

Sheep Scanner's News

August '09

Chris Shands NSW DPI Glen Innes NSW

This is the first edition of Sheep Scanner's News and it is intended to keep you informed as to what is happening in relation to scanning and the sheep industry generally.

I am Chris Shands; I work for NSW DPI but have a large proportion of my time devoted to supporting the adoption and best use of pregnancy scanning and the information you as scanners provide to your clients.

Last year we ran some training and information days for scanning contractors to inform you about the added information that is being presented to many of your clients through programs such as Lifetime Ewe and Wean More Lambs. We have followed this up with the "Managing Scanned Ewes workshop" for your scanning clients.

So far 14 workshops have been run for 200 producers, 5 in Queensland with support from **Sam Usher** from Usher Pregnancy Testing, 4 in South Australia with help from **Peter Jacka** (Loxton), **Jaynelle LeFeuvre** (Ardrossan) and **Nick Lawrence** (Border Town), 3 workshops in Victoria with **Jay Bray** from Embryo Scan (Linton) and 2 in NSW with **Andrew Naylor** Belubula Scanning Service from Canowindra.

The workshop is a half day activity and covers:

- Scanning and ewe management recommendations
- Managing single and twin bearing ewes
- Management targets
- Maternal behaviour
- Target condition / fat scores during pregnancy

Sam Usher demonstrated scanning to a group at Cunnamulla Qld.



The CRC has independently evaluated the workshop format and content and the general opinion by producers attending was that it was a very worthwhile activity to attend and that most producers were prepared to incorporate some of the recommendations suggested during the day.



Nick Lawrence demonstrated scanning at the Border Town SA, workshop in June

We plan to run more of these workshops across the eastern states during the next year or so with 4 workshops planned for SE SA with Greg Fitzgerald during the first week of September. If you would like to run a workshop for your scanning clients then please contact Chris Shands 0267301900 or Cheryl Pope on 02 63913948. Cheryl may have already been in contact with you.

Information Sheets the CRC have produced two information sheets on managing Ewes for Joining and Successful Pregnancy Scanning. Both these info sheets are intended for your clients to improve joining and ensure the best scanning result. More info sheets are in development.

Scanning Promotion We have had two articles supporting scanning released in the rural press and local papers across eastern Australia so far this season with another due shortly. Local promotion of the workshops has also been effective.

FYI: *about 30% of ewes are scanned annually across Australia by about 100 contractors. The national lamb survival rate is a nudge over 70%- we still have a long way to go.*

Scanning Support The CRC are working on modelling which supports the adoption of scanning both wet and dry and for multiples. There are direct benefits in identifying dry ewes and culling them if once or twice dry to the reproductive rate of the flock (this is discussed in the workshop). The modelling will be designed to counter some of the industry arguments against scanning.

Your Say This news letter is for your information and is intended to keep the scanning industry informed which includes comments from yourselves.

If you would like to contribute please contact me on e-mail chris.shands@industry.nsw.gov.au or phone. 0267301900, 0411139702

The support from scanners who have already sponsored a workshop is most appreciated.



Transforming wool, meat and the sheep that produce them