

27 March 2012

Bred Well Fed Well is coming to Southern Queensland

A new training initiative is being rolled out nationally to help sheep producers combine top genetics with superior ewe feed management to boost reproduction rates and productivity.

Producers have an opportunity to attend a Bred Well Fed Well workshop in Cunnamulla (April 16, Abbadoah Station), Dirranbandi (April 17, Dunwold Station) and Goondiwindi (April 18, Karbullah Poll Merinos), starting at 8.30am.

The workshops are funded by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) and Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) through their Making More from Sheep initiative. The workshop was developed by the Sheep Cooperative Research Centre (Sheep CRC) as a part of a national program to increase sheep industry productivity and profitability.

Mark Ferguson from Murdoch University said the free, hands-on, one-day workshops would give producers practical tools to optimise reproduction and profitability in their ewe flocks.

“The day is squarely aimed at improving the profitability of ewe flocks because they are the engine room of the industry,” said Mr Ferguson.

“For example, important elements of the practical one day workshop will be setting breeding goals for ewe flocks and how using tools like Breeding Values can help producers meet their goals.

“We are excited about the opportunities that combining good breeding with good feeding will bring to the sheep industry,” he said.

The workshops focus on the following:

- improved understanding of how to use reliable breeding tools to improve enterprise profitability;
- how to develop a breeding objective for your sheep enterprise;
- better management of ewe nutrition for reproductive performance and flock profitability; and
- skills in assessing ewe condition and developing simple energy budgets for the ewe flock.

Practical sessions include condition scoring, feed budgeting, ram rankings and ram selection. Follow-up courses in these areas will be offered for those wishing to further develop skills in breeding and nutritional management.

The workshop is free of charge and lunch and morning tea will be provided.

The Queensland workshops are a part of a series of Bred Well Fed Well events being rolled out nationally in 2012. For more information and to RSVP by April 13, contact Alex Stirton on 0428 109 620 or alex.stirton@deedi.qld.gov.au, or visit the Making More from Sheep website www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au.

<ends>



An Australian Government Initiative

