

This August 2019 publication provides woolgrowers in NSW 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 NSW 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.

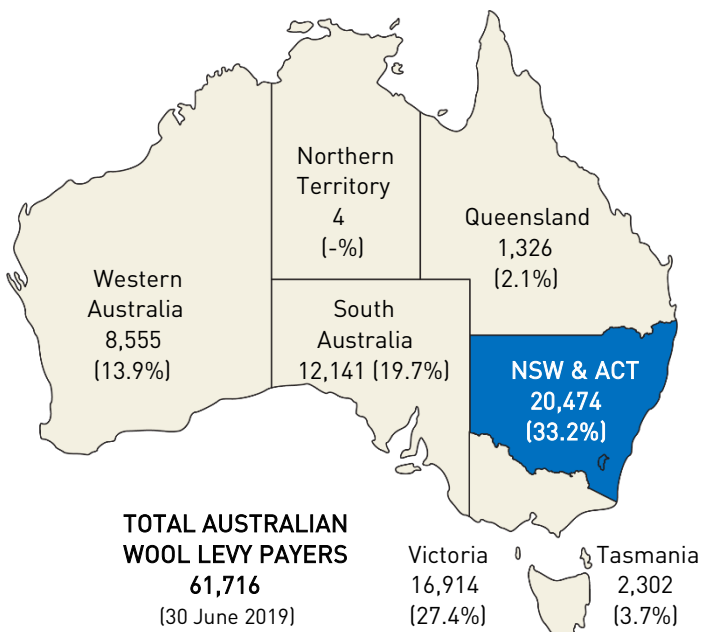
Research and development (R&D):

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 NSW 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.

NSW WOOLGROWERS



AWI works on behalf of **61,716** Australian woolgrowers that pay the wool levy and therefore fund the company. About a third (**20,474**) of all wool levy payers are located in NSW & ACT.

At 30 June 2019, there were **15,951** levy payers in NSW & ACT that had paid more than \$100 in levies in the past 3 years and so were eligible to become an AWI shareholder. **7,822** (49%) have become a shareholder and can vote at AWI AGMs.

NSW WOOL INDUSTRY

The NSW wool industry has a long and proud history, since the first Merinos arrived from Cape Town in 1797 and were shared between early settlers, including Captain John Macarthur and Reverend Samuel Marsden.

The NSW industry currently accounts for about a third of Australian wool production. If NSW was a country, it would be the second largest wool producer in the world, behind China. Wool is grown across a diverse range of landscapes from the high rainfall areas towards the eastern seaboard to the drier pastoral areas of the west.

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	
	NSW	Australia	NSW	Australia
Greasy weight* (t)	130,456	360,017	105,512	317,763
Yield (%)	64.3	64.6	62.2	63.1
VM (%)	3.1	2.5	2.5	2.1
MFD (µm)	20.6	21.0	20.0	20.5
SS (Nkt)	35.9	34.5	33.8	33.2
SL (mm)	85.0	85.8	81.8	83.6
Mid-break (%)	52.6	50.8	46.9	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.

NEW SOUTH WALES HIGHLIGHTS

SHEEP HEALTH



WormBoss worm control programs are available for non-seasonal and summer rainfall areas and pastoral areas of NSW.

paraboss

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

➔ www.paraboss.com.au

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

➔ www.paraboss.com.au/news

- **Worm Control Programs** for the summer rainfall, non-seasonal rainfall and pastoral regions of NSW are available on WormBoss.

➔ www.wormboss.com.au

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

➔ www.flyboss.com.au/tools

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

PAIN RELIEF PRODUCTS

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

➔ www.wool.com/flystrike

DEALING WITH DAG

A factsheet and a manual for advisors that provide a guide to managing and preventing scouring and dag formation.

➔ www.wool.com/flystrikelatest

PEST ANIMALS



NSW producers who learnt best practice wild dog trapping methods at an AWI-funded workshop at Mingoola.

NSW WILD DOG CONTROL GROUPS

7 groups are currently supported in NSW, out of a total of 16 nationally. The number of past groups supported in NSW is 71 out of a total of 194 past groups nationally. AWI has supported groups to overcome emergency pest animal challenges and lay secure foundations for sustainable long-term future pest animal control programs. In 2019 AWI funded a targeted summer baiting program in the Western Division of NSW covering 7.6 million hectares with 255 properties involved.

➔ www.wool.com/wilddogs

NSW WILD DOG COORDINATORS

AWI funds two Wild Dog Coordinators in NSW: Dave Worsley in north-east NSW and Bruce Duncan in western NSW. Their role is to assist woolgrowers and other key stakeholders to work together to lessen the impact of devastating livestock predation by wild dogs in their areas. Their positions are helping to reduce these attacks and therefore improve on-farm productivity, rural community wellbeing and rural biodiversity.

➔ Dave Worsley 0429 638 078

➔ Bruce Duncan 0409 515 471

PAPP WILD DOG BAIT

An additional baiting option, PAPP, for reducing wild dog and fox numbers is now available to woolgrowers and other landholders across NSW. It enables baiting to still be an option in places where 1080 use is restricted.

➔ www.wool.com/wilddogs

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. There has been a 38% observed reduction in rabbit numbers at monitored sites.

➔ www.wool.com/rabbits

GENETICS



Crowds at the Macquarie Merino Lifetime Productivity field day at Trangie in July 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 including 3 in NSW: MerinoLink (Temora, Moses & Son), Macquarie (Trangie, NSW DPI) and New England (Armidale, CSIRO).

➔ 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 3 in NSW: MerinoLink (Temora), Macquarie (Trangie) and New England (Armidale).

➔ www.merinosuperiorsires.com.au

MERINO BLOODLINE PERFORMANCE

This project enables woolgrowers to compare 73 commonly used Merino bloodlines from 25 wether trials (including 24 in NSW) over the past ten years to identify performance differences.

➔ www.merinobloodlines.com.au

SHEEP SELECTION TOOLS BOOKLET

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

➔ www.wool.com/publications

NEW SOUTH WALES HIGHLIGHTS

REPRODUCTION



The Winning With Weaners workshop at Armidale in the New England region of NSW.

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. At June 2019, there were 29 active groups in NSW, with 30 other groups recently completed.

➔ Phone RIST on 1800 883 343

ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS

Picking Performer Ewes

This workshop available in NSW 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 NSW 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 NSW 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.

➔ SheepConnect NSW (back page)

MOB SIZE AFFECTS LAMB SURVIVAL

Research conducted at 85 sites across Australia, including 25 sites in NSW, shows that reducing the mob size of twin-bearing ewes that are in 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



AWI provides a range of drought planning and management resources for NSW woolgrowers experiencing drought.

DROUGHT RESOURCES

For woolgrowers going into, enduring or recovering from **drought**, AWI provides a range of drought planning and management resources, plus links to useful external resources, including: Managing Sheep in Droughtlots; Stock water – a Limited Resource; Lifetime Wool Feed Budget Tables; Feeding and Managing Sheep in Dry Times; Managing Fodder Prices for Droughts; Which Sheep do I Keep?

➔ www.wool.com/droughtresources

FEED ON OFFER ONLINE LIBRARY

A web-based photo library of **Feed On Offer** (FOO) standards contains 650 images to enable producers to estimate the FOO and nutritive value of grazed pastures, by comparing their own pastures to reference photos.

➔ www.wool.com/foo

EVERGRAZE

The EverGraze website presents regionally specific information about farming systems based on **perennials**, for producers across NSW.

➔ www.evergraze.com.au

GRAIN & GRAZE

The Grain & Graze website provides information, tools and calculators for **mixed farm enterprises** (grain and livestock) in NSW.

➔ www.grainandgraze3.com.au

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

WOOLGROWER SPOTLIGHT

Case studies of **environmental land management** undertaken by Australian woolgrowers, providing insights for retailers and consumers.

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

HARVESTING



AWI-sponsored shearing and wool handling competition at Tamworth Show in north-east NSW.

SHED TRAINING

Shearer and wool handler training

AWI funds training for novice to professional shearers and wool handlers. In the past 2018/19 financial year, through AWI-funded programs:

- **shearer in-shed training** was delivered for 426 days across NSW resulting in 1,309 trained.
- **wool handler in-shed training** was delivered for 123 days across NSW resulting in 350 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 in NSW.

➔ 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

NSW SHEARING COMPETITIONS

AWI provides support to local shearing competitions in NSW affiliated with Sports Shear Australia. 17 were supported in the 2018/19 year, including the NSW 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

NEW SOUTH WALES HIGHLIGHTS

THE NEXT GEN



The winning **Charles Sturt University** team in the tertiary division at the 2019 National Merino Challenge.

PRACTICAL HANDS-ON TRAINING

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

- **National Merino Challenge** encourages new entrants into the wool industry by helping students across NSW and the rest of Australia develop their industry knowledge, skills and networks.
➔ www.awinmc.com.au
- **Sheep classing workshops** are delivered to provide practical advice on increasing flock production. AWI has run them at several locations in NSW, including Boorowa, Dubbo, Gunning, Crookwell, Deniliquin and Hay.
- **Young woolgrower initiatives** supported by AWI in NSW include: Hay Inc rural traineeship program, Charles Sturt University and University of Sydney Sheep & Wool Tour, AgriFutures Horizon scholarships, and the Young Farming Champions program.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

NSW woolgrowers recently supported in leadership courses and scholarship opportunities include:

- **Breeding Leadership course:** Eight participants from NSW in 2018.
- **Australian Rural Leadership Program:** 2019/20: Kirsty Wall, Bukkulla. 2018/19: David Young, Bookham.
- **Nuffield Farming Scholarship:** Felicity McLeod from Wentworth.
- **Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture:** Hugh McKay from Henty in 2019.

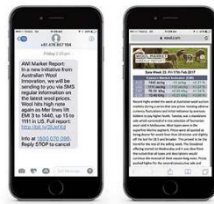
➔ www.wool.com/leadership

MAKING MORE FROM SHEEP

This is a best practice package of information and tools for sheep producers.

➔ www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au

MARKET INTEL



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

- **Daily Wool Market Reports** are available via SMS to NSW 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



John Coughlan (right) with Mick Chellas at Cudal Park near **Orange**, undertaking a mothering up trial using smart tags.

- **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 **NSW**.

NSW 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 NSW
- **AWI Helpline** 1800 070 099
- **Woolgrower representative groups:** National, NSW and regional



AWI GROWER NETWORK IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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

All NSW woolgrowers are encouraged to get involved. Refer to the website or contact the network coordinator.

Coordinator: Megan Rogers
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Facebook: @sheepconnectnsw
Twitter: @sheepconnectnsw