

TASMANIA

This August 2019 publication provides woolgrowers in Tasmania with some of the results of AWI investment in **on-farm R&D and extension** that are benefiting woolgrowers in the state. It also provides **contact information**, for Tasmanian woolgrowers who want to get involved.

ABOUT AWI

Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) is a not-for-profit enterprise that conducts **research and development (R&D)** and **marketing** on behalf of Australian woolgrowers. AWI works along the worldwide supply chain for Australian wool – from woolgrowers to designers, manufacturers and retailers.

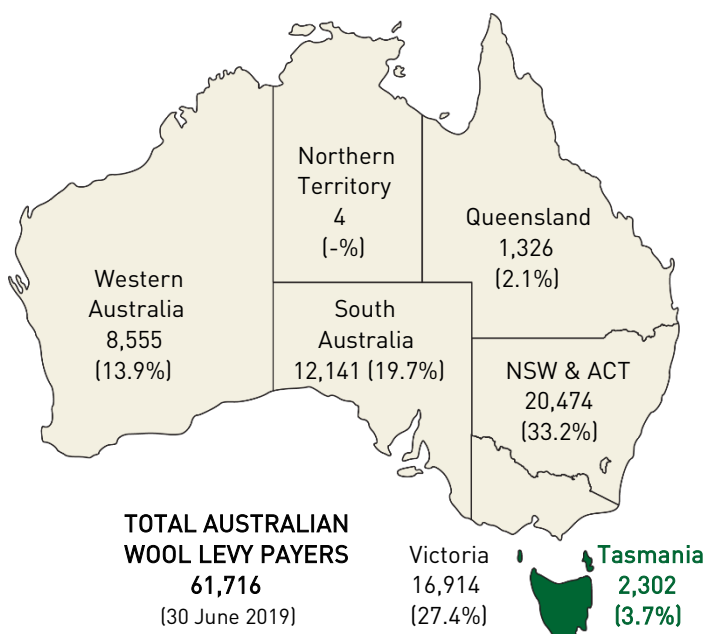
Research and development (R&D):

AWI invests in both on-farm R&D and off-farm R&D. This publication highlights some **on-farm R&D** investments that are benefiting Tasmanian woolgrowers.

Marketing:

Through its extensive networks spanning the international textile and fashion industries, AWI and its marketing arm The Woolmark Company highlight the premium, natural qualities of Australian wool, to increase global demand for the fibre – for the benefit of all Australian woolgrowers.

TASMANIA'S WOOLGROWERS



AWI works on behalf of **61,716** Australian woolgrowers that pay the wool levy and therefore fund the company. 3.7% (**2,302**) of all wool levy payers are located in Tasmania.

At 30 June 2019, there were **1,724** levy payers in Tasmania that had paid more than \$100 in levies in the past 3 years and so were eligible to become an AWI shareholder. **608** (35%) have become an AWI shareholder and can vote at AWI AGMs.

TASMANIA'S WOOL INDUSTRY

Sheep farmers were among the first free settlers in Tasmania, arriving from Britain in the 1820s. Sheep imports with highly regarded pedigrees formed the foundation of the state's valuable wool industry.

Sheep and wool production continue to return a significant proportion of the state's agricultural income. In recent years, Tasmania has even edged ahead of Queensland in terms of numbers of sheep shorn and wool production.

While Tasmania currently produces just 3.1% of all Australian wool, its Merino wools are renowned across the world.

SHEEP NUMBERS SHORN

million	NSW	Vic	WA	SA	Tas	Qld	Total
2017/18	28.3	17.2	14.8	11.9	2.4	2.2	76.8
2018/19	24.8	16.7	14.6	11.8	2.4	2.2	72.5
2019/20*	22.0	16.3	14.1	11.6	2.4	1.8	68.2

Source: Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee Aug 2019

* Forecast

SHORN WOOL PRODUCTION

mkg	NSW	Vic	WA	SA	Tas	Qld	Total
2017/18	125.7	73.5	65.1	59.5	9.3	8.3	341
2018/19	99.1	66.9	62.2	54.3	9.0	8.1	300
2019/20*	87.8	66.7	62.1	53.2	8.7	6.7	285
	30.7%	23.4%	21.8%	18.7%	3.1%	2.3%	100%

Source: Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee Aug 2019

* Forecast

AWTA TEST DATA

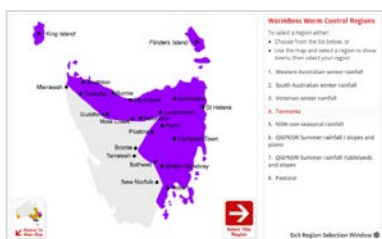
	2017/18		2018/19	
	Tas	Australia	Tas	Australia
Greasy weight* (t)	10,192	360,017	10,559	317,763
Yield (%)	70.5	64.6	70.3	63.1
VM (%)	1.0	2.5	0.8	2.1
MFD (µm)	21.8	21.0	22.3	20.5
SS (Nkt)	35.9	34.5	36.4	33.2
SL (mm)	88.2	85.8	89.1	83.6
Mid-break (%)	45.0	50.8	48.3	47.1

Source: Australian Wool Testing Authority (AWTA) *WSA

AWI is grateful for its funding, which is primarily provided by Australian woolgrowers through a wool levy and by the Australian Government which provides a matching contribution for eligible R&D activities.

TASMANIAN HIGHLIGHTS

SHEEP HEALTH



A WormBoss worm control program is available for **Tasmania** on WormBoss at www.wormboss.com.au/programs.

paraboss

ParaBoss is a suite of three web-based products – LiceBoss, WormBoss and FlyBoss – containing detailed management information to help sheep producers manage lice, worm and blowfly risks for their sheep.

➡ www.paraboss.com.au

- **Monthly State Outlooks** detail the current prevalence of sheep parasites across Tasmania.

➡ www.paraboss.com.au/news

- **Worm Control Program** for Tasmania is available online on WormBoss, including a drench decision guide and list of professional service providers.

➡ www.wormboss.com.au

- **Flystrike Decision Support Tool** on FlyBoss is tailored for your location within Tasmania.

➡ www.flyboss.com.au/tools

PAIN RELIEF PRODUCTS

Along with Tri-Solfen® (post-operative topical application), Buccalgescic® (pre-operative gel administered inside cheek) and Metacam® (pre-operative injection), which are all registered pain relief products for use during mulesing, castration and tail docking, a new product Numnuts, a ring applicator that provides pain relief during castration and tail docking, is now available.

➡ www.wool.com/flystrike

BREECH FLYSTRIKE PUBLICATIONS

Publications now available include information on breeding for breech strike resistant sheep, a 'Managing Breech Flystrike' manual and a 'Planning for a Non Mulesed Merino Enterprise' booklet.

➡ www.wool.com/flystrikelatest

PEST ANIMALS



A rabbit eating oats laced with the RHDV1 K5 strain of rabbit calicivirus which has been released in **Tasmania**.

RHDV1 K5 RABBIT BIOCONTROL

A strain of rabbit calicivirus (RHDV1 K5) new to Australia was released in March 2017 at 382 locations across the country, including Tasmania. There has been a 38% observed reduction in rabbit numbers nationally following its release, based on data from 191 participating sites. The aim is to reduce rabbits' negative impact on agricultural production and native ecosystems.

➡ www.wool.com/rabbits

BLOWFLY RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

A project to monitor increasing blowfly resistance to insecticide treatments is under way. Woolgrowers are encouraged to follow an 8-step insecticide resistance management strategy to slow the development of resistance and maximise blowfly control on their properties.

➡ www.wool.com/flystrikelatest

DEALING WITH DAG

A summary factsheet for woolgrowers, supported by an advisory manual for advisors has been produced following a review of the causes, diagnosis, management and treatment of dags. The publications provide a guide to managing and preventing scouring and dag formation.

➡ www.wool.com/flystrikelatest

FOOTROT

Building on previous AWI investment that helped design effective vaccines that can eradicate individual strains of virulent footrot diagnosed on individual properties, AWI is currently funding R&D into a multivalent vaccine. A Farmer Footrot Tool is also available which helps enable footrot-affected producers to understand the financial cost of the disease on their farm and to evaluate the cost effectiveness of different strategies to control or eradicate the disease.

➡ www.wool.com/footrot

GENETICS



Participants at a sheep classing workshop run by AWI at Ross in February 2019.



This 10-year project aims to better understand how current selection approaches relate to lifetime performance and to learn more about the genetics and economic interactions, across a diverse range of Merino types delivering high quality wool, lambs and meat through life. The project runs at five sire evaluation sites located across Australia, in diverse climates with genetically diverse ewe bases.

➡ www.wool.com/MLP

MERINO SUPERIOR SIRES

This initiative identifies the genetic component of diversity in sire breeding performance in the Merino flock by evaluating their progeny. There are 9 sites across Australia including one past site run by the Tasmanian Central Test Sire Evaluation Assoc. Inc, where the last evaluation took place in 2011/12.

➡ www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au

MERINO BLOODLINE PERFORMANCE

This project enables woolgrowers to compare 73 commonly used Merino bloodlines from 25 wether trials (including one in Tasmania) over the past ten years to identify performance differences.

➡ www.merinobloodlines.com.au

SHEEP SELECTION TOOLS BOOKLET

This 20-page booklet provides a summary of a wide range of industry tools available to woolgrowers to help achieve their breeding goals. Topics covered include sheep shows, wether trials, flock ewe competitions, Merino Sire Evaluation (and the MLP project), MERINOSELECT, Visual Sheep Scores, RamSelect, workshops, sheep classers and advisors and saleyards.

➡ www.wool.com/publications

TASMANIAN HIGHLIGHTS

REPRODUCTION



More than 60 producers at an 'It's Ewe Time!' forum at **Campbell Town**, held in June and jointly funded by AWI and MLA.

LIFETIME EWE MANAGEMENT COURSE

This course provides hands-on, on-farm training over a year, for small groups of producers (about 5-7) in the management and nutrition of breeding ewes to maximise reproduction rates and lamb and ewe survival. The average participant reports an increase in whole-farm stocking rate by 9.3% and lamb marking percentage by 7%, and reduced ewe mortality from 4.1 to 3.0%.

Nationally, nearly 4,000 producers have undertaken the course. There are currently four active groups in Tasmania.

➔ Phone RIST on 1800 883 343

ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS

Picking Performer Ewes

This workshop available in Tasmania for woolgrowers with commercial self-replacing Merino flocks places importance on the total lifetime productivity potential of the ewes.

RAMping Up Repro

This workshop available in Tasmania is designed to give woolgrowers the skills to improve ram health, performance and longevity in their sheep breeding enterprises.

Winning With Weaners

This workshop available in Tasmania is designed to give woolgrowers the skills to lift the lifetime performance of their young Merino sheep and achieve 95% weaner survival to one year of age.

➔ Sheep Connect Tasmania (see back page)

MOB SIZE AFFECTS LAMB SURVIVAL

Research into lambing density conducted at 85 sites across Australia shows that reducing the mob size of twin-bearing ewes that are in a reasonable condition at lambing will improve lamb survival. However, their stocking rate has little or no effect on lamb survival.

➔ www.wool.com/mobsize

FEEDBASE



Richard Gardner from **Tunbridge** is one of the Tasmanian case studies available on the EverGraze website.

EVERGRAZE

The EverGraze website presents information about farming systems based on **perennials**, to increase profitability of livestock enterprises and at the same time reduce ground water recharge and soil loss by water and wind in the high rainfall zone of southern Australia. The information includes four case studies from Tasmania.

➔ www.evergraze.com.au

GRAIN & GRAZE

The Grain & Graze website provides information, tools and calculators for **mixed farm enterprises** (grain and livestock). It covers the overall management and mix of the feedbase, grazing cereals to boost winter feed supply, the use of pastures and fodders, and pasture cropping.

➔ www.grainandgraze3.com.au

WOOLGROWER SPOTLIGHT

This project showcases **environmental land management** undertaken by Australian woolgrowers. Case studies are on display for retailers and consumers to gain an insight into land stewardship.

➔ www.woolmark.com/about-wool/woolgrowers

LAND, WATER & WOOL

The national Land, Water & Wool project developed more than 60 research-based practical information products on **natural resource management R&D**, including fact sheets, case studies, technical manuals and guidelines. They include managing climate variability, river management and water quality, native vegetation and biodiversity.

➔ www.wool.com/environment

TIMERITE®

Timerite® predicts the best date for spraying in spring to control **redlegged earth mites** (RLEM) the following autumn on any particular property.

➔ www.wool.com/timerite

HARVESTING



Last year's open finals at the **Scottsdale Show** in north-east Tasmania in November.

SHED TRAINING

Shearer and wool handler training

AWI funds training for novice to professional shearers and wool handlers. In the past two years, through AWI-funded programs:

- **shearer in-shed training** was delivered for 68 days across Tasmania resulting in 206 trained
- **wool handler in-shed training** was delivered for 74 days across Tasmania resulting in 213 trained.

In addition, **novice schools and workshops, online training**, and training in the **Shear-Jitsu technique** – the new way to perform the catch and drag – were undertaken.

➔ Phone the AWI Helpline on 1800 SHEARS (1800 743 277) to make contact with a training organisation in your local area.

Training resources

AWI has produced a series of training videos to help advance the skills of novice, improver and professional shearers and wool handlers – to promote better techniques and improve clip preparation practices in the industry.

➔ www.wool.com/trainingresources
Also available on a free USB from the AWI Helpline on 1800 070 099

TASMANIAN SHEARING COMPETITIONS

AWI provides support to local shearing competitions in Tasmania affiliated with Sports Shear Australia. Three were supported in the 2018/19 year, including the Tasmania State Championships. The aim of the support is to promote excellence in the wool harvesting industry, encourage young people to join the industry, and encourage continued development of techniques in shearing and woolhandling.

➔ www.wool.com/competitionsupport

TASMANIAN HIGHLIGHTS

THE NEXT GEN



23-year-old shearer and new wool industry Young Farming Champion Tom Squires from **Tasmania**.

PRACTICAL HANDS-ON TRAINING

Young woolgrowers from Tasmania take part in practical hands-on training initiatives:

- **National Merino Challenge** is a two-day event that encourages new entrants into the wool industry by helping students across Tasmania and the rest of Australia develop their industry knowledge, skills and networks. It involves presentations and demonstrations from industry professionals.
➡ www.awinmc.com.au
- **Sheep classing workshops** are delivered to provide practical advice on increasing flock production. AWI has run them at several locations including Ross.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Tasmanian woolgrowers supported in leadership courses and scholarship opportunities include:

- **Breeding Leadership course:** John Chester from Campbell Town participated in 2018.
- **Australian Rural Leadership Foundation:** AWI-supported graduate: Helen Geard, Tea Tree.
- **Nuffield Farming Scholarship:** AWI-supported graduate: James Walker of Carrick.

Other opportunities include the Horizon Scholarship, Young Farming Champions and the Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture.

➡ www.wool.com/leadership

MAKING MORE FROM SHEEP

This is a best practice package of information and tools for sheep producers. Ideal for young people starting out in the wool industry, the 12 modules contain useful information about the 'must dos' of managing a successful wool enterprise.

➡ www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au

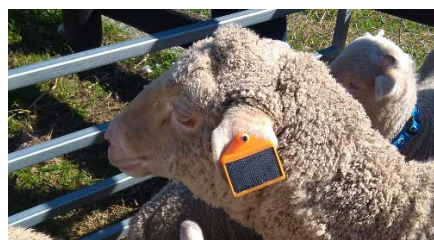
MARKET INTEL



AWI is sending wool prices and market intelligence direct to **Tasmanian** woolgrowers' mobile phones.

- **Daily Wool Market Reports** are available via SMS to Tasmanian woolgrowers' mobile phones.
- **Weekly Wool Market Reports and Prices** are available each Friday via SMS, email and at Wool.com.
- **Monthly Market Intelligence Reports** are available as part of AWI's monthly e-newsletter for woolgrowers.
- **Wool pricing updates and reports** are available quarterly in AWI's *Beyond the Bale* magazine.
- **Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee Reports** are available three times each year.
- **AWI and MLA's joint Wool and Sheepmeat Surveys** of producers are conducted three times each year.
➡ www.wool.com/marketintelligence

AGRI TECHNOLOGY



Smart tags aim to enable woolgrowers to track, monitor and assess the status of their stock in real time.

- **AWI Smart sheep tags** are being used by different researchers to understand grazing and reproductive behaviour and to detect welfare and predation issues.
➡ www.wool.com/smarttags
- **Farmers2Founders** program is supporting innovative woolgrowers to develop entrepreneurship and technology capabilities.
➡ www.farmers2founders.com

INFORMATION



Beyond the Bale, AWI's quarterly magazine for wool levy payers, is posted direct to woolgrowers across **Tasmania**.

Woolgrowers can keep up to date via regular communications from AWI:

- **Beyond the Bale** quarterly magazine
➡ www.wool.com/btb
- **The Yarn** weekly podcast
➡ www.wool.com/podcast
- **Woolgrower monthly e-newsletter**
➡ www.wool.com/subscribe
- **The Broader View**
➡ www.wool.com/publications

Other communication channels include:

- **Wool.com** website
- **Social media:** @woolinnovation Twitter, @beyondthebale Instagram
- **Events:** AWI attends many sheep and wool field days and events in Tasmania.
- **AWI Helpline** 1800 070 099
- **Woolgrower representative groups:** National and Tasmanian



AWI GROWER NETWORK IN TASMANIA

Sheep Connect Tasmania is the AWI-supported extension network in Tasmania that provides opportunities for woolgrowers to get involved in practical programs that focus on making positive changes to on-farm production and management.

All Tasmanian woolgrowers are encouraged to get involved. Contact the network coordinator or refer to the website.

Coordinator: James Tyson
sheepconnect_tas@wool.com.au
0477 764 072

www.sheepconnecttas.com.au

Twitter: @sheepconnect