

2017-18 SHEEPMEAT & GRASSFED BEEF RD&A PRIORITIES

Whole Farm Breeder Productivity Systems

Research, development and adoption activities that lead to a better understanding of, and develop tools or practices to improve the productivity of sheep or grassfed beef cattle

National priorities identified by regional consultation*
S1: Reduce reproductive wastage through improved monitoring and targets management
S2: Reduce impact of disease carried by pest animals that affect the mortality and fertility of livestock
N1: Develop whole farm systems for managing breeder productivity
N6: Chemical castration of females and males
N7: Awareness and integration of cost-effective labour saving technologies
N8: Develop pathways to efficiency - performance recording and benchmarking
N9: More efficient and effective collection and use of data, both broad scale and crush-side, to reduce cost of operation, better inform decision making and improve overall productivity
W3: Technology to assist producers to manage livestock with lower infrastructure requirements
W4: Livestock management (e.g., self herding, low stress stock handling, cost effective cattle weaning in paddock)

* RD&A priorities jointly identified by the Regional Councils (NABRC – N, SAMRC – S and WALRC – W)

Key industry performance indicators by Industry Strategic Plan			
MLA 2020 ¹	MISP 2020 ²	SISP 2020 ³	BISP 2020 ⁴
Productivity and profitability			
Production efficiency: southern beef Production efficiency: northern beef	Increasing livestock productivity through new research – minimum whole-of-sector increases in productivity growth above baseline levels: Southern beef production sector: 1.75% by 2020 and 7% by 2030 Northern Beef: 0.5% by 2020 and 1.5% by 2030		Increasing livestock productivity through new research Continuous improvement of animal welfare
Ewe and lamb survival	Increasing livestock productivity through new research – minimum whole-of-sector increases in productivity growth above baseline levels: Sheepmeat production sector objective: 1.5% by 2020 and 5% by 2030	Undertake RD&A focusing specifically on maternal efficiency and ewe husbandry as a driver for productivity improvements (reduce embryonic losses and mortalities from conception to weaning): Theme outcome: marking rates increased by 5 percentage points and ewe mortality rates decreased by 1 percentage point	

¹ MLA Strategic Plan 2020

² Meat Industry Strategic Plan 2020

³ Sheep Industry Strategic Plan 2020

⁴ Beef Industry Strategic Plan 2020

Future Feedbase Scenarios

Research, development and adoption (RD&A) activities to identify regionally specific approaches that will enable a sustained increase in carrying capacity from optimisation of the available forage sources, and demonstrate and extend regional approaches known to sustainably increase carrying capacity

National priorities identified by regional consultation*
W1: Filling the feed gaps in Mediterranean systems
W1: Diversity in the feedbase
W4: Understanding and benchmarking profitability per hectare of current and future production systems
S1: Participatory research into fodder/feed systems for climate zones to fill feed gaps that are utilised to lift red meat production
S2: Develop pasture species resilient to climate variability giving longer vegetation growth for regions
S3: Innovative regional approaches to engage providers to lift quality, quantity and utilization of feedbase to lift production
N3: Research into how to sustainably develop to support increased carrying capacity
N4: Optimising production from the feedbase

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Key industry performance indicators by Industry Strategic Plan			
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Productivity and profitability			
Production efficiencies in farms and feedlots	Production efficiency in farms and feedlots	Production efficiency in farms and in intensive finishing systems	Production efficiency on farms
By 2020, improvement in total factor productivity of: 1.75% (southern beef); 0.5% (northern beef); 0.5% (sheepmeat)	Minimum whole-of-sector increases in productivity growth above baseline levels: Northern beef production sector- 0.5% by 2020 and 2.5% by 2030 Southern beef production sector- 1.75% by 2020 and 7% by 2030 Sheepmeat production sector - 1.5% by 2020 and 5% by 2030	Reduction in the cost of on-farm sheepmeat production (\$/kg liveweight) by 1.5% by 2020, and 5% by 2030	Increasing productivity growth above baseline: Southern beef production of 1.75% by 2020 and 7% by 2030 Northern beef production of 0.5% by 2020 and 2.5% by 2030

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Profitable and Efficient Ruminant Nutrition

Research, development and adoption activities that result in increased levels of animal productivity and enterprise profitability from improved rumen function and from targeted and strategic supplementation practices for both the sheepmeat and grassfed beef sectors

National RD&A priority identified by regional consultation*	
W2: Mediterranean farming systems	On-ground research into feed value of chaff carts and piles including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential additives to improve nutritional value, e.g., urea • Economic analysis of chaff pile feed value for both livestock and mixed farming systems
W6: Optimising profitability through strategic supplementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additives to green feed to increase conversion rate of energy to liveweight gain • Mineral/acidity effect on pastures (re: stock mineral deficiencies) • Cheap and simple systems of mineral and vitamin supplementation and when most valuable • Effects of mineral nutrition or grazing and irrigated pastures • Effectiveness of mineral and grain supplements in rangelands • Which supplements aid ME process and which don't? • Non-protein nitrogen/urea versus true protein for lamb growth, carcass and eating quality, reproduction
N2: Rumen technologies to improve efficiency	

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