



Managing livestock after fires

Meeting – Woodside Hall 24 January 2020

Containment areas – Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Sustainable Agriculture Officer James Hall

- The use of containment areas protects land, water, pasture/ground cover & livestock
- Temporary sediment fences should be used to decrease ash, organic matter and soil entering waterways
- Pasture needs to grow, the developing of deeper roots will allow for the nutritional value of the pasture to be at optimum. Ideally, phase 2 pasture is the ideal for livestock.
- Using containment areas helps reduce weed spread, decreases unnecessary movement of livestock (decreases their energy requirements) and decreases labour
- Joining (mating) can also be conducted in confinement, no problems have been observed.

Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) update – PIRSA Natural Resources Management consultant Merri Tohill

- Bushfire affected primary producers in South Australia can now access a grant of up to \$75,000 through PIRSA to assist with the recovery process
 - PIRSA have made some allowances given how many members of the community the fire impacted
 - The allowances are a case-by-case situation which is decided by PIRSA
 - The grant is aimed to be used for clean-up, feed etc. (to be used in order for producers to get back on their feet as soon as possible)
- FAM mentors have been put into place
 - FAM mentors are professional health care providers that come to producer's property to discuss mental health issues.
 - Will then determine if the producers needs to be directed to a higher up (such as a psychologist)
- Post Bushfire Pasture Recovery event 13th of February:
 - Hosted by Coopers Farm Supplies
 - Event aims to discuss soil health, effects of pH, pastures, weeds, bushfire help and any other vital advice
 - Free BBQ provided; entry free.
 - Location is at Mt Torrens, Oval clubrooms, oval road.
 - Time 5pm-8pm
 - RSVP is essential for catering in which can occur by called 83894188 or emailing Adam@coopersfarmsupplies.com.au



Feed management – Nutrien Ag Solutions Animal Production Specialist Daniel Schuppan

- Recommend the use of feed budgets for the next six to nine months to determine if keeping stock would be beneficial to enterprise
- Grain is cheaper per MJ of energy, but needs to be mixed with some roughage such as hay
- Do not feed on the ground, this will cause numerous health problems (especially on fire affected ground) but will also help encourage wastage
- Using feed troughs that are elevated on the ground
- Hay should be rationed out and fed up to the daily requirements depending on the animal. This ensures no over feeding and better utilisation of feed
- Can run straw with good quality hay to help ration feed or can use straw full-time with grain to supplement
- Flow rates of water troughs needs to be observed and the water troughs need to be cleaned daily. Metal trough easier to manage than concrete.
- Confinement feeding (containment areas) - use space wisely.
 - Only 5m² is required for one sheep
 - Have smaller flocks
 - 150 sheep = three pens with 50 sheep in each.
 - Option of having two water troughs in between the fence line of each pen to decrease labour for water cleaning
- When releasing livestock back onto pasture after fires:
 - Ensure they are vaccinated, wormed, fly strike controlled (appropriate shear or crutch) and have been supplemented with the appropriate minerals and vitamins
 - Keep an eye out for milk fever, grass tetany, pregnancy toxaemia, water quality & quantity, coccidiosis, star gazing and campylobacter
 - Ensure livestock are introduced onto fire impacted pasture really slowly. Over a one to two-week period.
 - Keep hay and grain feeders out in paddock to avoid an out of feed event which can cause scouring and a break in wool
 - Possibility of nitrate/nitrite imbalance in soil after bushfires – be aware of toxicity

Livestock SA update – Livestock SA President Joe Keynes

- On-going one-on-one support is being offered to farmers and producers
- Working with Meat and Livestock Australia to send consultants out to affected properties
- The consultants will work with farmer/producers, assess their individual situation and conduct needed advice/plan of action that suits that individual property and circumstances
- Call the Livestock SA office for more information on 8297 2299