

# Health and Welfare Advisory Committee

## Executive Summary

10 November 2021 | In person/Zoom conference

### Meeting Opened

The Chair opened the meeting at 10:04 am

## WoolProducers service agreement with AHA

### General Manager Report

GM presented a report, highlighting the following key information:

#### Lamb marking pain relief demonstration day (WA)

A planned demonstration day was cancelled due to limited planning time and conflicting priorities. Interest in the event was high, as such, similar events will form part of activities planned as part of a project proposal in development between WoolProducers, Sheep Producers Australia and Animal Health Australia

#### Lamb marking / aversive procedures forum

WoolProducers, Sheep Producers Australia, Animal Health Australia, Australian Wool Innovation and Meat and Livestock Australia are working together to identify opportunities for collaboration in this space. There was broad agreement that while each organisation has a clear role to play in relation to RD&E, policy and advocacy in relation to lamb marking and aversive procedures, there are material benefits in maintaining visibility of each parties efforts.

#### Wool Connect

WoolProducers President delivered a presentation to the Schneider Groups' Wool Connect online event in October outlining the Trust In Australian Wool campaign and the Sheep Sustainability Framework

#### Supply Chain Resilience

WoolProducers is an active participant in a AgriFutures Australia – Agricultural Sector Vulnerabilities – Building Supply Chain Resilience Project. The project is assessing supply chain resilience in relation to factors such as. climate change, geopolitical risks, Emergency Animal Disease etc.

#### National Farmers Federation Pain Relief forum

As steering committee members WoolProducers delivered the inaugural presentation of the forum outlining the wool industry's experience and with mulesing, key learnings and cautioned other livestock industries of the necessity to be proactive on related issues.

#### National Wild Dog Action Plan (NWDAP)

WPA is continuing to pursue a report on the quantum of funding and resources being coordinated by the NWDAP. The National coordinator will be invited to present to the February 2022 meeting.

#### Custom R-Pilus Footrot vaccine

WoolProducers are continuing to liaise with the APVMA to restore grower access to the. Current efforts are being supported by Andrew Whale and Bruce Jackson with a focus on access via minor use permits

#### Animal Welfare Advocacy

The EU are currently undertaking a review of their animal welfare legislation which may result in a prohibition of husbandry procedures such as tail docking and castration. The consequences for imported goods could be the introduction of additional labelling requirements, or a potential import ban (though the latter is unlikely). WoolProducers are continuing to work with colleagues in DAWE and DFAT on this issue.

### Sheep Health Project

A review of the SHP has been completed. The SHPSC will meet in the coming weeks to discuss the findings.

## Market access support

### **Wool Traceability Project Update**

The project team – Andrew Henderson, Chris Wilcox and David Marland presented on the project methodology and findings.

A final report has been submitted to DAWE for review and should be available for public release in December. WoolProducers will undertake work to engage supply chain stakeholders in the new year to commence an industry led process for implementation of the recommendations.

## Biosecurity

### **Sheep Traceability update**

Sam Allan from Animal Health Australia provided an update on the work being undertaken by the *National Livestock Traceability Enhancement Working Group (NLTEWG)*, which was formed under the National Biosecurity Committee. A consultant has been engaged to identify governance measures that can align and harmonise national livestock traceability systems.

Work is also underway to assess the cost of implementing EID tags for sheep nationally.

### **NSIBS Update by AHA**

The chair thanked both Emily Buddle and Sophie Hemley for their contribution, informing the Committee that they both finish their roles with NSIBS at the end of 2021.

Rob Barwell gave an overview of the progress of NSIBS.

Emily Buddle provided an update on the development of the EAD VR tool, which is being developed by the same company that developed the carcass assessment tool.

Emily also discussed the recently launched Tech-Talk biosecurity podcast through PIRSA.

Sophie Hemley gave an overview of the personal work that she has been undertaking with Charles Sturt University to assist with the development of future messaging under NSIBS.

### **Exercise Argonaut Update - Work Plan**

The GM outlined current work being undertaken including the AUSVETPLAN Wool Enterprise Manual review and work underway with AHA to develop wool industry communications resources for use in the event of an EAD outbreak.

## Youth Ambassador Presentation

WPA Youth ambassador Mikaela Knapp presented an excellent proposal to implement a quality assurance scheme for non-apparel products containing wool. Such a scheme would provide supply chain partners with assurances of quality in a similar manner to Woolmark certification of apparel products.

# Special Interest topic- Pain Relief

## **Pain Relief and Aversive Procedures Landscape**

The GM presented a paper highlighting the importance of this topic with links to the Sheep Sustainability Framework and Wool 2030. The paper discussed QA scheme requirements, registration of pain relief products, barriers to pain relief adoption and emerging consumer expectations and regulatory requirements (domestic and international).

The paper also gave an overview of a project proposal underway between WPA, SPA and AHA to enhance the efforts of MLA and AWI to replace, reduce and refine painful husbandry procedures.

Several presentations were delivered to the committee to outline current product availability and outline current and future R&D projects underway in relation to pain management.

- Pain relief products and requirements: Dr Andrew Whale (AVA)
- Pain relief research: Completed, underway and future opportunities: Dr Alison Small (CSIRO)
- Sheep Pain Mitigation Program: Prof Mark Hutchinson (University of Adelaide)

Following the papers and presentations there was an open discussion whereby all committee members agreed that pain relief was an increasingly important issue for our industry. With this being the case, it is necessary that WoolProducers develops further policy in this space (current policy mandated pain relief for mulesing only)

All committee members were encouraged to liaise with their respective members in order to facilitate a robust policy discussion at the February 2022 Health and Welfare committee meeting.

Committee members were also asked to engage with their members to identify activities that could be undertaken to replace, reduce and refine painful husbandry procedures.

## **Meeting Closed**

**The chair closed the meeting at 4:28pm**