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MONTHLY REPORT TO MEMBERS

May 2014

Regional meetings

These are being held across the State so that producers can hear firsthand about Livestock SA as well as allow producers to have input into how they want Livestock SA to operate and to raise the issues they want Livestock SA to tackle.

So far there have been meetings at the following places –

- **Port Augusta** – 28 February. Northern Region formed with Colin Greenfield from Billa Kalina Station, near Woomera, elected as Regional Chair. Nearly 30 people attended with a good representation from across the pastoral region.
- **Mount Compass** – April 9. While this was for producers on the Fleurieu and Southern Adelaide Hills, it was decided to hold off forming the Central Region until meeting in other parts were held. About 35 attended.
- **Penola** – April 15. South East Region formed with Jack England from Kingston elected as Regional Chair. About 40 attended.
- **Sedan** – April 29. The 'old' Cambrai SAFF Branch decided to become a Branch of Livestock SA. About 20 attended.

Meetings planned –

- **Mount Pleasant** – 21 May, 7.30 pm at the showgrounds
- **Karoonda** – 18 June ***Check the Livestock SA website***
- **Cleve** – 25 June ***for further details***

If your part of the State is not included in the above list, please let us know when would be a good time to have a meeting, best place to hold it and any topics that should be covered.

NRM Liaison

Primary Producers SA (PPSA) has employed a Natural Resources Management (NRM) Liaison Officer, Catherine Miles, to help build the relationship between PPSA, commodity groups and producers with the NRM sector. The NRM Officer is funded through an agreement with the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources, with funding to August 2014. As Catherine is working with commodity groups and NRM staff to facilitate engagement between the sectors and identify issues and opportunities, she is keen to hear from livestock producers on how they see NRM in their region. While Catherine is attending most of the regional meetings to collect comments, she can also be contacted by ringing 0408 640 377 or emailing milesconsulting@adam.com.au.

Dates for your diary

South Australian Beef Producer Forum	– 29 May	Hahndorf
LambEx 2014	– 9 to 11 July	Adelaide Showgrounds
Livestock SA AGM	– 29 August	Roseworthy

Please encourage your fellow livestock producers to join Livestock SA. Also please check out the new website and give your opinion (there is a communications and issues survey for feedback). And for more details on anything mentioned in this update, please contact Deane Crabb 8297 2299

President's Report March and April 2014 - Richard Halliday

In March Livestock SA was busy working on the **drought** issue and taking our **election issues** to Government and the Opposition. Once the Government was put in place after the election, we immediately met with the new Minister to raise the drought.

April has seen Livestock SA busy as we get past the development of the organisation and meet the challenge of the issues facing industry

Some of the meetings and the highlights have been:

- PPSA Livestock Issues Committee met with **Animal Health Australia** CEO Kathleen Plowman and Chair Peter Milne. Discussion included
 - lobbying both State and Federal Government in relation to biosecurity to reduce the shortfalls and increase opportunities
 - AHA are revisiting their strategic plan, commencing shortly
 - noted the Agricultural Competiveness White Paper: this needs to include trade and issues with the lack of surveillance
 - discussed supermarkets that commercially are driving some animal welfare change from their position in the community.
- **Sheep Industry Forum** at Waite. This was a well presented day with some good speakers including Basil Doonan Tasmanian farm advisor, Paul Swan AWI, and Roger Paskin Biosecurity SA. I was invited to give an update on Livestock SA activities.
- Livestock SA met with the new **Sheepmeat Council** CEO Kat Ferme and we covered a wide range of topics
 - to have a joint exhibition at LambEX
 - export market access for sheepmeat
 - partnership with New Zealand in the US with beef and lamb marketing
 - Free Trade Agreements for Korea, Japan and China
 - NLIS: reaffirmed SA opposition
 - Definition of lamb (lamb v 2 tooth)
 - Sheepmeat Council's position on the draft standards and guidelines.

There was a **Livestock SA Board meeting** on 21 March. Peta Slack-Smith AWI staff member and James Morgan AWI Board member from South Australia discussed many of the issues around the wool industry and gave us the opportunity to understand what roles they play in the organisation. Braithe Selleck from the Livestock & Rural Transporters Association of SA also attended to discuss livestock transport issues. This discussion was fruitful and included his comments on livestock curfew for transporting, proposals for heavy vehicle charging not well received by industry, lack of truck wash facilities at some destinations, and involvement with Livestock SA moving forward. The Board meeting to me was very pleasing as I now feel we are really starting to move in the position of discussing many industry issues.

I attended a **PPSA Council meeting** on 28 April. Many things were covered including the mining issues across the State and the point was made that every mining proposal is different. All commodity members of PPSA have concerns around the South East gas issue. Safety and quad bikes, agricultural education and career opportunities, and a review of the recent bushfires were other topics.

Drought is still an issue that Deane is working through. It appears that Federal to State Government is the issue and that is in all areas. We are still working on this problem.

We look forward to continuing with **regional meetings** and to cover much of the State letting producers know what we are doing and to find out what they want us to do for them. Recently we have visited Mount Compass, Penola and Sedan.

The number of livestock producers continuing to join Livestock SA is very pleasing (now over 600) but it would be great to keep this increasing so please encourage your fellow livestock producers to join. All those who pay the sheep and cattle levies are eligible to be members and there is no additional cost.