

Goat Genetic Improvement Strategies

MDC Projects

Purpose and background

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) is committed to partnering with industry partners and producer groups to improve business profitability and productivity.

MLA is calling for applications for MDC projects related to improving goat enterprise profitability and productivity through improvements to herd genetics. Projects submitted against these terms of reference will focus on developing strategies for genetic improvements in goat herds and on demonstrating and accelerating the rate of genetic gain. MDC projects have matched funding.

Projects may be conducted in a range of situations including, on research stations or on commercial properties and may deploy existing tools, technologies and management practices or develop a new approach to supporting improved genetic gain. Demonstration of production and economic benefits, within the local environment and across the supply chain is the desired outcome.

Priority areas:

Applicants should address one or more of the following priority areas.

Category	Priority
Goat Herd Genetic Improvement Strategies	1. Demonstration of the farm and value chain benefits of improved genetic selection practices . Focus areas could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Benchmarking</u> of herd performance b. <u>Genetic improvement strategies</u> based on breeding objectives including identification of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ targeted traits (estimated breeding values (EBV's) and heritability) ○ performance objectives ○ duration ○ matching strategies to environmental conditions c. Increase the demand for bucks with high genetic merit for economically important traits d. Implementation of <u>practice change</u> to improve herd genetic performance e. <u>Evaluation</u> of the impact on herd productivity and profitability f. Carcase and or eating quality outcomes
	2. Demonstration of the application of technologies and tools, which facilitate improvements to the effectiveness of current genetic selection practices , accelerating the rate of genetic gain.

	<p>3. Development & demonstration of the application of remote animal management tools or technologies to support herd development through a goat breeding program and genetic improvement strategy</p>
	<p>4. Development of supporting resources and tools for goat producers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Adaptation of strategies for improving genetic selection from sheep/beef enterprises to goat and improving the awareness of goat genetics extension resources b. Develop better feedback systems and decision support tools to encourage the use of genetic information by commercial goat producers.

Applications close on 1st February 2021 and applicants are encouraged to contact the relevant MLA Managers prior to submitting applications.

See separate tender documents for further information and templates required to submit applications.

For further information:

- Joe Gebbels, MLA Program Manager, Sheep & Goat Productivity Research & Development, Phone: 0407 002 928, email: jgebbels@mla.com.au
- Emily Litzow, MLA Project Manager, Sheep & Goat Productivity Research & Development, Phone 0428 917 047 elitzow@mla.com.au