

TASMANIA

This 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.

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 and extension** 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 support global demand for the fibre.



AWI Extension TAS is the AWI extension network in Tasmania that provides opportunities for growers to get involved in practical programs that focus on making positive changes to on-farm production and management. All Tasmanian growers are encouraged to get involved.



Project Manager: James Tyson
0477 764 072
james@awiextensiontas.com
www.awiextensiontas.com
Facebook: @awiextensiontas
X (formerly Twitter): @awiextensiontas

AWI CONSULTATION WITH GROWER REPRESENTATIVE BODIES

AWI formally consults with woolgrower representative groups about the industry's key R&D and marketing priorities, through the AWI Woolgrower Industry Consultation Panel (WICP) and its Woolgrower Consultation Group (WCG).

Woolgrowers wanting to provide feedback to AWI through the WICP or WCG are encouraged to contact their member organisation. As well as national member organisations, the state-based member organisations in Tasmania are:

- Stud Merino Breeders Association of Tasmania
- Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association

➔ www.wool.com/consultation

TASMANIA'S WOOL INDUSTRY

Sheep and wool production continue to return a significant proportion of the state's agricultural income. While Tasmania currently produces 2.9% of all Australian wool, its Merino wools are renowned across the world.

SHEEP NUMBERS SHORN

million	NSW	Vic	WA	SA	Tas	Qld	Total
2021/22	24.6	17.2	13.3	11.7	2.6	2.2	71.6
2022/23	25.9	16.1	13.0	11.1	2.6	2.8	71.5
2023/24*	26.6 37.2%	15.6 21.8%	12.5 17.5%	11.4 15.9%	2.8 3.9%	2.7 3.8%	71.6 100%

Source: Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee August 2024

* Forecast

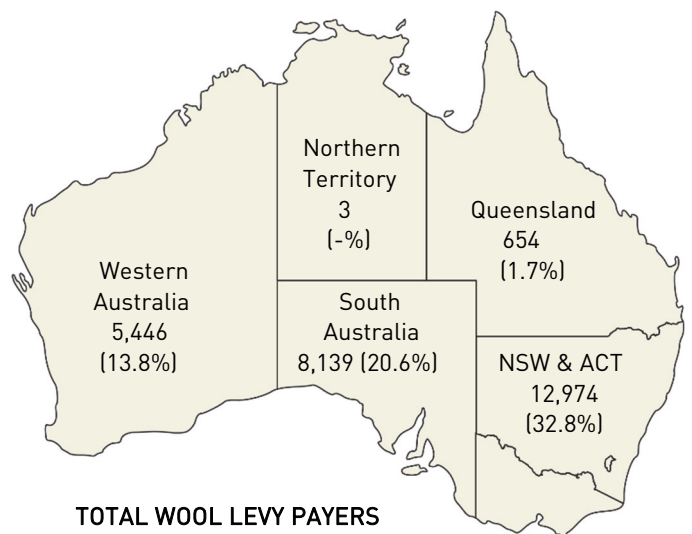
SHORN WOOL PRODUCTION

mkg#	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Qld	Tas	Total
2021/22	113.3	73.9	56.1	61.2	8.9	10.3	324
2022/23	119.0	70.0	56.7	60.6	11.3	10.2	328
2023/24*	119.5 37.6%	65.6 20.6%	58.0 18.2%	55.0 17.3%	10.1 3.2%	9.3 2.9%	318 100%

Source: Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee August 2024

million kilograms * Forecast

TASMANIA'S WOOLGROWERS*



TOTAL WOOL LEVY PAYERS

*with voting entitlement

39,510

30 June 2024

(Total wool levy payers: 75,336)

Victoria
10,893
(27.6%)

Tasmania
1,401
(3.5%)

TASMANIAN HIGHLIGHTS

WOOL HARVESTING



Participants at a wool harvesting training school in the **Fingal Valley** in the north-east of Tasmania.



Young people at an AWI-sponsored shearing and wool handling school at **Ross** in the Tasmania.

SHEARER AND WOOL HANDLER TRAINING

In-shed training

AWI funds and supports hands-on, practical, in-shed training in Tasmania for shearers and wool handlers to attract and retain new workers, as well as increase workers' productivity, skills and professionalism. For upcoming courses, keep an eye on the Facebook channel of @australianwoolinnovation.

➡ To arrange training in your area, contact lachlan.west@wool.com

Tas wool harvesting ambassadors

These young professionals are promoting the industry at workshops and shearing competitions: Emily Spencer (shearer, Perth (Tas)), Tom Pitchford (shearer, Flinders Island) and Cally Spangler (wool handler, Brighton).

BIOLOGICAL WOOL HARVESTING

AWI is funding promising research into a new opportunity for biological harvesting of wool that generates a weakened zone at the base of the wool fibre but, importantly, enables the fleece to *remain on* the sheep without a net until the wool can be mechanically removed. AWI is also investing in the development of a way to harvest the weakened wool via a device that applies a force to separate the wool from the body of the sheep.

➡ www.wool.com/wool-harvesting-innovation

AWI SHEEP DELIVERY MODULE

The AWI sheep delivery units provide a system that delivers sheep directly to the shearer, eliminating the time and energy that shearers spend on the catch and drag and minimises the chance of injury to the shearer. The design focuses on a 'modular' concept in which portable singular shearing stands can be joined together. There are several companies across Australia manufacturing a sheep delivery system based on the AWI designs.

➡ www.wool.com/sheep-delivery

SHEARING SHED SAFETY

SafeSheds program

SafeSheds is a best practice self-assessment guide and checklists to help woolgrowers improve the safety and working conditions in their shearing sheds. It is available as an 80-page booklet, while the checklists are also available in a digital, interactive format.

Shed safety signage kit

The shed safety signage kit for woolgrowers to use in their woolsheds contains 36 safety signs that are printed on UV-stabilised polypropylene for durability, with pre-drilled holes for easy installation.

➡ www.wool.com/safe-sheds

SHEARING SHED DESIGN

AWI Shearing Shed Design

This is a result of AWI and a working group of woolgrowers and shed staff in 2019 designing a shearing shed which addresses worker safety and animal welfare considerations, while also achieving improved shed efficiency and good wool quality outcomes. Dozens of sheds have now been built across the country using the AWI design.

Shed design considerations guide:

This 32-page guide was produced by AWI to provide woolgrowers with an outline of considerations when renovating or designing shearing sheds. It covers (1) in-shed pens, (2) shearing board, (3) wool room, (4) general design and construction, and (5) equipment.

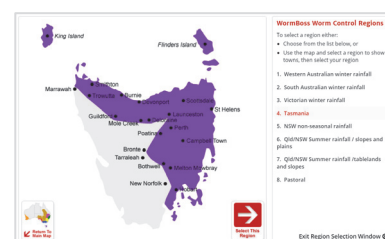
➡ www.wool.com/sheddesign

TAS SHEARING COMPETITIONS

AWI provides support to local shearing competitions in Tasmania affiliated with Sports Shear Australia. 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 wool handling.

➡ www.wool.com/competitionsupport

SHEEP HEALTH



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



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

➡ www.paraboss.com.au

- **Worm Control Program** for Tasmania is available, 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

AWI'S FLYSTRIKE EXTENSION PROGRAM

The Program supports woolgrowers to improve the lifetime welfare of their sheep, reduce their reliance on mulesing and crutching, optimise chemical use and increase whole farm profitability:

- **It's Fly Time!™** Practical, just-in-time information in the lead up to, and during, high-risk flystrike periods.
- **DemystiFly™** Practical information about managing chemical resistance in blowflies.
- **SimpliFly™** A one-day workshop to develop a property-specific, strategic flystrike management plan.
- **ClassiFly™** A one-day workshop to increase understanding and skills in breeding for flystrike resistance.
- **StrateFly™** A one-day workshop to develop a property-specific strategy for moving to a non-mulesed enterprise.
- **AmpliFly™** One-on-one coaching and support from an accredited advisor to assist you prevent and control flystrike.

➡ www.wool.com/flystrikeresources

TASMANIAN HIGHLIGHTS

GENETICS



Participants at an AWI-run sheep classing workshop run by AWI at **Plasley** near Ross.



This 10-year project completed data collection in July 2024 with the aim of improving early in life predictions of actual lifetime productivity and profitability. The project has now moved to the formal analysis stage. It is already revealing the benefits of having a diverse and comprehensive Merino genomic reference flock for better estimating pedigree relationships and improved predictions of lifetime performance across a broad range of traits. It has been run at five sire evaluation sites located across Australia in diverse climates with diverse ewe bases.

➔ www.wool.com/MLP

MERINO SUPERIOR SIRES

This initiative identifies the genetic merit of industry AI sires by evaluating the performance of their progeny for a broad range of visual and objective traits. There are 9 sites across Australia including one past site run by the Tasmanian Central Test Sire Evaluation Assoc. Inc.

➔ www.merinosuperiorsires.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/sheepselection

VISUAL SHEEP SCORES

This guide provides the Australian sheep industry with a common language for the visual description, recording and classing of all breeds of sheep according to important visual traits.

➔ www.wool.com/vss-2024

REPRODUCTION



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

LIFETIME EWE MANAGEMENT

This course provides hands-on, on-farm training over a year for small groups of producers in the management and nutrition of breeding ewes to maximise reproduction rates and lamb and ewe survival. The average participant increases their whole-farm stocking rate by 9.3%, marking and weaning rates by 7%, and reduces ewe mortality by 25%. Nationally, more than 5,000 producers have undertaken the course. There are two LTEM trainers in Tasmania.

➔ www.wool.com/LTEM

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.

➔ www.wool.com/workshops

PREGNANCY SCANNING HAS VALUE

New research shows that pregnancy scanning has a high return on expenditure for sheep producers, with scanning for multiples increasing potential profit by an average of \$5.75/ewe scanned, across 27 scenarios the researchers examined for winter rainfall areas. Scanning for multiples provided twice the value of scanning for only pregnancy status.

SUSTAINABILITY



AWI Extension TAS ran a webinar about the Farming Forecaster online decision support tool for **Tasmania**.

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE

In response to market demand for evidence that woolgrowers are responsibly managing the environment on their farms, AWI is co-investing in the Farming for the Future program to demonstrate to woolgrowers the business case for improving their farms' natural capital (environmental assets such as soil, water and vegetation).

NATIONAL SHEEP METHANE PROGRAM

This Program is a collaborative and coordinated effort between AWI and departments of primary industries and universities in the main wool-producing states to implement practical and safe ways for producers to reduce methane emissions from Australian sheep grazing systems.

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

FEEDBASE OPTIONS

Choosing the right pasture mix for your enterprise and location is essential, particularly in a more variable climate. AWI invests in pasture breeding, selection and commercialisation to make available to woolgrowers a suite of high-performance feedbase options that support profitable, sustainable wool production. Information and resources cover legumes, grasses, shrubs, stubbles, Feed On Offer, weed and pest management, and grazing management.

➔ www.wool.com/feedbase

TASMANIAN HIGHLIGHTS

PEST ANIMALS



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

RABBIT BIOCONTROL OPTIMISATION

Currently, there are four strains of the rabbit calicivirus (RHDV) present in Australian rabbit populations, two of which are exotic. RHDV2 has become and remains the dominant strain in the landscape and continues to suppress wild populations by an average of 64% compared to levels before its arrival. Although seroprevalence of the non-pathogenic, endemic RCV-A1 was initially depressed by competition with RHDV2, this virus now shows stronger evidence of coexistence with RHDV2.

➡ www.wool.com/rabbits

PESTSMART: RABBIT CONTROL RESOURCES

An initiative of the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, PestSmart provides best practice information on how to plan, manage and improve control programs in Australia for pest animals, including rabbits.

➡ www.pestsmart.org.au/european-rabbits

RABBITSCAN: RECORDING RABBIT ACTIVITY

An initiative of the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, RabbitScan (part of FeralScan) helps landholders develop a property or local area map of rabbit activity to guide control efforts.

➡ www.feralscan.org.au/rabbitscan

THE NEXT GEN



Scottsdale High School was the winner of the 2023 School Merino Wether Challenge in Tasmania.

SCHOOL MERINO WETHER CHALLENGE

Run in conjunction with the Stud Merino Breeders Association of Tasmania, the School Merino Wether Challenge provides students with a practical, hands-on experience covering a broad range of sheep and wool production skills. Each school team looks after several wethers for about six months and shows them during a competition later in the year.

YOUNG JUDGES CHAMPIONSHIPS

AWI sponsors the National Merino Fleece and Merino Sheep Young Judges Championships to support young people within the Tasmanian wool industry to further their skills through visual selection and appraisal of wool and sheep.

MAKING MORE FROM SHEEP

This is a best practice package of information and tools for sheep producers. Ideal for young people in Tasmania 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



INFORMATION



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

Tas woolgrowers can keep up to date via regular communications from AWI:

- **Beyond the Bale** quarterly magazine ➡ www.wool.com/btb
- **Woolgrower monthly e-newsletter** ➡ www.wool.com/subscribe
- **The Yarn** podcast ➡ www.wool.com/podcast
- **Woolgrower representative groups** National and Tasmanian groups (see front page)
- **wool.com** website
- **Social media**
Facebook: @AustralianWoolInnovation
X (formerly Twitter): @woolinnovation
Instagram: @australianwool
- **Events** AWI attends many sheep and wool field days and events in Tas
- **AWI HQ** 02 8295 3100 info@wool.com

MARKET INTEL

- **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.
 - **Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee Reports** are available three times each year.
 - **AWI and MLA Sheep Producer Intentions Survey** are conducted three times each year.
- ➡ www.wool.com/marketintelligence

AWI is grateful for its funding, which is primarily provided by (1) Australian woolgrowers through a wool levy, and (2) the Australian Government which provides a matching contribution for eligible R&D activities.