the World Health Organisation), with the exception of the European Commission, have concluded that residues of registered HGPs do not pose a threat to consumers when used according to best practice. Although the EU has banned the use of HGPs, Australia can access EU markets by using the European Union Cattle Accreditation Scheme (EUCAS). This scheme relies on vendor declarations, audits and NLIS traceability to work.

According to the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture web site, there are no EUCAS accredited feedlots, saleyards or abattoirs in WA. Therefore there would be no immediate return to WA in the reinstatement of HGP-related regulations as currently proposed.

Should the need arise for controls to ensure market access, there is overarching Commonwealth Government legislation that could be referenced in state regulation. According to the Commonwealth Government's *Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Orders 2005*, Division 2 subparagraph 44.1(a) "the animal or its carcass or any of its carcass parts is identified as having been treated with a HGP by the application of a triangular ear punch".

In conclusion, neither method guarantees absolute confidence as they rely on the sincerity of individual operators to be effective.

UPCOMING MEETINGS – 2014

PGA Kimberley Division meeting on 7 May; PGA Executive Committee meeting on 5 June