From the President's Desk

Greetings to all from a delightfully damp Branxholme. The general story I am hearing and seeing as I travel around the country, is that the season is generally pretty good. Hopefully this situation will continue well into the spring this year.

The lamb market is of great interest to all at the moment, reportedly strong in the West, but what could only be described as exceptional in the East, with record prices in many selling centres. With luck, the confidence this will give our commercial clients as we move into the spring selling season will see ram prices buoyant, and clearances strong.

The Spring show season is also upon us with major exhibitions across the country over the next few months. These events are a great opportunity for breeders to see some of the best the breed has to offer, but perhaps more importantly to mix with other breeders and exchange ideas.

Craig Mitchell and his committee are working hard on planning the 2010 National Conference, to be held in Ballarat next February. I am sure that it will measure up, and there will be something for all members to take away from it. I know that they are very pleased to have secured Sam Kekovich as a speaker, so I urge all members to mark the 15th and 16th of February on their calendars, and make every effort to attend.

The breed continues to foster its relationship with the Sheep CRC, and I notice with interest that the results of testing of the Information Nucleus lambs are starting to trickle out. I am sure this will turn into a flood of valuable information in the near future, so I urge all members to keep abreast of reports in the rural press and any communications from the CRC. Another source of information with regards to this research is, as always, Sheep Genetics. They have been recently running some very informative Webinars covering a range of subjects, and I would encourage all members to take a look at them.

In closing, I hope that the season continues to treat you well and that your efforts in shows and sales are rewarding. I would hasten to add however that we cannot rest on our laurels. The breed has come a long way in its short life, but we must continue to strive to improve to continue to grow our market share.

Regards

Steve Milne
President of the Australian White Suffolk Association

Sheep CRC Sire Selection

As an association we have the opportunity to have some input into the White Suffolk sires that are used in the Sheep CRC Information Nucleus flock in 2010. Federal Council and the R&D sub-committee will be attempting to find young WS sires that meet the criteria outlined by CRC/Sheep Genetics. However they really only have access to information available on the Sheep Genetics website through the search facility. If you think you have any young sires that meet the criteria below, and they are not available on "search", then contact a member of Federal Council and make them aware that you have a ram that may be of interest to the Sheep CRC.

The selection criteria Alex Ball outlined for the 2010 joining is as follows

- 2008/2009 drop rams
  (preferably with the possibility that they will be used within other WS flocks)
- Minimum Pwwt of 14

AND EITHER High Pfat or Low Pfat

OR High Bwt or Low Bwt

OR High Pemd (>3) [a ram with a very low Pemd may also be of interest]

The AWSA is proud of the association we have built up with the Sheep CRC and this is a unique opportunity for us to have some input into the Information Nucleus. I would remind you this not a progeny test to somehow identify the best ram, but more a series of matings over 5 years at a number of sites throughout Australia, with the aim of gathering information on a wide variety of genotypes.

Steve Milne

New Members

Name	Location	Flock No	Prefix
Gail & Christopher Lee	Gidgegannup WA	724	Rosewood Farm
Peter Mellington	Rokewood VIC	725	Oro Lodge
Neil & Jean Umback	Wyndham NSW	726	Whipstick
Jai Moar	Armidale NSW	727	Wyanbah
Tony & Janet Gall	Uralla NSW	728	Manuka

Continuing Distance Education

MASTER OF ANIMAL SCIENCE - ANIMAL BREEDING MANAGEMENT

In 2007 a collaboration between The University of Sydney and The University of New England and sponsored by MLA and AWI, resulted in the rolling out of a new degree course - the Master of Animal Science (Animal Breeding Management). This course was developed in response to a rapidly changing science and agricultural environment, and combines theoretical and applied animal genetics with the skills required to participate in the enormous changes currently taking place in animal industries.

ABMgt provides an exciting and realistic learning structure for busy professionals in the animal breeding industries, those requiring advanced knowledge to enhance their careers but also needing maximum flexibility. The course offers part-time, continuing education using distance methods, combining study in animal genetics, breeding program design and animal biotechnology with teamwork, communication, leadership and management, all with the aim of helping build a solid future for the animal breeding industry.

To this end, MLA and AWI have provided scholarships to cover course fees for up to 10 students per year, awarded on the basis of the applicant's continuing contribution to the industry.

Animal Breeding Management was developed with industry consultation for real world situations, prepared and presented by world class local and international experts. The program is offered at Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Master levels, with master's students conducting supervised research in an area impacting animal breeding. Units are presented in online "classrooms", some with short residential sessions in Sydney and Armidale, and there are also options for on-campus electives.

If you are interested in finding out more about this program you can find further information at the link below

http://www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/animal_breeding/

or by emailing direct to Romi at the Postgraduate Coursework office pgcinfo@vetsci.usyd.edu.au

I have been a participant in this course, and highly recommend it. Entry, at the Graduate Certificate level does not require a degree, merely evidence of extensive industry experience. If anybody has any questions regarding this course, feel free to contact me on 0428 786327 or 03 55786327.

Steve Milne

2010 AWSA National Conference

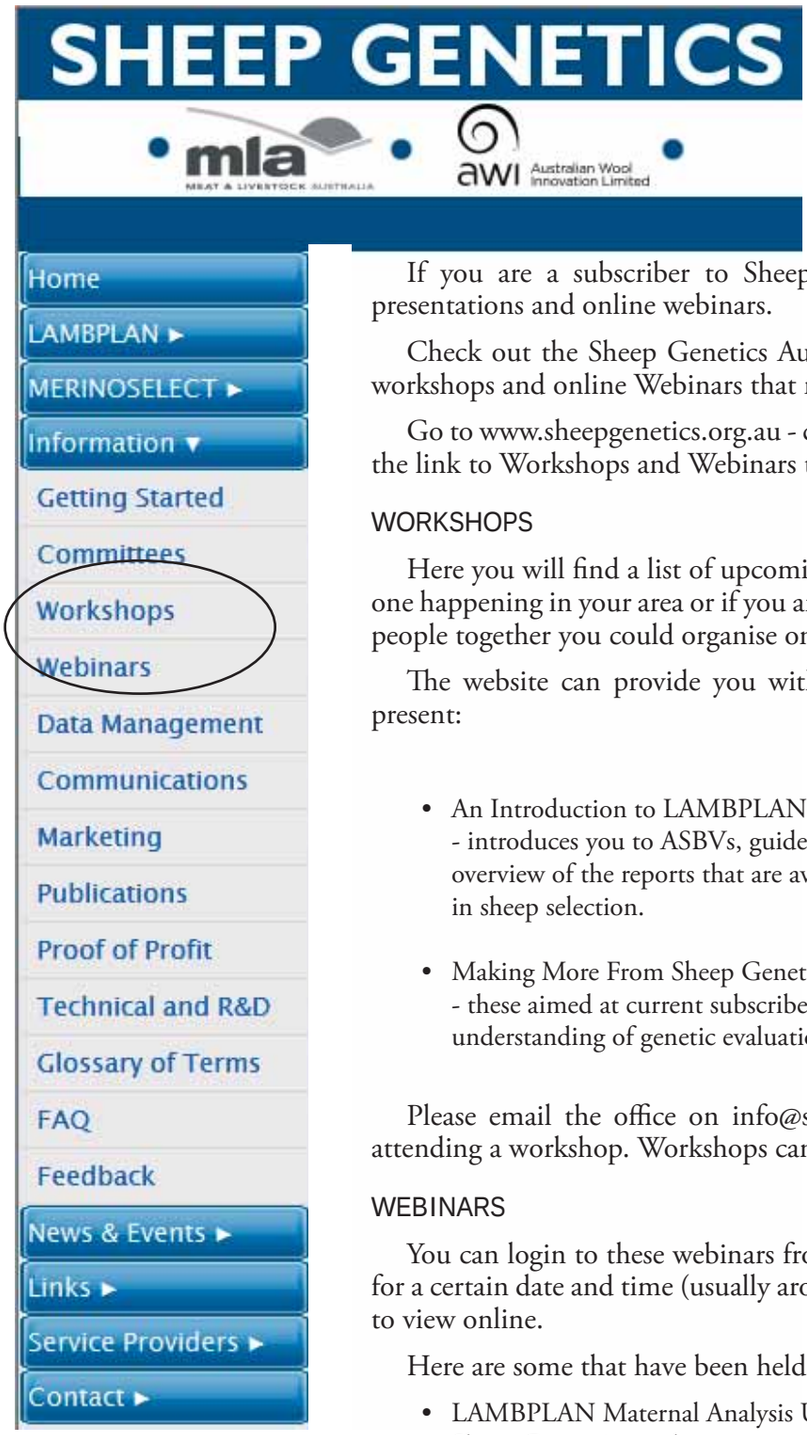
Planning is well underway for the 2010 conference which will be held at the 'Welcome Stranger Holiday Park' in Ballarat on Monday/Tuesday the 15th/16th of February. The conference will be held on site at the Park, where there is sufficient well appointed cabin style accommodation to cater for all. For those who may wish to avail themselves of alternative accommodation, Ballarat has a large number of motels which would cater for any tastes.

The program is in the final planning stages, but confirmed speakers include Sam Gill, the Manager of Sheep Genetics, Andrew Hay, National Livestock Manager – Lamb, Coles Supermarkets, and "Slammin" Sam Kekovich, who should need no introduction to lamb producers in Australia.

Full details of the program will be released in the October newsletter.

Craig Mitchell

SGA Webinars and Workshops



www.sheepgenetics.org.au

If you are a subscriber to Sheep Genetics you have access to their workshop presentations and online webinars.

Check out the Sheep Genetics Australia website to find out about any upcoming workshops and online Webinars that may be of interest to you.

Go to www.sheepgenetics.org.au - click on Information in the menu and then follow the link to Workshops and Webinars to find out more.

WORKSHOPS

Here you will find a list of upcoming workshops around the country. You may find one happening in your area or if you are interested and can gather some other interested people together you could organise one close to you.

The website can provide you with an outline of the workshops Sheep Genetics present:

- An Introduction to LAMBPLAN
  - introduces you to ASBVs, guides you in setting breeding objectives, provides an overview of the reports that are available from Sheep Genetics and how to use ASBVs in sheep selection.

- Making More From Sheep Genetics
  - these aimed at current subscribers who would like to increase their knowledge and understanding of genetic evaluation its application and benefits to their flocks.

Please email the office on info@sheepgenetics.org.au to register your interest in attending a workshop. Workshops can be tailored to suit your breed group.

WEBINARS

You can login to these webinars from the comfort of your own home. They are set for a certain date and time (usually around midday) and past webinars are also available to view online.

Here are some that have been held:

- LAMBPLAN Maternal Analysis Update
- Sheep Genomics updates
- Sire Selection for Sheep CRC Nucleus Program

Keep a look out for future webinars and make the most of the technology available to us now, to keep up to date with the latest information.

Sheep CRC Producers Corner

There is a new area on the Sheep CRC website specifically for producers and breeders - the 'Producer's Corner'. It is in its early days, but be sure to visit this area and help them to customise it for the specific interests that you have.

Producers are vital to the success of the Australian sheep industry. Producers Corner provides information targeted to increase on-farm productivity by improving critical areas of production such as:

Increasing your profitability through:

- Improving Reproduction -
  producing more lambs with improved lifetime performance through:
  - Managing my ewe flock
  - Pregnancy scanning
  - Looking after my weaners
- Precision Sheep Management
  - better strategies for flock structure and breeding direction; plus easier, lower cost sheep handling and management.
- Controlling Parasites
  - growing healthy sheep to the requirements of the discerning customers.
- Breeding & Genetics
  - breeding better sheep for tomorrow's wool and meat markets.

Superwhites Update

BACKGROUND

The Superwhites Breeding Group is a group of AWSA members that progeny test the top young sires bred within participating flocks each year and look to make rapid genetic improvement in all commercially important traits. A few facts about the group:

- Has been in operation for 14 years
- Collectively the group produces around 3,000 rams annually
- Select the best 10 rams each year from those 3,000 to progeny test
- Foster excellent data quality and use LAMBPLAN as a selection tool

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Annual Conference

For the past 6 years the Superwhites group has held its annual meeting in conjunction with the Meat Elite Poll Dorset Breeding group at a different location in Australia. The latest conference was held February in and around Dubbo, NSW. Topics covered included:

- Sheep Meat Eating Quality Update by Dave Pethick
- Sheep CRC Update by Alex Ball
- Visit to Fletcher International Exports hosted by Farron Fletcher
- Visit to Rodney Watts "Felix" stud
- Visit to Richard Hawkins "Thurlstone" stud

The 2010 conference will be held in Mount Gambier, South Australia.

COMMITTEE ROTATION

This year saw two new members join the committee – Andrew Heinrich, "Ella Matta" and Murray Long, "Pendarra" and we look forward to their valuable input. Andrew has recently completed a Nuffield Scholarship which involved a study tour of Agriculture across the globe. Two long standing committee members, Rodney Watt, "Felix" and Helen Morgan, "Millswyn" stood down from the committee and are thanked for their long standing service to Superwhites and the Committee (10+ years).

WEBSITE UPDATE

The Superwhites website has recently been updated.

Please have a look at: www.whitesuffolks.com.au/superwhites

Further Information

Contact: Troy Fischer, Chairman

Phone: (08) 8525 4378

Email: troyfischer!@bigpond.com

Sydney Show 2009 Results

JUDGE: GRAHAM DAY

Ram, under 1 year of age showing milk teeth only, shorn, born between 1 April - 30 June 2008.
1 PENDARRA - ARDLETHAN NSW 2665
2 TATTYKEEL - OBERON NSW 2787

Ram, under 1 year of age showing milk teeth only, shorn, born on or after 1 July 2008.
1 TATTYKEEL - OBERON NSW 2787
2 JARRABAY - YASS NSW 2582
3 PENDARRA - ARDLETHAN NSW 2665

Ram, under 1 year of age, showing milk teeth only in wool.
1 TATTYKEEL - OBERON NSW 2787
2 PENDARRA - ARDLETHAN NSW 2665
3 JARRABAY - YASS NSW 2582

Pen of two rams, U 1 yr of age showing milk teeth only, shorn.
1 PENDARRA - ARDLETHAN NSW 2665
2 JARRABAY - YASS NSW 2582

Ram, displaying 2 teeth and over, shorn.
1 TATTYKEEL - OBERON NSW 2787
2 PENDARRA - ARDLETHAN NSW 2665
3 JARRABAY - YASS NSW 2582

Ram, displaying 2 teeth and over, in wool.
1 PENDARRA - ARDLETHAN NSW 2665

GRAND CHAMPION RAM.
TATTYKEEL - OBERON NSW 2787

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION RAM.
TATTYKEEL - OBERON NSW 2787

Ewe, under 1 year of age showing milk teeth only, shorn, born between 1 April - 30 June 2008.
1 PENDARRA - ARDLETHAN NSW 2665
2 JARRABAY - YASS NSW 2582
3 JARRABAY - YASS NSW 2582

Ewe, under 1 year of age showing milk teeth only, shorn, born on or after 1 July 2008.
1 JARRABAY - YASS NSW 2582
2 JARRABAY - YASS NSW 2582
3 PENDARRA - ARDLETHAN NSW 2665

Ewe, under 1 year of age showing milk teeth only, in wool.
1 TATTYKEEL - OBERON NSW 2787
2 PENDARRA - ARDLETHAN NSW 2665
3 PENDARRA - ARDLETHAN NSW 2665
4 JARRABAY - YASS NSW 2582

Pen of two ewes U 1 year of age showing milk teeth only, shorn.
1 TATTYKEEL - OBERON NSW 2787
2 PENDARRA - ARDLETHAN NSW 2665
3 JARRABAY - YASS NSW 2582

Ewe, displaying 2 teeth and over, shorn.
1 JARRABAY - YASS NSW 2582

GRAND CHAMPION EWE.
TATTYKEEL - OBERON NSW 2787

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION EWE.
PENDARRA - ARDLETHAN NSW 2665

Peter Taylor Group. Consisting of one ram and two ewes, showing milk teeth only, to be bred by the Exhibitor. To be selected from Exhibits in General Classes.
1 TATTYKEEL - OBERON NSW 2787
2 PENDARRA - ARDLETHAN NSW 2665
3 JARRABAY - YASS NSW 2582

SIRES PROGENY GROUP
1 TATTYKEEL - OBERON NSW 2787
2 PENDARRA - ARDLETHAN NSW 2665
3 JARRABAY - YASS NSW 2582

Objective Measurement Class for White Suffolk Sheep.
1 TATTYKEEL - OBERON NSW 2787
2 PENDARRA - ARDLETHAN NSW 2665
3 JARRABAY - YASS NSW 2582
4 JARRABAY - YASS NSW 2582
5 JARRABAY - YASS NSW 2582

MOST SUCCESSFUL WHITE SUFFOLK EXHIBITOR.
TATTYKEEL - OBERON NSW 2787

CHAMPION RAM WON BY "TATTYKEEL" STUD.
2ND PLACE IN INTERBREED

Dubbo Show 2009

DUBBO SHOW RESULTS
May 16th 2009
149 White Suffolk sheep shown by 18 Exhibitors
Judged by Barry Lang

EXHIBITORS INCLUDED

Kate & Henry Thompson "Baladonga" Coolah,
Barry & Julie Davoren "Meninville" Blayney,
Craig Samuel & Lauren Henry "Kanoona Park" Curban,
Jason & Vicki Barker "Timor" Nyngan,
John Jamieson "Wattle Park" Finley,
Murray Long "Pendarra" Ardlethan,
Doug Mitchell "Rene" Culcairn,
Jarrod Alcorn "Jarrabay" Yass,
Farrer Ag. High School "Farrer" Tamworth,
St Paul's College "St Paul's" Walla Walla,
Yanco Ag. High School "McCaughey" Yanco,
Victoria & James Patterson "Kinellar" Gooloogong,
Ann O'Leary "Summit" Elong Elong,
Julie Wiesner "Glengarry" Walla Walla,
Mark Yates "Kubura" Yerong Creek,
Ian Gilmore "Tattykeel" Oberon,
Eric, Joyce & Daryl Dixon "Ashbank" Dubbo,
Scott & Elaine Woodley "Kurraview" Dubbo.

JUDGES COMMENTS

There was an excellent showing of 150 sheep from most areas of NSW. It was pleasing from the breed point of view to see four schools involved. The students who were involved in the showing should be proud of the job they did. The quality of their sheep was very encouraging.

The Champion ewe went to Farrer Ag High School Tamworth. This ewe went on to be supreme white Suffolk. She was a well balanced well muscled and showed excellent breed type. The reserve ewe was exhibited by Scott Woodley and came from the pair of ewes. The competition in the ewes was exceptionally strong.

The champion ram was shown by Pendarra and is a good example of the breed. He showed good type and soundness with adequate muscle and will be a useful sire. The reserve champion ram was exhibited by Tattykeel. This was a woolly ram showing good type and commercial characteristics. Most successful exhibitor went to the Woodley's who showed a very strong team of White Suffolks.

Barry Lang

COREY MINCHAM HOLDING THE CHAMPION RAM FOR "PENDARRA" STUD

CHAMPION RAM WON BY "PENDARRA" STUD AND RESERVE CHAMPION RAM WON BY "TATTYKEEL" STUD WITH JUDGE BARRY LANG CENTRE

CHAMPION EWE WON BY "FARRER" STUD AND RESERVE CHAMPION EWE WON BY "KURRAVIEW" STUD WITH JUDGE BARRY LANG CENTRE

Dubbo Show 2009 Results

OPEN RAM under 1 ½ yr. shorn. 15 entries

1st Pendarra,
2nd Kurraview,
3rd Tattykeel,
4th Timor,
5th Wattle Park.

NOVICE RAM showing milk teeth only, shorn, born between 1/6-31/7/08. 5 entries

1st Baladonga,
2nd Farrer,
3rd St Paul's.

OPEN RAM showing milk teeth only, shorn, born between 1/6-31/7/08. 14 entries

1st Kanoona Park,
2nd Pendarra,
3rd Rene,
4th Baladonga,
5th Jarrabay.

NOVICE RAM showing milk teeth only, shorn, born after 1/8/08. 6 entries

1st McCaughey,
2nd Farrer,
3rd Baladonga,
4th Farrer.

OPEN RAM showing milk teeth only, shorn, born after 1/8/08. 7 entries

1st McCaughey,
2nd Kanoona Park,
3rd Tattykeel,
4th Wattle Park,
5th Kinellar.

NOVICE RAM under 1 ½ yr. Woolly.

1st Baladonga,
2nd St Paul's.

OPEN RAM under 1 ½ yr. Woolly. 9 entries

1st Tattykeel,
2nd Kurraview,
3rd Kanoona Park,
4th Pendarra.

PAIR of 2 RAMS under 1½ yr. Shorn. 7 entries

1st Pendarra,
2nd Kurraview,
3rd Wattle Park,
4th Kubura.

RAM over 1 ½ yr. Shorn. 4 entries

1st Jarrabay,
2nd McCaughey,
3rd Kurraview.

RAM over 1½yr. Woolly.

1st Pendarra.

RAM OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT CLASS. 20 entries

1st Kurraview,
2nd Kanoona Park,
3rd Pendarra,
4th Rene, 5
5th Ashbank.

CHAMPION RAM:

PENDARRA

RES. CHAMPION RAM:

TATTYKEEL

NOVICE EWE under 1 ½ yr. Shorn.

1st Baladonga.

OPEN EWE under 1 ½ yr. Shorn. 11 entries

1st Kurraview,
2nd Tattykeel,
3rd Ashbank,
4th Kurraview,
5th Pendarra.

NOVICE EWE showing milk teeth only, shorn, born between 1/6-31/7/08. 6 entries

1st Farrer,
2nd Baladonga,
3rd Farrer.

OPEN EWE showing milk teeth only, shorn, born between 1/6-31/7/08. 20 entries

1st Farrer,
2nd Kurraview,
3rd Jarrabay,
4th Rene,
5th Rene.

continued over...

Dubbo Show 2009 Results continued

NOVICE EWE showing milk teeth only, shorn, born after 1/8/08. 7 entries

1st Farrer,
2nd Farrer,
3rd Baladonga,
4th Farrer.

OPEN EWE showing milk teeth only, shorn, born after 1/8/08. 7 entries

1st Kurraview,
2nd Ashbank,
3rd Farrer,
4th Jarrabay.

NOVICE EWE under 1 ½ yr. Woolly.

1st Baladonga,
2nd St Paul's.

OPEN EWE under 1 ½ yr. Woolly. 9 entries

1st Pendarra,
2nd Tattykeel,
3rd Rene,
4th Baladonga.

PAIR of 2 EWES under 1 ½ yr. Shorn. 8 entries

1st Kurraview,
2nd Ashbank,
3rd Jarrabay,
4th Rene.

EWE over 1 ½ yr. Shorn. 7 entries

1st McCaughey,
2nd Farrer,
3rd Jarrabay,
4th McCaughey.

EWE over 1 ½ yr. Woolly.

1st Meninville.

EWE OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT CLASS 15 entries

1st Jarrabay,
2nd Kinellar.
3rd Farrer.
4th Kinellar,
5th Kurraview.

CHAMPION EWE:

FARRER

RES. CHAMPION EWE:

KURRAVIEW

KEITH McIntosh MEMORIAL AWARD for Sires Progeny Group. 11 entries

1st Kurraview,
2nd Jarrabay,
3rd Ashbank,
4th Pendarra.

Group of 1Ram & 2 Ewes showing milk teeth only. 12 entries

1st Kurraview,
2nd Rene,
3rd Ashbank.

Best White Suffolk Head
10 ram entries

1st Pendarra,
2nd Kurraview,
3rd Wattle Park.

8 ewe entries
1st Rene,
2nd Summit,
3rd Kurraview.

SUPREME WHITE SUFFOLK:

FARRER

MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR:

KURRAVIEW

>> *See page 35 for Farrer's Story.....*

Farrer's Report - Dubbo Show 2009

Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School has returned Supreme Champions from The Dubbo Show held on the 16th of May 2009. Farrer secured the title winning the Supreme White Suffolk of Show. The line up consisted of 148 White Suffolk sheep from some of the largest producers in Australia. The successful ewe Farrer 080034 successfully won the Novice Shorn ewe born between 1/6 – 31/7/2008 class. Farrer 080034 continued her winning spree taking out the Open Class, Champion White Suffolk, and finally the Supreme White Suffolk of Show. The judge Barry Lang was very impressed with her thickness, muscle and structure. This ewe has been artificially inseminated to Farrer 070172 which is currently in Series 13 of the national Superwhites® progeny testing program.

Tink Family Perpetual Shield
Angus Mc Pherson, Philip Favaloro, Lachlan Wolfgang-Wicks

Farrer 080034 Supreme White Suffolk of Dubbo Show
Angus Mc Pherson, Philip Favaloro,
Lachlan Wolfgang-Wicks

The students were awarded the Tink Family Perpetual Shield; an interschool competition where the participants are judged on the preparation of the sheep, involvement and knowledge of the show program, handling of the sheep and their overall presentation. The school previously had the honour of winning this shield in 2005. A special thanks to Neil Tomlinson from Georges Creek Suffolk Stud at Bundarra for allowing the Farrer students the opportunity to parade his animals prior to commencement of the White Suffolk judging, this enabled to students to gain experience and ring craft techniques to better present their animals.

Phillip Favaloro a current Year 10 student also had a successful show placing 3rd in the Junior Meat Sheep Judging Competition. This competition attracted a field of 75 participants under the age of 25 a tremendous effort.

Texan farmer travels....

A TEXAN FARMER GOES TO AUSTRALIA FOR A VACATION. THERE HE MEETS AN AUSSIE FARMER AND GETS TALKING. THE AUSSIE SHOWS OFF HIS BIG WHEAT FIELD AND THE TEXAN SAYS, "OH! WE HAVE WHEAT FIELDS THAT ARE AT LEAST TWICE AS LARGE".

THEN THEY WALK AROUND THE FARMA LITTLE AND THE AUSSIE SHOWS OFF HIS HERD OF CATTLE. THE TEXAN IMMEDIATELY SAYS, " WE HAVE LONGHORNS THAT ARE AT LEAST TWICE AS LARGE AS YOUR COWS".

THE CONVERSATION HAS, MEANWHILE, ALMOST DIED WHEN THE TEXAN SEES A HERD OF KANGAROOS HOPPING THROUGH THE PADDOCK. HE ASKS, "AND WHAT ARE THOSE"?

THE AUSSIE ASKS WITH AN INCREDULOUS LOOK, "DON'T YOU HAVE ANY GRASSHOPPERS IN TEXAS"?

Quality meat breed showing at Williams Expos 09

RESULT HIGHLIGHTS

Champion White Suffolk Ram
Max Whyte "Brimfield"

Reserve White Suffolk Ram
Les Page "Jocklor"

Champion White Suffolk Ewe
Warren Thompson "Hedingham"

Reserve White Suffolk Ewe
Max Whyte "Brimfield"

In the Interbreed, White Suffolks won:
Champion Ewe (Hedingham),

Supreme Champion Group (Brimfield)

Reserve Champion Ram (Brimfield)

PHOTOS ON LEFT:

Top: The Interbreed Champion Ewe was from Hedingham White Suffolks. Pictured is Geoffrey Thompson with judge Steven Eales, Warren Thompson and judge Adrian Squires

Bottom: from left - Supreme Interbreed Grooup won by Max Whytes Brimfield White Suffollk Stud.

newspaper clippings from Farm Weekly, April 23, 2009

Meet *'Slammin' Sam Kekovich* in person
just one of the guest speakers at our

2010 AWSA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Ballarat, Victoria
15th-16th of February2010

Mark it in your diary now! More details in October Newsletter.

Selection for Worm Resistance
and collecting individual WEC's

Recently I have received an increasing number of enquiries from members regarding the selection of sheep for worm resistance, but perhaps more so regarding the process involved in collecting the data for Worm Egg Counts (WEC).

I think it would be fair to say that the vast majority of WEC data has historically been collected by the maternal and Merino side of the lamb/sheep industry, although some terminal breeders have collected a large amount of data on their sheep since 2004. Increasingly though, there is a trend within the ranks of terminal breeders to collect individual WEC information, and the interest in this has increased considerably since the introduction of the Lamb2020 index by Sheep Genetics last year.

Selection based on the information derived from individual WEC's can be quite successful and the Genetic gains made through that process very good for a number of reasons. Firstly the trait is relatively easy to measure (although the actual counting does require a Nemisis accredited laboratory), and secondly the heritability is moderate [h2 of Pwec (225 days) is 0.32] (Sheep Genetics, 2009), and therefore of similar magnitude to that of growth traits. Thirdly, and perhaps most important, is the fact that the trait has a large Genetic Variance (the range is over 200% (Sheep Genetics, 2009)) and therefore selection of the best animals will lead to rapid genetic gain.

Another interesting point regarding Pwec, is that it has a moderate negative correlation (-0.3) with muscling (Sheep Genetics, 2009), meaning that better muscled animals are more likely to be resistant to worms.

As I said earlier, a number of the enquiries I have had have been about the process involved in actually collecting the data.

The following hints for improving protocol for WEC worm resistance selection data collection were supplied by Dr. David Rendell, of David Rendell & Associates, a veterinary consultant based in Hamilton, Victoria.

- Requires a mob WEC of at least 200 eggs/gram (epg) prior to collecting individual samples The higher the WEC the higher the reliability of the worm resistance results
- Giving your stud weaners a moderate worm challenge rather than drenching as soon as WEC hits 200 epg will also sort out those individual sheep with poor resilience to worms and allow those with good resilience to shine.
- Must balance this with not letting WEC get so high as to cause excessive check on whole mob. (Breeders in an area where Barber's pole worm (Haemonchus contortis) are a problem should contact their local worm testing laboratory for specific advice.)
- Whilst monitoring WEC also need to at least twice weekly check weaner mob for early signs of scouring, reduced alertness and general fitness. If this visual inspection is done diligently it will easily avoid letting mob suffer a substantive check or worm crash.
- Conduct individual testing at least 6 weeks post weaning drench and preferably at the 2nd or 3rd WEC rise after weaning before reach 1-Y-0. (i.e. Test at the WEC rise that occurs after the 1st or 2nd post weaning drench)
- If joining ram lambs or lambing ewes as hoggets you may have to test at first rise after weaning.
- Results have higher accuracy if test before any splitting of weaners into multiple management groups. This is consistent with the Data Quality Assurance guidelines outlined by Sheep Genetics.
- Using adhesive labels pre-printed with relevant ear tag number to stick on collection jars as collect sample will markedly reduce labelling errors compared to hand written labels. Not difficult provided have a list of mob ear tag numbers in word table or excel spread sheet
- Email list of ear tags to laboratory prior to submission so they can print off a lab recording sheet with ear tag list to record lab results. This also reduces transcribing errors
- Require minimum of 3 gram (a level teaspoon) of faeces. We find careful use of a teaspoon assists greatly in collecting sufficient sample rapidly with minimum stress to the sheep
- If using 60 ml screw top jar for collection there will plenty of air in container to allow eggs to rapidly hatch if do not refrigerate promptly after collect. Thus important to keep samples in the shade and every 15 minutes transfer to fridge or esky with lots of ice bricks
- Note, ram WEC normally 2-3 times higher than ewes or wethers in same paddock. So often have to wait longer for ewes to get high enough WEC.
- Testing ewes as well doubles the progress.

I would stress that these are only hints, and your own Vet or WEC testing Lab may have different protocols or recommendations.

Collecting individual WEC's can be a frustrating game at times as seasonal conditions and improved resistance within your flock can conspire to make it hard to get animals "wormy" enough to test.

One strategy I know some breeders have used with some success is as follows. About a fortnight before weaning, drench lambs with your most effective short acting drench.

Selection for Worm Resistance
and collecting individual WEC's continued

This will clean them out and 'even up' the mob. Wean the lambs back to a lambing paddock, or a paddock known to be "wormy". The combination of the stress of weaning, and the "wormy" paddock should lead to a rapid rise in infestation, the WEC's can be collected and the lambs drenched and onto good feed ASAP. I would repeat here David's hint that rams do tend to get "wormy" quicker than ewes, and so it is very important to monitor mobs closely and probably run the rams separately if possible.

Again I would stress that this strategy is only an idea, and you should seek advice from your own Vet.

Two further points which should be mentioned relate to data entry and dag scoring. When entering WEC data into the Sheep Genetics database, only the Trichostrongylus / Ostertagia count information should be entered. Nematodirus counts should be ignored or entered separately. Secondly the fact that sheep with resistance to worms have a higher propensity to scour due to their immune response. It follows therefore that dag scoring is probably something to do in conjunction with selection for resistance to worms to counter this.

I hope that this may answer a few of the questions breeders have regarding Worm Resistance and WEC data collection. It has been estimated that worms cost the Australian sheep industry more than flystrike, so improving the resistance to worms within our breed can only be a positive.

I would like to thank Dr. David Rendell of David Rendell & Associates, Dr. Alex Ball from MLA/Sheep Genetics, Phil Clothier, "Woolumbool", and Andrew Heinrich, "Ella Matta" for their assistance with this article.

Steve Milne

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wormboss.com.au

'Wormboss' was developed by the Sheep CRC and Australian Wool Innovation to help producers meet the challenges of worm management when worms are becoming increasingly resistant to available drenches.

THE FACTS:

- Sheep worms cost the industry over $350 million annually
- That is $7500 loss for every sheep farmer in Australia.

WORM MANAGEMENT

Sustainable control of sheep worms involves a combination of:

- planned stock and farm management
- monitoring worm levels using worm egg counts
- regular drench resistance testing
- maximising the use of non-chemical worm management strategies
- strategic timing of effective drenches
- breeding worm resistant sheep.

Without sustainable worm management, drench resistant worms will keep increasing and economic loss will be greater.

Launch Ask the Boss

ASK THE BOSS – IT'S FREE!

Ask the Boss is designed to help you consider all the key issues when making a decision to drench or not drench a mob of sheep.

You will be asked to respond to a number of questions such as the State you are in, which shire or other locality you are in etc. Just click on the appropriate button and then on the "submit" button.

When you have answered all necessary questions, "Ask the Boss" will generate a report with all the relevant information you need to make a good decision.

Ask the Boss cannot replace a good professional adviser, who would be much more familiar with your property and its characteristics than the people who constructed Ask the Boss. However, by using the information in Ask the Boss, you will be in a much better position to effectively use a professional adviser and not waste time discussing basic issues.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Register your details to receive the latest sheep worm control information and news as it happens and when it's important for you. – Check out the website www.wormboss.com.au

Bendigo Sheep & Wool Show 2000 Results

JULY 17-19, 2009

JUDGE: MR DOUG DEPPLER

EXHIBITORS: 24

Novice Ram
1 Omad
2 Sunnydale
3 Sunnydale

Ram U 1 1/2 yrs in Wool
1 Warburn
2 Tattykeel
3 Rene

Ram U 1 1/2 yrs shorn, born April
1 Omad
2 Pendarra
3 Rene

Ram U 1 1/2 years shorn, born May
1 Kanoona Park
2 Gemini
3 Rene

Pair of rams U 1 1/2 yrs shorn, born April-May
1 Gemini
2 Tattykeel
3 Kubura

SENIOR CHAMPION RAM:
KANOONA PARK

RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION RAM:
GEMINI

Ram U 1 1/2 yrs shorn, born June
1 Gemini
2 Gemini
3 Kanoona Park

Junior pair of rams shorn, born after 1st June
1 Rene
2 Glenarbian
3 Sunnydale

Ram U 1 1/2 yrs shorn, born July
1 Rene
2 Wingamin
3 Merribrook

Ram U 1 1/2 yrs shorn, born after 1st August
1 Tattykeel
2 Warburn
3 Kubura

Ram Lamb born after April 1st
1 Wingamin
2 Induro

JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM:
RENE STUD

RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM:
TATTYKEEL

SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - "KANOONA PARK" STUD

RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION RAM - "TATTYKEEL" STUD

Novice Ewe:
1 Sunnydale
2 Omad
3 Sunnydale

Ewe over 1 1/2 yrs shorn
1 Belladonna
2 Wingamin
3 Belladonna

Ewe U 1/2 yrs in wool
1 Tattykeel
2 Rene
3 Hayelle

Ewe U 1 1/2 yrs shorn, born April-May
1 Wingamin
2 Wattle Park
3 Booloola

Pair of ewes under 1 1/2 yrs
1 Rene
2 Wingamin
3 Glenarbian

Ewe U 1 1/2 yrs born June-July
1 Wattle Park
2 Rene
3 Booloola

Ewe U 1 1/2 yrs born after 1st August
1 Glenarbian
2 Sunnydale
3 Wattle Park

Ewe Lamb
1 Belladonna
2 Wingamin
3 Belladonna

CHAMPION EWE:
TATTYKEEL

RESERVE CHAMPION EWE:
RENE

Breeders Group -1 ram, 2 ewes U 1 1/2 yrs
1 Rene
2 Wingamin
3 Glenarbian

Sires Progeny Group
1 Rene
2 Rene
3 Warburn

GRAND CHAMPION RAM
& MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR:
RENE STUD, D, I & S MITCHELL

RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION RAM - "GEMINI" STUD

CHAMPION EWE - "TATTYKEEL" STUD

RESERVE CHAMPION EWE - "RENE" STUD

Quality Sheepmeat - on-farm impacts on quality

Sheep CRC Practical Wisdom
Know it. Do it.

SHEEP CRC

MEAT EATING QUALITY IS IMPORTANT FOR CONSUMERS' CHOICE OF LAMB OVER OTHER MEATS.

WHILST PROCESSING EFFECTS ARE SIGNIFICANT, SO ARE ON FARM PRACTICES.

AGE AT SLAUGHTER, NUTRITION AND GENETICS IMPACT ON THE QUALITY OF MEAT.

INTRODUCTION

Consumers assess the acceptability and quality of meat by its colour, fatness, tenderness, flavour and juiciness. Today's consumers prefer to purchase meat with low levels of external fat, but in many cases prefer to eat meat with some intramuscular fat, commonly known as marbling.

HOW DOES BREED OR GENOTYPE AFFECT MEAT QUALITY?

The effect of breed or phenotype is generally not large and negative impacts can be selected against, although there are some general trends.

Merinos tend to exhibit an increased meat pH, due to faster depletion of glycogen between the farm and the abattoir. This can result in meat that is less tender and darker in colour. Also, Merinos aren't as lean as commonly thought, as they lay down as much fat as the related crosses at the same weight, but it takes them much longer. Reducing the impacts of high pH in Merinos is covered in another Practical Wisdom note: Quality Sheepmeat—Merinos Can Deliver.

The Border Leicester breed tends to be inherently fatter, which is expressed in higher levels of intramuscular fat and subcutaneous fat. As a maternal breed however, it is important to realise that increased fatness may also contribute to improved reproductive fitness.

HOW DO PARTICULAR SIRES AFFECT MEAT QUALITY?

Individual sires within each breed vary considerably in key characteristics that can affect meat quality. In particular, growth rate—measured as weaning weight—(WWT), carcase fatness (FAT) and eye muscle depth (EMD) are important and can be significantly improved using genetics. Sires can be selected using ustralian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) for these traits, with ASBVs relating to the post-weaning age most commonly used; P refers to the post-weaning age in the ASBV abbreviations.

- Selection for lower post-weaning weight fat depth (PFAT) ASBVs in terminal sires mated with Border Leicester x Merino ewes will be effective in reducing overall carcase fatness.
- Selection for high muscling (PEMD) ASBVs in terminal sires will also contribute to reducing fatness in the prime lamb offspring, however
- Selection for high muscling (PEMD > 2 mm), without sufficient growth (PWWT > 6 kg) increases the risk of toughness in the meat of the progeny.

High genetic potential for muscle (high PEMD) or leanness (negative PFAT) may produce progeny with low levels of intramuscular fat, which can negatively impact on the overall liking of lamb meat. Hence, some caution is required in selecting too strongly for leaner meat, both in relation to meat eating quality and possibly for reproduction in replacement ewes.

As carcase fatness increases, lean meat yield decreases. Selection for sires with high growth only will tend to increase fatness, whilst selection for eye muscle depth only will increase lean meat yield, but may lead to meat toughness. Therefore, production of lambs with high lean meat yield and meat quality requires a balance of these traits in the selection of sires. See Practical Wisdom note: Quality Sheepmeat—Selection for Growth and Lean Meat Yield.

HOW DOES AGE AT SLAUGHTER AFFECT MEAT QUALITY?

As animals age, muscle becomes darker due to an increase in an oxygen binding pigment. For this reason, unweaned lambs (suckers) produce the lightest coloured meat, which

consumers prefer. Between 12 and 14 months of age (as lambs become hoggets), muscle generally becomes darker and redder than is acceptable to most consumers. This is one reason for price discrimination in the fresh meat market.

A further benefit of slaughtering lambs at young ages, straight off their mothers, is that they produce meat with a lower pH, provided pasture quality is high enough to support rapid lamb growth. Lower pH enhances keeping quality and helps to produce a more tender meat. In leg cuts particularly, tenderness and eating quality decrease as animals age and is more apparent in animals after they have cut their permanent incisors.

For example, between lamb and yearling ages, eating quality of an easy-carve leg can decline by about 8% (or 5 index points on overall liking). Therefore, the recommendations from MLA's Sheep Meat Eating Quality (SMEQ) program, regarding the dentition and definition of lamb has not changed. See Tips & Tools: MSA sheepmeat information kit (MLA website) and also the Practical Wisdom note: Quality Sheepmeat—Taking the Mutton out of Lamb.

HOW DOES NUTRITION AFFECT MEAT QUALITY?

Consumers prefer meat with low levels of external fat, but some fat—especially intramuscular fat—is required for acceptable eating quality, therefore, the Meat Standards Australia (MSA) recommendation is for sheep meat to be a minimum fat score of 2. However, subcutaneous fat depth beyond fat score 2 can reach very high levels with little change in intramuscular fat (IMF) levels, indicating that expensive feeding programs to increase IMF may not be justified.

If periods of feed restriction occur, they reduce intramuscular fat. In these cases, sires with a higher PFAT can still produce progeny with acceptable quality. For example, where lambs were restricted from weaning for up to 8 weeks and then re-fed (to a carcase weight of about 22 kg), those with sires with ASBV PFAT above –1mm had higher overall liking in taste panel trials.

Nutrition, in the short-term pre slaughter, will impact on factors such as meat pH. If lambs have suboptimal nutrition then, with the additive effects of handling stress, weather and environment change, they are at risk of depleting muscle glycogen (sugar) below the critical level. Also see the Practical Wisdom note: Quality Sheepmeat—A Brilliant Finish.

IMPLICATIONS

Understanding the impact of the key genetic traits that affect meat quality and meat yield will help refine the balanced selection required for prime lamb sires of the future. Heavy selection for muscling, whilst having a positive impact on lean meat yield, will have negative impacts on meat quality through meat that is tougher and likely to have lower intramuscular fat. Heavy selection for lamb growth may reduce lean meat yields and increase fat in heavy lamb carcases.

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- Finish animals at fat score 2 for good eating quality traits; extra fat does not provide further benefit.
- Use terminal sires that have leanness and muscle over first-cross (Border Leicester x Merino) ewes, to counteract their higher fatness.
- Where poor or maintenance nutrition is experienced at some stage in the lamb's life, provide a period of feeding to counteract the negative effects on meat and eating quality; sires with breeding values for fat above –1 mm will also help counteract negative effects.
- Use sires that are balanced in the main carcase traits of growth, fat and muscle, to produce lamb that is efficient in production, but also appealing to consumers,
- Provide Merinos with good nutrition and minimal stress prior to and during transport and lairage to reduce meat toughness and dark meat colour.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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EDITORS NOTE:

MANY MORE FACT SHEETS SUCH AS THIS ONE CAN BE FOUND ON THE SHEEP CRC WEBSITE

WWW.SHEEPCRC.ORG.AU

Email Do's and Don'ts

It's now a fact of life – most of us use everyday it and if we can't access it for too long we get panicky. EMAIL – how did we ever live without it. Here are some tips on how to effectively use email in your business. If you are not sure how to do any of these, click on F1 while you are using Outlook or Outlook Express to bring up the help files to find out how.

1. Stop YELLING at me. IF YOU WRITE IN CAPITALS IT SEEMS AS IF YOU ARE SHOUTING. This can be highly annoying and might trigger an unwanted response in the form of a flame mail. Therefore, try not to send any email text in capitals.
2. Count to 10. Read the email before you send it. A lot of people don't bother to read an email before they send it out, as can be seen from the many spelling and grammar mistakes contained in emails. Apart from this, reading your email through the eyes of the recipient will help you send a more effective message and avoid misunderstandings and inappropriate comments.
3. Substance over Style. Be careful with formatting. Remember that when you use formatting in your emails, the sender might not be able to view formatting, or might see different fonts than you had intended. When using colors, use a color that is easy to read on the background.
4. Using CC. Try not to use the cc: field unless the recipient in the cc: field knows why they are receiving a copy of the message and are happy for their email address to be publicized to the other recipients
5. Your correspondence is not private – your email can be forwarded, printed, read by others without your knowledge. It can also be posted in a hallway, so keep that in mind. Once it leaves your email system, you have no control over what others do with it.
6. Step away from the FW button: Do not forward chain letters. We can safely say that all of them are hoaxes. Just delete the letters as soon as you receive them!
7. Be concise and to the point. Do not make an e-mail longer than it needs to be. Remember that reading an e-mail is harder than reading printed communications and a long e-mail can be very discouraging to read.
8. Grammar and writing counts. This is not only important because improper spelling, grammar and punctuation give a bad impression of your company, it is also important for conveying the message properly. Emails with no full stops or commas are difficult to read and can sometimes even change the meaning of the text. And, if your program has a spell checking option, why not use it?
9. If you think it could offend someone, then it will. By sending or even just forwarding one libelous, or offensive remark in an email, you and your company can face court cases resulting in multi-million dollar penalties.Don't use blank subject lines
10. Email responses - use "Reply to all" sparingly. Do not use reply to all unless everyone on the list needs to know your response. Important when replying to a distribution list.
11. Do not send an Email that would embarrass you if it were published in the newspaper!
12. Attachment file sizes - Best to stick to limiting the attachment file size to less than 1MB. You may not know what the download limit and capability is for your recipient. Keep in mind – does the receiver have "dial-up" or a high-speed connection? If you need to keep the attachment, file it outside of email on a Hard drive or network drive. CD, Video and photo files are very large & add up quickly!
13. Answer swiftly.
14. Feedback. You should always reply to an email – let your sender know that you received it.
15. Don't be a cyber coward. Pick up the phone – it could be a better solution.
16. Shorthand and Acronyms – Don't overuse! They are intimidating. Some people may not ask what the abbreviated word stands for because they feel they should know. – OTOH (on the other hand), ROTFL (rolling on the floor laughing), FWIW (for what it's worth) LOL (Laugh out Loud) The same goes for emoticons, such as the smiley :-). If you are not sure whether your recipient knows what it means, it is better not to use it.

Email Do's and Don'ts Continued...

17. Personal Reponses. Make it personal instead of an auto reply
18. Don't overuse "high priority". If you overuse the high priority option, it will lose its function when you really need it. Moreover, even if a mail has high priority, your message will come across as slightly aggressive if you flag it as 'high priority'.
19. Setup a 'signature' that automatically appears at the bottom of your outgoing emails. Don't use images as some spam filters don't like them, but you can use some dotted lines and bold text. Promote your stud in the signature and always include a link to your website!
20. Disclaimers. It is important to add disclaimers to your internal and external mails, since this can help protect your company from liability. Consider the following scenario: an employee accidentally forwards a virus to a customer by email. The customer decides to sue your company for damages. If you add a disclaimer at the bottom of every external mail, saying that the recipient must check each email for viruses and that it cannot be held liable for any transmitted viruses, this will surely be of help to you in court

Winning a Nobel prize...

A MAN IS DRIVING DOWN A COUNTRY ROAD, WHEN HE SPOTS A FARMER STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF A HUGE FIELD OF GRASS. HE PULLS THE CAR OVER TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AND NOTICES THAT THE FARMER IS JUST STANDING THERE, DOING NOTHING, LOOKING AT NOTHING.

THE MAN GETS OUT OF THE CAR, WALKS ALL THE WAY OUT TO THE FARMER AND ASKS HIM, "AH EXCUSE ME MISTER, BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING?"

THE FARMER REPLIES, "I'M TRYING TO WIN A NOBEL PRIZE."

"HOW?" ASKS THE MAN, PUZZLED.

"WELL, I HEARD THEY GIVE THE NOBEL PRIZE . . . TO PEOPLE WHO ARE OUT STANDING IN THEIR FIELD."