



MARCH | 2015



Facilitator Bruce Hancock, Rural Solutions SA, SA Sheep Advisory Group chair Leonie Mills and Livestock SA president Geoff Power at the SA Sheep Industry Blueprint meeting last month.

Out on the road with the team at Livestock SA



Livestock SA Southern Region chairman Peter Stock welcomes new member Andrew Wilson, Kerlon Pines, to Livestock SA, during the SA Beef Field Days.

Sheep industry puts future growth plans on the table

Livestock SA and the SA Sheep Advisory Group hosted an industry forum to create a new plan for the future of the SA sheep industry.

About 60 sheep industry stakeholders, including producers, processors, agents, government and educators, gathered in Adelaide on February 26 to start discussions on the SA Sheep Industry Blueprint 2015-2025.

Livestock SA president Geoff Power says the existing Sheep Industry Plan 2004-2014, developed by PIRSA, had achieved its objectives and the new blueprint would be a more extensive document.

"This blueprint will be industry-developed and industry-owned and will include the whole value chain, from paddock to plate,

with value-add components between wool and meat," he said.

"It will centre on accountability, biosecurity and traceability and will aim to increase productivity while being environmentally-sustainable and create better market access."

Based on feedback and discussion on the industry's priorities on the day, an outline for the report was developed.

"The next move will be to appoint a working group to further develop the blueprint through stakeholder consultation and in communication with a wider reference group."

> **To register for updates,** contact Livestock SA

Drought loans open to SA producers

PRODUCERS experiencing dry conditions can make applications for government assistance under the Drought Concessional Loan Scheme.

After months of impasse between federal and state governments, Livestock SA has been consistently working behind the scenes to get these funds rolled out to where they are so desperately needed.

The concessional loans total \$10 million and can be used for a combination

of restructuring existing eligible debt and providing new debt for operating expenses or drought recovery.

Producers who need assistance must demonstrate their farm business is eligible. The scheme closes on June 30, 2015.

> **More information:** www.pir.sa.gov.au/primary_industry/business_development/drought_concessional_loans

Livestock SA representatives have been out and about during February, catching up with producers and gathering feedback on issues faced.

Catch up with Livestock SA at:

- > Elders SA Stud Merino Expo at Burra, March 17, president Geoff Power.
- > South East Field Days, March 20 and 21. Geoff Power and Southern Region reps Peter Stock, Lachlan Grundy and Tom Dawkins.
- > William Creek Gymkhana, March 28. Catch up with Northern Region chair Col Greenfield.
- > Goat industry forum, April 16, Peter Lauterbach.



Livestock SA makes submission on unconventional gas inquiry

Livestock SA has outlined its case for a halt to further mining developments using hydraulic fracturing, or 'fracking', arguing that mining companies should not be permitted to experiment with the relatively new process on agricultural land.

The views are outlined in Livestock SA's submission to the Inquiry into Unconventional Gas (Fracking) by the South Australian Parliament's Natural Resources Committee.

Livestock SA concerns were focused in four key areas:

> Potential for underground water contamination – Research has found there is significant vertical movement of water between aquifers and so any

contamination from a gas well leak or failure is not likely to be contained to one aquifer.

- > The relatively new and untested nature of fracking technology – the combination of multiple drill holes per well pad, slick water, horizontal drilling, and high volume and high pressure fracture stimulation which has been practised since 2007 is still in its infancy.
- > Land access – There is potential for damage to vegetation and soil structure with vast vehicle movements between wells, not to mention the potential for disease spread between properties.
- > Potential for conflict with livestock production – regardless of regulatory measures, fracking presents a clear risk to SE agricultural production, which contributes \$3 billion a year to the state's gross domestic product.



LIVESTOCK SA member and Kalangadoo farmer David Smith (pictured) is organising a study tour to the United States to learn more about fracking and its social, economic and environmental impacts.

He is seeking other interested farmers to travel with him and Member for Mount Gambier Troy Bell and Green MLC Mark Parnell.

The tour – from June 20-28 – will visit towns, farms and residents for a first-hand account of the US unconventional gas industry, with input from retired Mobil executive vice-president Louis Allstadt.

It will include some popular tourist stops along the way, such as Niagara Falls.

"I have done a lot of research and am alarmed at what I have stumbled across about fracking," he said. "We'll be travelling through two of the many hot spots in the world for shale gas, New York State and Pennsylvania, where fracking has been practised for about 10 to 15 years, speaking to victims of the controversial process."

> **More information:** David Smith, 0429 393 153, davidsmith5278@gmail.com or find a tour prospectus under 'What's New' at www.livestocksa.org.au

Congrats to Jamie Heinrich

Young Kangaroo Island lamb producer Jamie Heinrich represented the Australian sheepmeat industry at a meeting of Australian, American and New Zealand peak sheepmeat organisations in January. Sheepmeat Council of Australia, American Sheep Industry Association and Beef & Lamb New Zealand are part of the Tri Lamb Group, which met in the United States to continue its collaboration on growing US lamb consumption to increase demand and returns to the industry. Jamie says participating in the TriLamb meeting was an invaluable experience. "I learnt a lot about the issues that US ranchers are facing, with many similar to those faced by Australian producers," he said. "I have had experience working on-farm and in the processing sector. This opportunity allowed me to see the other end of the supply chain and gain knowledge about the factors which influence our markets."

News In Brief

Livestock SA tops 2000

Livestock signed up its 2000th member last month. The lucky 2000th signee was Balhannah beef cattle producers Terence Gostlow and partner Maree Luxford. They fatten Angus and Red Angus steers, selling through Elders into Mount Compass, Strathalbyn, Dublin and direct to suppliers. Maree says they read about Livestock SA in the Stock Journal and then received a membership form with their Property Identification Code renewal notice and so signed up straight away. Livestock SA president Geoff Power is encouraging all livestock producers to check their membership status. "All livestock producers can be members of Livestock SA, there is no extra cost. Some producers think they are members but haven't yet signed a membership form. If you're not sure, give the Livestock SA office a call or fill out a form on the website."

Free CCA membership

CHANGES to Cattle Council of Australia membership means producers can join as direct members of the organisation. Previously, membership had been only for state farmer organisations.

The change allows cattle producers to have direct input at a national level into the direction of the Australian beef industry. This means Livestock SA members can participate in CCA meetings, vote and stand for the CCA board, and stay up-to-date with relevant news relating to beef production.

CCA membership is free to South Australian producers who are members of Livestock SA. There are two options:

- > If you are not already a Livestock SA member, join online today and tick the box to become a CCA member.
- > If you have joined Livestock SA, you will need to join CCA too. Livestock SA has made this easy with an online form at www.livestocksa.org.au

> **More information:** Contact Livestock SA CEO Deane Crabb or visit www.cattlecouncil.com.au