

Dr Joan Lloyd, Joan Lloyd Consulting

Sheep Best Practice Husbandry Guide



Sheep best practice husbandry guide
Today's presentation

- Project history
- Approach
- The final draft

Sheep best practice husbandry guide

History of the project

- Project initiated by the sheep and lamb industries in 2008
- Call for proposals in response to a brief prepared by MLA and AWI at the request of the Peak Councils



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Sheep best practice husbandry guide

Background

“The sheep and lamb industries are continually looking to improve the health and welfare of livestock on farm. It is important that all livestock owner’s, managers and students are aware of current best practice for on-farm husbandry procedures. Although the majority of the industry is adopting best practice, it is timely to assemble the most up to date information on husbandry procedures into a single guide that can be used by livestock managers, employees and students.”



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Project brief

- Extensive list of procedures
- Mulesing would be excluded except for reference to the NMAP and manual
- Requirement for extensive consultation to achieve widespread adoption of the Guide
- MLA publication 'A guide to best practice husbandry in beef cattle' to be used as a template
- The Guide would be training and reference manual to support Making More from Sheep



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Approach



Sheep best practice husbandry guide

Project team

- Joan Lloyd
- Matt Playford
- Bruce Farquharson
- Warren Godson



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Phases of the project

- Initial contact with stakeholders
- Background research and preparation of first draft
- Phase one consultation
- Phase two consultation
- Delivery of Guide in ready-to-print format (May 2009)



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Stakeholders

- Sheep and lamb producers
- Sheepmeat Council of Australia
- WoolProducers Australia
- MLA & AWI
- Livestock Contractors Association
- Australian, State and Territory government departments
- Australian Veterinary Association, Australian Sheep Veterinary Association
- Animal Health Australia
- RSPCA
- Rural Resellers
- Animal Health Alliance
- APVMA
- Occupational health & safety authorities
- Australian agricultural colleges
- Australian veterinary faculties



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Procedures

- Handling (mustering, yarding and restraining)
- Lamb marking (castrating, tail-docking, identifying)
- Injections (including vaccinations)
- Collecting faecal samples
- Oral treatments (including drenching)
- Dipping, jetting and backlining
- Crutching, wiggling and ringing
- Wool harvesting
- Horn trimming
- Foot inspecting and paring
- Mouthing
- Humane destruction



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Approach to multiple methods

- Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Sheep

- Four criteria

- *Animal health & welfare – Does the method minimise the potential for adverse effects? Does the method enable or compromise high standards of animal welfare?*

- *Effectiveness – Does the method effectively achieve the aim of the husbandry procedure?*

- *Occupational health & safety – Does the method impact on the health & safety of the operator (insecticide concentrates, sheep blood or urine, sharp cutting tools)?*

- *Workplace productivity – Does the method allow large numbers of sheep to be processed efficiently without compromising operator safety or animal welfare?*



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Consultation

- Phase one consultation in October 2008

- Guide extensively revised November 2008

- At request of MLA, phase two consultation restricted to MLA, AWI and Peak Councils

- Print-ready draft delivered to MLA and AWI May 2009



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Sheep best practice husbandry guide

The final draft



A guide to best practice husbandry in sheep



Sheep best practice husbandry guide

Project finalisation

- Revised print-ready draft forwarded to MLA and AWI last month
- Peak Councils to approve final content
- Guide will then be published as a stand-alone publication and supplement to Marking More from Sheep



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Sheep best practice husbandry guide

The final draft



Earmarks only when required by State legislation

