**Queensland Government**

**Department of Agriculture and Fisheries**

**Media Release**

13 July 2018

**Sheep producers hail ewe-beaut program**

Queensland’s sheep and wool producers are hailing an innovative program that is helping them to improve their businesses’ productivity.

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) Senior Extension Officer and Leading Sheep Manager Nicole Sallur said feedback received from producers about the Leading Sheep program was incredibly positive.

“Currently, 75 per cent of Queensland’s sheep and wool producers receive information through the Leading Sheep program, with more than 450 new members joining in the past three years,” Ms Sallur said.

“Since 2015, Leading Sheep has delivered 48 events to more than 2000 producers, including 15 webinars, supporting on-property changes that deliver profit and productivity gains.

“An amazing 96 per cent of producers reported they learnt something new from our events and 63 per cent said the information motivated them to make a business change.”

Dirranbandi wool producer and Leading Sheep Advisory Panel Chairman Don Perkins said the network had provided invaluable advice and support on relevant and timely topics such as exclusion fencing, drought feeding and fertility and flock management.

“I think developments in these areas, particularly the gains made by exclusion fencing, have positioned the Queensland sheep industry well and we have the potential to double sheep numbers during the next 10 years,” Mr Perkins said.

“To support future growth, we need the network to continue to provide guidance and best practice information.”

Ms Sallur said Leading Sheep was a partnership between DAF and Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) and is supported by AgForce.

“Leading Sheep is focused on raising awareness of beneficial but underutilised technologies, encouraging the involvement of younger producers, and delivering the latest information on best practice animal health, nutrition, predators and business performance,” Ms Sallur said.

Further information about Leading Sheep is available at [www.leadingsheep.com.au](http://www.leadingsheep.com.au)

Follow Leading Sheep on Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/leadingsheep/>

Follow [Queensland Agriculture](http://www.facebook.com/QldAgriculture) on Facebook and Twitter ([@QldAgriculture](http://twitter.com/QldAgriculture)).

**ENDS**

**Media:** **media@daf.qld.gov.au**