



meatup FORUM

Naracoorte, SA

Wednesday 12 March 2025

About MLA

Meat & Livestock Australia Limited (MLA) delivers research, development and marketing services to Australia's cattle, sheep and goat producers. MLA has approximately 50,000 livestock producer members who have stakeholder entitlements in the company.



Agenda

8.00am	Registration desk opens, tea and coffee available	
Session 1		
9.00am	Welcome, housekeeping and forum schedule	
	MLA: Welcome and market update Michael Laurence Program Manager – Animal Wellbeing, MLA	
	Generating supply chain value Will Atkinson Meat Standards Australia – Business Development Officer, MLA	
	Containment feeding – The good, the bad and the ugly Deb Scammell Talking Livestock	
10.50–11.20am	Morning tea	
Session 2		
	The power of on-farm data: What and when Sally Martin Sheep MetriX	
	Mum's not angry, just disappointed Professor Wayne Pitchford Davies Livestock Research Centre, University of Adelaide	
	Virtual Farm Tour – Addressing the autumn feed gap Q&A session with producers	
1.10–2.10pm	Lunch	
Session 3		
	Sheep	Carbon and soils
	Moneyball for sheep James Starling	Pathways for on-farm reductions in carbon emissions Dr. Karen Christie-Whitehead
	Feeding through lambing Sam Clothier, Toby Hassell and Deb Scammell	Soil and pasture investments in 2025 – Where do we start? Felicity Turner and Mel Fraser
Session 4		
	Fast tracking genetic progress – The latest tools and technology to maximise gain Peta Bradley Manager – Sheep Genetics, MLA	
3.45–4.15pm	Afternoon tea	
	Optimising ewe performance over the lambing period Martin Beltrame Zoetis	
Wrap-up		
	Wrap-up and evaluation	
5.00pm	Networking drinks and canapés	

Contents

◆ Program – Naracoorte, 12 March 2025.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
◆ Welcome.....	5

Sessions

Session 1

◆ MLA welcome and update.....	6
◆ Generating supply chain value	Error! Bookmark not defined.
◆ Containment feeding – The good, the bad and the ugly.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Session 2

◆ The power of on-farm data: What and when.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
◆ Mum's not angry, just disappointed.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
◆ Virtual Farm Tour – Addressing the autumn feed gap	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Session 3

Breakout 1: Sheep

◆ Moneyball for sheep.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
◆ Feeding through lambing.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Breakout 2: Carbon and soils

◆ Pathways for on-farm reductions in carbon emissions	26
◆ Soil and pasture investments in 2025 – Where do we start?	28

Session 4

◆ Fast tracking genetic progress – The latest tools and technology to maximise gain	30
◆ Optimising ewe performance over the lambing period	32
◆ My take-home messages and actions	34

Welcome

MLA's MeatUp Forums are held throughout southern Australia to give you the latest in red meat R&D. They are developed by regional producer working groups that include members from the Southern Australia and Western Australia Livestock Research Councils, in collaboration with MLA staff.

MLA's MeatUp Forums have been developed to keep you informed about:

- ◆ what MLA can offer your red meat business
- ◆ new and completed R&D that is relevant to your region and enterprise
- ◆ the role and responsibilities of the livestock research councils
- ◆ opportunities to get involved in regional R&D and priority-setting
- ◆ practical tools and programs available to you
- ◆ opportunities to enhance your productivity and profitability.

Today you will be presented with clear and practical ideas, information, and tools that you can take home and put into practice on-farm. We thank all presenters for their involvement in MeatUp and encourage you to make the most of your time with them today.

Regional producer working group

We thank MeatUp Forum regional producer working group members from South Australia for their contribution to MeatUp. The current working group includes:

- ◆ Emily Hassell, Millicent
- ◆ Penny Schulz, Coonalpyn
- ◆ Lynton Arney, Finnis
- ◆ Sam Clothier, Woomoolool

In addition, we would like to thank:

- ◆ Our 2025 gold sponsor,
- ◆ Elizabeth Thelander, Profitable Grazing Systems Project Manager and Madison Coster, Event Coordinator for the Adoption Programs, MLA.

If you are interested in joining our regional producer working group, please chat to a working group member or a member of the MeatUp Forum team.

Event location

Naracoorte Town Hall | 95 Smith Street, Naracoorte SA

Forum Coordinator Contact

Elizabeth Thelander
Meat & Livestock Australia
M: 0428 472 983
P: 02 9463 9134
E: ethelander@mla.com.au

Setting the scene

MeatUp Naracoorte Master of Ceremonies



Ashlee Wachtel

Principal Consultant

Tailored Livestock Consulting

E: ash@tailoredlivestockconsulting.com

P: 0474 255 137

About Ashlee

Ashlee Wachtel is the principal consultant at Tailored Livestock Consulting (TLC) based at Robe in the South-East of South Australia. Her passion for the sheep and beef industry developed from a young age working on her family's sheep property. After completing a Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Adelaide, Ashlee worked for 8 years in livestock health and nutrition advisory roles before starting her consulting business in 2020. TLC enables Ashlee to provide independent, tailored animal health and nutrition advice to sheep and beef producers on best practice management that drives performance and profit. Ashlee enjoys working one-on-one and with extension groups which is rewarding when producers can learn and share from each other's experiences.

MLA Welcome and market update



Dr. Michael Laurence

Program Manager – Animal Wellbeing, MLA

E: mlaurence@mla.com.au

About Michael

Michael joined MLA in March 2020. He is the Program Manager of the Animal Wellbeing portfolio where he has responsibility for research and adoption investments in animal health, welfare and biosecurity.

Michael has been a cattle veterinarian for 24 years and has practiced in rural Australia and the UK.

He was head of production animal medicine as an academic at Murdoch University for the 14 years up to his appointment at MLA. His research focus during this time was on the measurement of the pain of surgical husbandry as well as disease management in intensive supply chains. Michael continues to supervise PhD students and conduct research and has a passion for translating improvement in on-farm animal welfare into measurable value for producers.

Relevant tools and resources

◆ Market update trends and analysis

MLA's Market Information analysts examine and interpret developments in, and prospects for, the Australian domestic market, key export markets and major competitors, producing a wide range of publications.



◆ MLA's 2023–24 *Producer Adoption Outcomes Report*

The 2023–24 *Producer Adoption Outcomes Report* outlines the depth and breadth of adoption projects and programs that Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) delivered for the 2023–24 financial year and how red meat producers benefited from their involvement in them.



◆ MLA membership application

MLA membership is free to levy-paying producers of grass or grain fed cattle, sheep, lambs and/or goats. Benefits of membership include:

- participation and voting rights at the MLA Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- discounts for a range of MLA products and services, ordered via the myMLA catalogue
- invitations to local MLA events
- free subscription to MLA's regular member magazine *Feedback*
- free subscriptions to MLA suite of e-newsletters
- free access to up-to-date publications and information tools.



◆ MLA Producer Demonstration Sites

Producer Demonstration Sites (PDS) are on-farm projects run by producer groups who want to validate the benefits of incorporating research findings into their businesses. MLA calls for preliminary applications for PDS projects that will help to improve the profitability, productivity and sustainability of beef and sheep meat enterprises on an annual basis.



◆ **MLA Profitable Grazing Systems program**

Profitable Grazing Systems is a group-based delivery program designed to deliver training and coaching over several months and up to a year to improve producer skills and knowledge. The aim is to achieve practice change on-farm in the areas of people, business, reproduction and genetics, value chain and feedbase.



◆ **MLA BredWell FedWell**

BredWell FedWell is a practical, one-day workshop highlighting the key production benefits of superior genetics, plus feed management for improved reproductive performance and livestock productivity. New workshops are coming soon, follow the QR code to express interest.



◆ **MLA EDGE Network**

EDGE Network workshops offer practical knowledge and skills on topics such as breeding and genetics, business management, nutrition, grazing and land management. Workshops range from one to three days.



TRI-SOLFEN®
Better Choices • Better Outcomes



Tri-Solfen® is the first step in delivering best practice pain relief for calves during disbudding, dehorning and surgical castration. This easy-to-apply, spray-on gel provides immediate and lasting relief against acute pain for up to 24 hours¹, reduces bleeding; protects against infection; and facilitates wound healing. Tri-Solfen is ideal for use in combination with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (e.g. meloxicam) to provide comprehensive, longer-lasting relief from both acute and chronic pain.² **Contact Dechra, your rural reseller or veterinarian and find out how providing pain relief using Tri-Solfen is a better choice for your livestock, your business and your industry.**

AVAILABLE OVER THE COUNTER!

trisolfen.com.au | 1300 015 825

Reference: 1. Lomax, S. & Windsor, P. (2013). Topical anaesthesia mitigates the pain of castration in beef calves. *J. Anim. Sci.* 91(10):4945-52. 2. Inglis, L. et al. (2019). Behavioural measures reflect pain-mitigating effects of meloxicam in combination with Tri-Solfen in mulesed Merino lambs. *Animal* 13(11): 2588-2593. *Tri-Solfen is a registered trademark of Animal Ethics Pty Ltd. ©Dechra Veterinary Products (Australia) Pty Ltd, 2024. DEC24656.

Notes

Generating supply chain value



Will Atkinson

MSA Business Development Officer

Meat & Livestock Australia

E: watkinson@mla.com.au

MSA Enquiries: 1800 111 672

About Will

Will grew up on a breeder cattle property in the Southern Tablelands of NSW, where he worked on his family property and for mixed farming enterprises in the region. After completing a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University he moved to Brisbane to work for MLA in the MSA program. Here he spends his time working closely with MSA producers, processors, and their end users to help the supply chain improve the overall eating quality of beef and sheepmeat and better utilize the products on hand. As part of his role, Will runs workshops with producers about how to understand carcass feedback and what are the on-farm levers producers can pull to make a measurable difference to the quality of their livestock. This includes helping producers better understand MSA grading and how they can produce livestock that provides a consistent quality product for our consumers.

Session abstract

This presentation will provide an overview of the MSA Beef and Sheepmeat models, including how carcass feedback information can be utilised by producers to strengthen their red meat performance.

Providing producers with key information on how to identify and set performance benchmarks, including comparisons to regional, state and national databases. Producers will gain an understanding of the key drivers of quality that can be utilised to make tangible improvements on farm. Including the market specifications producers need to be aware of when thinking about carcass performance and breeding objectives.

Enabling tools and resources will also be discussed, including MLA's new myFeedback platform.

Released in November 2023 myFeedback is the only industry-based tool which brings together data from multiple sources, allowing for aggregated benchmarking by supply chain, region, state or national levels. It combines the benefits of carcass and eating quality data with animal disease and defect insights in one place, enabling more accurate benchmarking of carcass performance for all users. The platform is designed to help producers make data-driven on-farm decisions to improve the quality and health of their livestock.

myFeedback combines analytical reports, using data derived from:

- National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)
- Meat Standards Australia (MSA)
- Animal Health Australia (AHA)
- National Livestock Reporting Service (NLRS)
- Direct Animal Disease and Defect Uploads

Finishing with a future outlook of the exciting R&D and value creators for industry.

Notes

Containment feeding - The good, the bad and the ugly



Deb Scammell

Consultant

Talking Livestock

E: deb@talkinglivestock.com.au

P: 0407 790 622

About Deb

Deb is a consultant at Talking Livestock, a livestock business based in the Clare Valley, SA.

Talking Livestock specialises in nutrition and health to improve livestock production on farm, as well as running industry courses, workshops and speaking at industry events.

After running a project in containment feeding and after a run of dry seasons, Deb has been heavily involved in containment feeding set ups, improvements and nutrition and supplementation in dry times.

Prior to commencing her own company, Deb worked in the nutrition space, sheep genetics, sheep research and eID.

Deb completed a bachelor of Agricultural Science at Adelaide University with Honours in Animal Science and has completed ruminant nutrition post-graduation.

Session abstract

Containment feeding has emerged as an essential tool in dry times to preserve ground cover, retain feed on offer in paddocks and look after livestock condition and health.

There are many different ways to set up – which is the best way and what is going to suit your enterprise?

If you are containment feeding, how do you get the results you are after and can you actually improve lambing results by utilising containment?

What can go wrong? We'll step through strategies we can use when setting up pens and when managing ewes in containment to avoid common issues.

Deb will share her experiences, the Good, the Bad and the Ugly of containment feeding.

Notes

The power of on-farm data: What and when



Sally Martin

Managing Director & Senior Consultant

SheepMetriX

E: hello@sheepmetrix.com.au

About Sally

Sally grew up on a grazing property on the Monaro, studied a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at UWS Hawkesbury and Post Grad studies at UNE and Sydney Uni focusing on Genetics and Animal Breeding.

Sally's career has taken a number of paths, working with NSW DPI for approximately 20 years to now running her own consultancy business, SheepMetriX, since 2011, based out of Young NSW. The SheepMetriX team currently service sheep and goat producers across Australia and internationally, with a focus on assisting clients capture and utilise data to make informed decisions.

Sally has extensive experience and knowledge working in livestock production systems, advising on grazing management, animal health, and reproduction with particular focus on genetic selection and breeding program design.

Sally has delivered key industry extension and research programs, with a key emphasis on navigating ways to take the science and find practical implementation solutions on farm.

Sally currently sits on a number of industry boards and committees including Sheep Genetics Advisory Committee, Precision Sheep Management Project, Measured Goat Project, NSW eID Implementation Reference Group, Peter Westblade Scholarship and Monaro Farming Systems group.

Session abstract

Effective decision-making in livestock enterprises relies on timely and accurate data collection. This presentation explores the key types of on-farm data that can be gathered across various production systems, regardless of enterprise. A critical focus will be on the timing of data collection—ensuring information is available when it matters most for key management, breeding and selection decisions.

Mum's not angry, just disappointed.



Professor Wayne Pitchford

Director, Davies Livestock Research Centre

Adelaide University

E: Wayne.Pitchford@adelaide.edu.au

P: 0418 809 688

About Wayne

Wayne has been teaching animal breeding and genetics, livestock production and meat science at Adelaide University for 33 years. He has been a Research Leader in the Beef CRC and ALMTech programs, and Director of the Pork CRC. With his wife Judith and son James, they farm at Keith. He is also Chairman of their local Church at Echunga.

Session abstract

Results will be reported on projects on breeder herd productivity. Measurements on large numbers of heifers (>14,000) in nine commercial herds across multiple years have demonstrated significant lost potential productivity.

There were losses at all points but the biggest loss was in heifer pregnancy rates. Management strategies to address this can be implemented relatively simply by growing heifers to greater weights and joining in spring. Some genetic aspects will be touched on as well.

We are often asked for clear targets so here goes:

- ◆ Heifer joining weights above 350kg for winter joining
- ◆ Heifer joining weights above 300kg for spring joining
- ◆ 80% in calf within two cycles (6 week joining) for heifers and cows

The findings are being packaged into training material that will work with producer groups focused on maximizing productivity and resilience of pasture-based production systems.

Notes

Virtual Farm Tour: Addressing the autumn feed gap challenges



John Kidman

Producer

Rackhams

About John

John Kidman is a sheep and cattle farmer based in Penola, South Australia – which is the oldest town in the southeast.

He was born in Penola where he attended school until high school, when he had to relocate like many others to Adelaide – due to a lack of schooling in Penola. After Adelaide he came home to work on the family farm, but like most aspiring farmers at his age, spent a lot of time working off-farm which in hindsight was a good learning curve.

By the time he was in his late twenties, he began purchasing parcels of adjacent land and now farm with his property being in one block.



Nick Clarke

Producer

Woomera Homestead

About Nick

Nick is a multi-generational prime lamb and cattle farmer from Furner South Australia, managing the 1200 ha property with his wife, 2 girls and parents.



Todd Woodard

Producer

Peel Pastoral

About Todd

Todd grew up on a small family farm near Mt Compass in South Australia and graduated from RAC in 1988. He studied Farm Management and Agricultural Production.

From 1988-1990, Todd worked on a sheep stud in WA. He then went on to manage a dairy farm at Meningie and a second farm near Kingston, SA from 1990-1993. That then saw Todd move to manage large corporate irrigation and livestock stations at Hay and Darlington Point, NSW from 1993-1997.

Since 1997, Todd has been the Director and part-owner of a family owned and run grazing business based in Wrattenbully, SA. He is passionate about running a sustainable grazing business, with a great focus on animals, grass and soils.

He believes that well managed grazing systems can build humus and carbon, that will go a long way to increase soil productivity and carbon capture.

Session abstract

The autumn feed gap is a critical challenge for red meat producers in the Naracoorte region of South Australia, impacting livestock performance and farm profitability. In this interactive virtual farm tour session, we will explore how three local producers — John, Nick, and Todd — are tackling this issue through innovative management strategies and diverse enterprise approaches. Each producer will share insights into their operations, focusing on feed planning, pasture management, and handling dry seasons, providing practical solutions to help overcome the seasonal feed shortage.

Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the different approaches to bridging the autumn feed gap, from strategic grazing rotations to supplementary feeding. The session will also highlight the importance of adaptive management and the value of data-driven decision-making in maintaining livestock health and production during this challenging period.

By following the virtual tour of these three farming enterprises, attendees will see valuable tools and strategies used by these producers to manage feed resources, enhance productivity, and increase farm resilience.

Notes

Breakout - Sheep

Moneyball for sheep: How to identify what a sheep is worth



James Starling

Owner

Telang Lamb + Beef

Contact: telang.com.au

About James

James is a 5th generation grazier producing first cross lambs and Angus cattle across 2 properties on the Limestone Coast in SA and in Southwest Victoria. He returned to the family farm after a 20-year career in finance that saw him live and work in 6 countries around the world, managing money in Global Macro themes for Investment Banks and Hedge Funds. He has a Bachelor of Commerce from Melbourne University, a Master of Applied Finance from Macquarie University and an MBA from INSEAD. He has applied his economic knowledge to answer the question: what is a sheep worth?

Session abstract

- ◆ What is a sheep worth?
- ◆ Prices are easily observed on sale day, but value is not. It can only be evaluated after the fact.
- ◆ Value is a function of a sheep's production, whether for meat, wool or both.
- ◆ To be able to accurately value a sheep, one must have an idea of its potential production.
- ◆ While nothing is certain, you don't want to blindly gamble when evaluating a sheep's potential, you want to make an educated guess to skew the odds in your favour.
- ◆ Capturing and analysing data is the key to skewing the odds of success in your favour.
- ◆ Case study of Telang Lamb + Beef exploring how data is captured, analysed and used on farm.

Notes

Panel discussion - Feeding through lambing



Deb Scammell

Consultant

Talking Livestock

E: deb@talkinglivestock.com.au

P: 0407790622



Sam Clothier

Owner / Manager

GW and CL Clothier and Sons

Ph: 0437626081

About Sam

Sam is the Owner/Manager of 850ha in Lucindale and Naracoorte. The operation consists of lambing 3000 XB and Merino ewes, trading cattle and 10,000 laying hens in a pasture raised system, in conjunction with his parents and brother. Sam's role in his business is farm production and managing the animals to maximize output through, higher lambing percentages, getting more ewe lambs pregnant, supplementary feed management, and increasing lay rate.

Sam has a Bachelor of Business in Farm Management.



Toby Hassell

Owner / Manager

Hassell Farming Pty Ltd

About Toby

Toby completed an Advance Diploma in Farm Management at Marcus Oldham College and worked as an overseer on a beef and sheep enterprise in NSW prior to returning to the southeast in 2005.

Toby produces beef and lamb with his wife Emily on their grazing property near Beachport in the southeast of South Australia.

Here they run 1st cross and composite ewes producing terminal lambs as well as a herd of self-replacing spring calving angus cows.

The business operates with a focus on profitability, productivity and sustainability.

Session abstract

In this panel discussion, Deb will interview Sam and Toby to explore their experiences from feeding through the lambing period. Hear first-hand, what worked, what didn't and how they would do things differently in the future.

Notes

Breakout – Carbon and soils

Pathways for on-farm reductions in carbon emissions



Dr. Karen Christie-Whitehead

Research Fellow

Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (University of Tasmania)

E: Karen.christie-whitehead@utas.edu.au

About Karen

Dr Karen Christie-Whitehead is a Research Fellow at the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, a joint-venture between the Tasmanian State Government and the University of Tasmania. Her research career, spanning 30+ years, is centered around whole farm systems modelling of ruminant greenhouse gas emissions (beef, sheep and dairy) including exploring pathways to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and climate change adaptation options.

Recent publications include exploring the impacts of extreme climates on soil carbon, advancing the quantification of Australia's beef cattle and sheep emissions, and exploring a range of mitigation options to reduce beef cattle and sheep greenhouse gas emissions in a productive and profitable manner while also considering the biodiversity implications of such options.

Session abstract

With a burgeoning global population, pressure from society on the agricultural sector is increasingly being derived from multiple directions. There is a need to improve food production as global food demand increases while concurrently adapting to the changing climate, particularly that relating to extreme weather events. At the same time, innovations for sustainably reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to alleviate rates of global warming and prevent dangerous climate change must be developed and implemented. Farms, too, are businesses, so those innovations must result in enterprise profit and prosperity, lest farmers will be unable to endure. Agricultural land area is finite, so some areas must be preserved or restored to protect and encourage native and endangered biodiversity and natural capital. As such, the need for development of innovations that improve productivity, profitability and biodiversity while reducing GHG emissions are now urgently called for.

The Australian livestock sector has significantly reduced GHG emissions over time, but mostly due to avoided deforestation, with livestock-derived emissions remaining relatively stable. For the red meat industry to continue to strive towards being a carbon neutral livestock section by 2030 (CN30 Initiative), we must explore options that can either further reduce on-farm derived GHG emissions and/or increase on-farm carbon sinks. Using 13 case study farms located throughout Australia (six cattle and seven sheep farms), we have explored a range of interventions targeted at reducing GHG emissions, while also considering the co-benefits and trade-offs of such interventions on farm production, profits and biodiversity.

Soil and Pasture Investments in 2025 – Where Do We Start?



Felicity Turner

Soil Sunlight Strategists

E: felicity@turneragri.com.au



Dr. Melissa Fraser

Soil Sunlight Strategists

E: mel@soilfunction.com.au

About Felicity and Melissa

At Soil Sunlight Strategists, we empower farmers with the knowledge and tools to make informed, sustainable agricultural decisions. A partnership between Soil Function Consulting and Turner Agriservices, we combine sound soil science, agronomic expertise, data-driven insights and practical experience to optimise soil health, maximise sunlight utilisation, and enhance productivity. Our mission is to support growers in building resilient farming systems that drive efficiency, profitability, and environmental stewardship for future generations.

Session abstract

In 2025, optimising soil and pasture isn't just about productivity; it's about making data-driven, financially sound decisions to ensure the business can continue to move forward.

Should you renovate a pasture or grow an annual? Which paddocks should be prioritised? What are the potential soil considerations? Where are you going to get your biggest bang for buck?

In this interactive session Melissa and Felicity will work through the key pasture investment decisions that you are likely to be making and providing tips and tools to aid in the decision-making process. They will work through the importance of knowing your paddocks & your numbers; working out how to prioritise investment based on the potential increase in stocking rate and the return per DSE.

In 2025, getting soil and pasture right isn't just about growing more feed—it's about making smarter, more profitable decisions for the long haul.

Fast tracking genetic progress – the latest tools and technology to maximise gain



Peta Bradley

Manager – Sheep Genetics

Meat & Livestock Australia

E: pbradley@mla.com.au

P: 0419 158 449

About Peta

Peta is the Manager of Sheep Genetics with Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) and has held various roles within the MLA Livestock Genetics team over nearly 8 years. This includes roles within Sheep Genetics and across the Beef and Sheep Genetics R&D portfolio. She completed a Bachelor of Rural Science at the University of New England in 2017. Peta is based on a property near Armatree in Central West New South Wales where her family run a commercial and seedstock sheep operation alongside a cropping enterprise. Her passion includes enabling producers to access Australia's world leading genetic evaluation service and using it to drive meaningful results on-farm.

Session abstract

The rams and bulls purchased this coming sale season will still be having an impact on your flock and herd in 5-10+ years' time. This presentation will explore the cutting-edge advancements in Sheep Genetics that are enabling faster genetic progress for your business this year and into the future.

Key topics will include:

- ◆ Development of ASBVs (Australian Sheep Breeding Values): Updates to the ongoing development and refinement of ASBVs to support genetic progress.
- ◆ New Traits and Indexes: Introduction of novel traits and new selection indexes that are shaping the future of sheep breeding.
- ◆ Combined LAMBPLAN Evaluation: Hear about the roll-out of the world-leading evaluation for all key LAMBPLAN breeds.
- ◆ Flock Profile: How flock profile is used in the suite of genetic products on offer and new updates and advances to this tool.
- ◆ Genomic Products for Commercial Producers: New genomic tools designed to meet the needs of commercial sheep producers.

Optimising ewe performance over the lambing period



Martin Beltrame

Professional Sales Representative

Zoetis

E: martin.beltrame@zoetis.com

P: 0418 812 457

About Martin

Martin looks after the livestock portfolio for Zoetis in the southeast of South Australia and works closely with rural resellers, vet clinics and producers. The livestock portfolio is comprised of vaccines, parasiticides, veterinary medicines and genomics, to improve on farm productivity and animal health. Martin has been working in animal health for over 6 years. Prior to this Martin was the cattle operations manager for Coolana Rural located at Chatsworth, Western Victoria and has spent all his career in the livestock industry.

Session abstract

Management during the pre-lambing period is critical to optimise both lamb and ewe survival. Ewes have increased nutritional demands heading into late gestation. Failure to provide adequate nutrition can result in a range of metabolic diseases (1).

Colostrum is the first milk produced by the ewe. Lambs rely on colostrum intake for protection against diseases in the first weeks of life. Better quality and quantity of colostrum can increase a lamb's immune response to disease (2). Lambs that receive inadequate colostrum have higher mortality rates (3). Producers can use pre-lambing vaccinations to help improve the quality of the ewe colostrum.

Peri-parturient relaxation of immunity means that ewes are more susceptible to parasites in the time leading up to and post lambing. Decision making around internal parasite management in the pre-lambing period is especially important (4). Multiple strategies can help to mitigate risk associated with substantial nematode burdens over the lambing period. These include preparations of low worm burden pastures, ensuring any drenches used are effective for that property and the appropriate use of a long-acting product over the lambing period.

1. Abbott K. The Practice of Sheep Veterinary Medicine 2019.
2. Castro N, Capote J, Bruckmaier RM, Argüello A. Management effects on colostrogenesis in small ruminants: a review. Journal of Applied Animal Research. 2011;39(2):85-93.
3. Sawyer M, Fau - Willadsen CH, Willadsen CH, Fau - Osburn BI, Osburn BI, Fau - McGuire TC, McGuire TC. Passive transfer of colostral immunoglobulins from ewe to lamb and its influence on neonatal lamb mortality. (0003-1488 (Print)).
4. Beasley AM, Kahn LP, Windon RG. The periparturient relaxation of immunity in Merino ewes infected with *Trichostrongylus colubriformis*: Parasitological and immunological responses. Veterinary Parasitology. 2010;168(1):60-70.

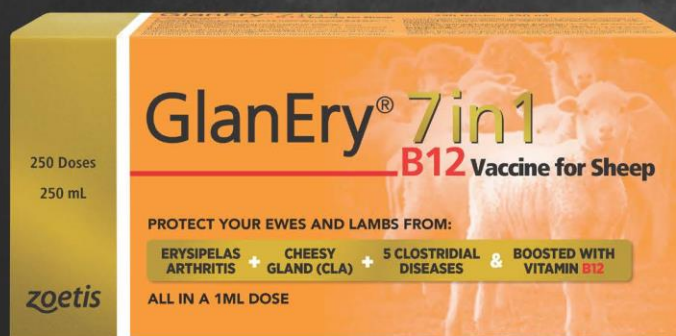
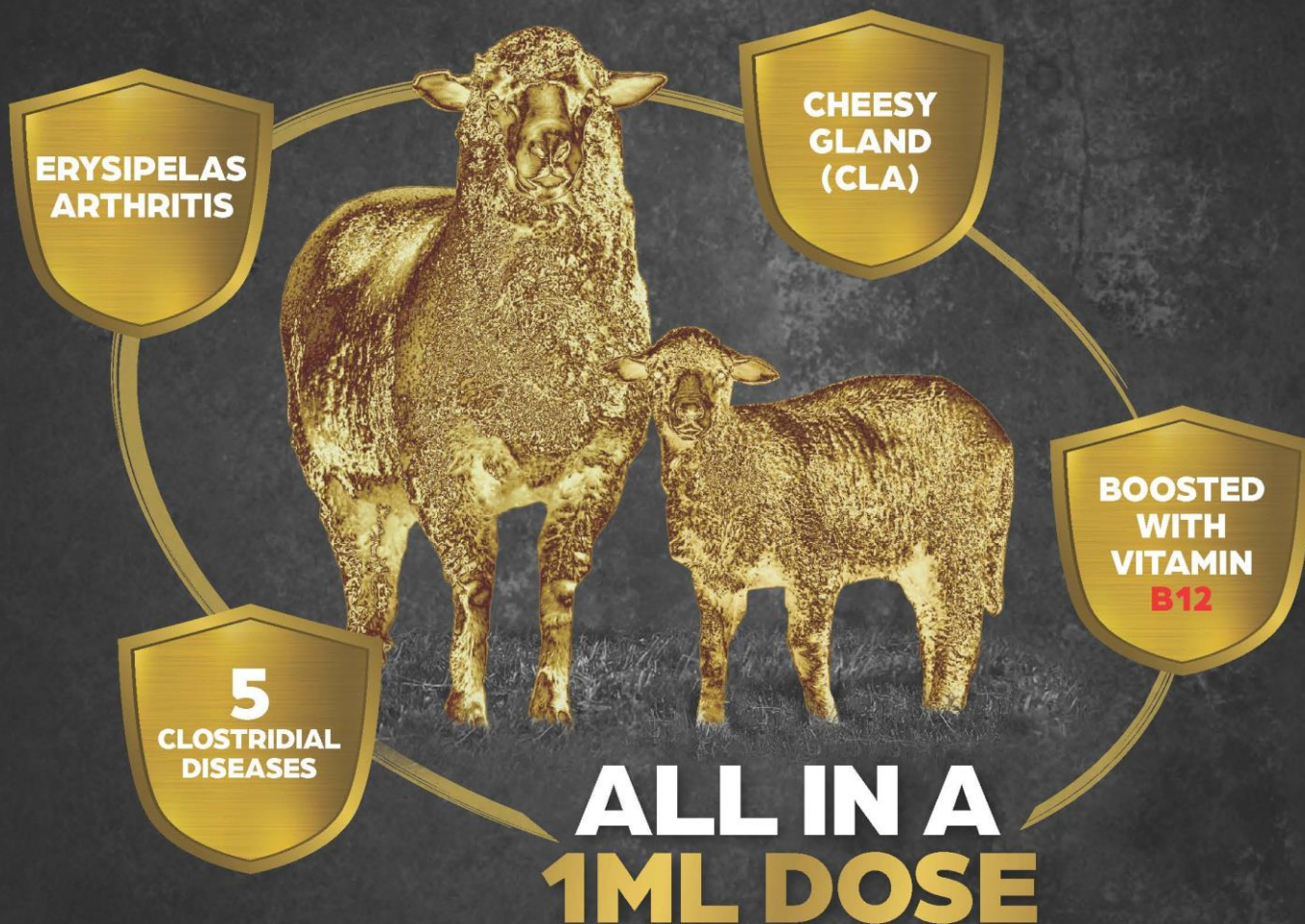
My take-home messages and actions

Reflect on the presentations delivered at the MeatUp Forum. For those of relevance to you, note the session title, your key messages, and actions you can take to implement ideas.

Session	Action – things I could do to implement ideas

GlanEry® 7in1 B12

THE NEW GOLD STANDARD OF SHEEP VACCINES



- ✓ Stops **Lame Lambs** (Erysipelas arthritis)
- ✓ Protects your **Wool Cut**
- ✓ Protects **Meat Quality**
- ✓ More **Lambs to Sell**
- ✓ **Easy to use & Convenient**

Zoetis Australia Pty Ltd. ABN 94 156 476 425. Level 6, 5 Rider Boulevard, Rhodes NSW 2138. © 2023 Zoetis Inc. All rights reserved. May 2023. ZL1704.



Livestock**Solutions** Information in your hands | [ZOETIS.COM.AU/LS](https://zoetis.com.au/ls)

zoetis

MLA's EDGEnetwork® (EDGE) delivers northern research & development and helps red meat producers improve productivity and profitability. Face-to-face workshops allow producers to develop new skills, learn from others in the industry and access the latest research, leading to effective practice change in their businesses.

Grazing fundamentals EDGE

Foundations for grazing production

A one-day workshop to give you a broad understanding of grazing production system components and the core, scientifically-backed principles to optimise grazing land productivity.



Breeding EDGE

Build a more reproductive herd

A three-day workshop to evaluate the performance of your breeding program and identify strategies for higher productivity and reduced reproductive loss.



Nutrition EDGE

Nutrition fundamentals to hit production goals

A three-day workshop to understand optimal use of supplements and the nutrition required to reduce mortality, improve fertility and boost weight gains in your herd.



Business EDGE

Know your business, grow your business

A two-day workshop to enhance your financial management and improve business efficiency and profitability. You will also develop strategies to deal with financial risk and external market factors.



Grazing land management EDGE

Strategies for long-lasting grazing potential

A three-day workshop to thoroughly understand your grazing environment and strategically manage your grazing business to optimise land condition and productivity in the long-term.



Carbon EDGE

Taking carbon from a concept to an action plan

Carbon EDGE is a new two-day training program for the red meat industry, providing participants with an understanding of the opportunities for emissions reduction and carbon storage activities in a livestock grazing business.

