

# ***AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS***

## ***THREE COMPETITIONS TEACHING GUIDE***



***ANGORA GOAT WETHER CHALLENGE***

***PARADERS COMPETITION***

***YOUNG JUDGES COMPETITION***

***ANGORA GOATS ARE A DUAL PURPOSE ANIMAL  
FIBRE AND MEAT***

## Introduction

This series of educational files and information about angora goats is available to all state agricultural schools that wish to participate in three Angora Goat Wether Competitions, being, Wether Challenge Production class, Paraders class and the Young Judges Competition.

This program is an introduction to three competitions that are available in your state, and supervised by angora goat breeders at nominated Agricultural shows societies venues. It is open to appropriately aged students who have a passion for agriculture and animals.

The teaching pack supports education about angora goats, their management, mohair production and meat values of the dual purpose use of the angora goat. It covers angora goat handling, building a relationship between the handler and their goat, mohair productivity and meat values. It also provides a dynamic hands-on learning process that will give your students a unique experience to participate in.

Students will learn the three basic criteria of the youth program that has been developed by Mohair Australia. This information should be used by your students at their goat club meetings, in the classroom, on field days and at workshops, as a livestock handling, exhibiting and judging, and meat values reference.

In addition an Angora goat wether record project has been formulated to help students to experience daily and weekly interaction with their wethers throughout their time working and handling their chosen animal. A series of fact sheets and an interactive teaching plan cover all aspects of the three competitions over the two age groups of students (years 7-9 and years 10-12).

As the students gain more experience, they can rely on their knowledge of the angora breed and build their skills and confidence to judge, handle animals and understand values of mohair and goat meat qualities for primary production and profitability.

This teaching pack will give your students a sound base to ease into the industry of growing mohair, farming angora goats with good management, and best practice of animal welfare.

All states have different curriculum attributes and standards for Secondary Schools Agricultural Studies, so it is difficult to cover all aspects of teaching. As teachers, you may adapt your work curriculum to cover the priorities of the three competitions available to participate in as a school entrant. Agricultural shows societies, country and State Royal Shows may include the Youth Program for you to participate in.

The Mohair Australia Youth development panel envisages that this program could be incorporated into the curriculum quite easily.

## Life skills

The Youth Development Program will assist students to gain life skills that support them in becoming a confident leader and citizens who build stronger communities, including:

- leadership
- teamwork
- self-motivation
- marketable skills
- critical thinking
- problem solving
- decision making
- communication
- self esteem
- character
- self-respect.

## Youth programs

The three youth programs that are available to agricultural schools involved in angora goats for year 7 to year 12 students are the:

- Agricultural Schools Wether Challenge
- Paraders Competition
- Young Judges Competition

The Agricultural Schools Wether Challenge guidelines include:

- production class of three angora goats – mohair production and meat values
- breed standards of an angora goat
- understanding meat values
- day-to-day husbandry practices
- students' wether competition project record
- fact sheets to compliment students' records.

The guidelines for the Paraders Competition include:

- Preparing your wether for a show ([Fact sheet 3](#))
- Showmanship and parading ( [Fact sheet 4](#))

The guidelines for the Young Judges competitions and supporting documents are:

- Breed standards:
  - body confirmation
  - mohair qualities
- Technique: [Separate document](#)
  - how to judge angora goat and
  - how to judge a fleece
- Oral class:
  - public speaking oral presentation.



Royal Adelaide Show schools wether competition Credit L Carter

### Angora schools wether competition:

This Competition is open to schools that have the facilities for keeping goats and is intended to give Students an insight into the Commercial Angora Goat Industry.

The Wether Competition will allow Schools to:

- To provide students the opportunity to develop an understanding of commercial mohair and meat production in Australia.
- Compete in a comparison trial for the growing of commercial mohair and meat.
- Assist in giving students a practical hands-on insight to future employment opportunities within the angora industry.
- Angora goat, mohair and meat production is a dynamic and hands on process which can provide a unique learning experience.
- Encourage personal and professional development of students

### Wether challenge competition guidelines:

About the Competition:

The goats will be assessed as a uniformed group of three wethers on their confirmation, mohair value and carcass characteristics, and be of similar weight range, body condition and maturity.

On entry at the show the animals will be inspected for parasites, weighted and if available a mohair sample will be taken to be tested (site to be confirmed by show stewards)

Using a spread sheet to cover current market Mohair values are assessed by a Judge and Mohair Type given on a class numbered score sheet, fleece weights are recorded and given to the results supervisor to calculate

Carcass value can be assessed by a judge who has a clear understanding of visual fat score of 1-4 OR a scan of fat depth can also be done by a professional scanner .

On the competition day, the wethers' will be eligible to compete in an angora parader's class, also Individual age class as per show schedule before being shorn.

In the interest of student safety and workplace health and safety - **all** wethers are to be **halter trained**.

Competition Guidelines:

- Wethers must be twelve (12) months and older at the time of Competition.
- All wethers **MUST** be conditioned to lead by halter.
- Wethers are to be under the direct day –to-day care of the exhibiting school to be in care for at least 5.5 months before show scheduled date

- All wethers Must be REGULATION SHORN at least 6 months prior show date
- All wethers must be tagged with breeder tagged and tattooed for identification
- All wethers must comply to Goat Health regulations and supply documentation.
- Wethers are required to be born during the previous breeding season and year prior to suit age classes

Schools Responsibilities will include:

- Wethers are to be under the direct day to day management of the exhibiting School post shearing of at least 5.5 months in school care.
- Schools are encouraged keeping records -Health events, feeding routines, weights, Handling and Training ,Transport welfare of animals , show preparation, care at the show
- Schools are encouraged to source their own wethers, however the organizers will provide assistance if requested.
- Mandatory Documents. NLIS, Goat Health Statements

Recommendation for classes and prizes

All wether teams entered will be split into Angora age classes and all classes have ribbons as prizes.

Individual wethers in age groups can be judged and Champion Wether can be awarded

- Schools Angora Wether Production class - each entry shall comprise of three Angora wethers under 12 months of age in commercial length fleece.
- Schools Angora Wether Production class - each entry shall comprise of three Angora wether, 12 months and older in commercial length fleece.

Judging Criteria:

- **Production class** – the judge will judge the teams on their conformation, mohair and carcass characteristics.
- **Mohair value** – following shearing, all fleeces will be collected, classed and weighed. Mohair samples may be collected and tested only if available (for the fibre diameter if available, length, strength, yield and other important quality characteristics) could also be used in mohair assessment; each fleece will be valued according to current market prices from AMMO latest sale prices.  
Normally mohair assessment is done visually by the presiding Judge and written on the score sheet provided

Generally

Once the wether has been shorn the fleece is picked up and placed on the classing table  
All stain and vegetable matter, short pieces are removed and placed separately into labelled containers

Main fleece is assessed by the Judge will also class to mohair type from age group entered , to be weight and priced at the current Mohair price from the latest sale at AMMO

**Meat value** – following shearing, weighing whether teams are judged on their carcass traits by a judge, or a fat depth scan can be done by a professional to give a fat score value between 1-5  
Meat Values should include (HCW) Hot Carcass weights values over the hook. Only if suited to your state

Breeders Responsibility:

- Wethers to be tagged and tattooed
- Wethers should be free of internal and external parasites. It is recommended that after shearing or as soon as the wethers are brought onto the school grounds that they are treated for lice, worms and vaccinated against diseases.
- NLIS and Goat Health Statements must accompany wethers to Schools and back to the breeders

## The Paraders competition



Sydney Royal Show Youth Paraders credit M Statham

### Paraders Class Guidelines:

The purpose of these competitions is for educating and encouraging the young Angora goat exhibitors to parade their exhibits before a Judge in a most efficient manner.

Competitions maybe

- Senior - 18 years and over,
- Youth 14 - 18 years,
- Junior 13 years and under
- Pee-wee 10years and under.

Competitors should display an ability to show and control their exhibits in an acceptable and efficient manner.

Competitors should be encouraged to:

- Walk into the Judging area and have complete control of the animal at all times
- Change positions within a line-up upon request.

Move the animal around the ring at the judge's discretion as well as:

- Present a Normal judging view
- A Front view
- A Line side view
- Parading ability

Ring Craft/ Showmanship of the competitors is essential.

Move efficiently around the animal in the view of the judge at all times.

Stand the animals in a presentational position at all times whilst in the view of the judge.

Competitors can be asked to answer simple questions relating to their paraded animals:

Such as:

- age and sex
- shearing/crutching date
- type of fibre they are carrying' (i.e. kid, young goat, fine hair).
- When they kidded last.
- How do you tell the age of a goat e.g. teeth -other simple angora husbandry questions at the discretion of the Judge.

Consideration should be given to having the animal in full view of the Judge (i.e. Judge – animal – competitor) at all times.

All Competitors should be suitably attired.

Condition of the animals although highly desirable, shall not be a deciding factor, except in the case of equality of the competitors.

In Halter Paraders classes:

- the halter lead should not touch the ground.
- the lead should be transferred from hand to hand in an efficient manner.
- when holding the halter hand should be over the halter not under.

The size of the Judging arena should take into consideration the safety of the competitors and their animals, whilst at the same time allowing competitors to move around the judging arena without hindrance to other competitors. Stewards/Judges for the events in such a situation may need to conduct heats.



**Sydney Royal 2018 – WWHS Production Wethers**



### **NATS 2017 Individual Led Wether WWHS- Willow Glen**

- Heats will be determined on the number of entries.  
Ribbons should be presented to place getters in each heat, with highly placed (e.g. first, second & third) competitors in such heats combining for a final where further ribbons will be awarded. These may be Championship type ribbons if required

(Mohair Australia Ltd revised 2017)

Photos Courtesy: West Wyalong High School - WWHS and Willow Glen Angora Stud, West Wyalong NSW

[Refer](#) Fact sheet 3 [Preparing your wether for show](#)

Fact sheet 4 [Showmanship and parading](#)

## Young judges competition – animals and mohair fleece, oral presentation

Reference to Mohair Australia Ltd - Breed Standard as a training aid for Body Confirmation and Mohair fleece Qualities

### ANGORA GOAT AND MOHAIR FLEECE YOUNG JUDGES JUDGING COMPETITION: GUIDELINES

(MAL revised 2017)

The arrangements for the conduct of *Angora Goat and Mohair Fleece Judge's Competitions* are as follows:-

1. Competitors judge one class of four Angora Goats and one class of four Mohair Fleeces. There are two visual classes and one oral class.
2. Both classes must be identified by the numbers 1,2,3,4. This is essential when using the Hormel Computing Slide.
3. Visual judging will take place first. Competitors will be allowed **10 minutes** to judge and complete the visual judging card for each class.

The judging card covers the following points:-

- a) Make a total evaluation of each of the exhibits and place them in order of merit.
- b) A card is completed for each class (animal and fleeces).

The winner is determined out of a maximum of 190 points. {**National Competition Total: 240 Points**}

- 50 points for each class animal and fleece
  - 40 points for judging technique (20 points – animal, 20 points – fleece).
  - 50 points for oral class {**100 points National Competition**}
4. At the completion of the visual judging all competitors or the top competitors, as judged by their aggregate marks are selected to compete in the oral class.
    - a) The oral class will be nominated by the competitor prior to the commencement of this section [usually as they enter the ring]. [National Finalist will give their Oral presentation of either Animals or Fleeces at the Over judges discretion.]
    - b) The competitor may use the 'Competitors Notes' section of the score card of the exhibit chosen, as a reference. This section of the score card [animals or fleeces] is retained for use by the Competitor in the Oral section.

It is designed to ensure competitors use comparative details and note those aspects in which the exhibit placed up the line is better than the exhibit placed below it in their oral description of the class.

5. Each competitor in the oral class is allowed **2 minutes** to explain the reason for their placing.
6. Competitors in the oral class are scored on the:
  - accuracy of observation,
  - their comparative statements, (appropriate terminology to compare exhibits)
  - speaking ability
  - general presentation and, technique in speaking.
7. In the event of a tie (dead heat) in the scores, separation is to be carried out by the visual section. Animals first, then fleece
8. The Over judge, in filling out their mastercard, is required to note a numerical difference between exhibits as directed in instructions for the use of the Hormel Computing slide. These slides shows the degree of penalty as related to the degree of difference between exhibit placing and the competitor is scored accordingly.
9. Competitors must not have reached their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday at the time of the State/National Final Championship.
10. The placegetters/prize-winners at the Group Finals are then eligible to compete in the State/National Champion.

### List of accompanying resources:

- Fact sheet 1.** How to critique your wether
- Fact sheet 2.** General healthcare for your wether
- Fact sheet 3.** Preparing your wether for a show
- Fact sheet 4.** Showmanship and parading
- Fact sheet 5.** Mineral requirements for goats
- Fact sheet 6.** The digestive system of the goat
- Fact sheet 7.** Using maths to measure goat growth rate
- Fact sheet 8.** Feeds for goats
- Fact sheet 9.** Mohair explained
- Fact sheet 10.** How is mohair classed
- Fact sheet 11.** Meat goat judging terminology
- Fact sheet 12.** Understanding meat values - angora goats

Some fact sheets suggest activities to cover all aspects of the student projects and the three competitions. They are designed to cater for the two age groups of students in Years 7-9 and Years 10-12.

### Other resource materials include:

- Angora goat Wether challenge project
- Health and husbandry practices for angora goats
- Agricultural school three competition teaching guide
- Wether arrival and shows checklist
- Management plan
- Student quick guide for show day
- Student show quiz
- A mohair measurement card -AMMO
- Name parts of a goat
- Angora goat animal and fleece judging scorecard- MAL
- Angora School Wether production competition scorecard A,B,C

### Industry information

Animal Health Australia

- Australian Industry and welfare Standards and Guidelines for Goats

Ausmeats:

- Handbook of Australian Sheepmeat processing - *The Ausmeat Language*

## Contact details for Angora goats for schools

Check online with Mohair Australia Ltd website at [www.mohair.com.au](http://www.mohair.com.au) or email [mohair@mohair.com.au](mailto:mohair@mohair.com.au).

To contact breeder to supply animals to school in your state

## Industry websites:

Australian Mohair Marketing Organisation (AMMO) <https://ausmohair.com.au/>

Animal Health Australia (AHA) <https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/>

Agri-Futures Australia <https://www.agrifutures.com.au/>

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) <https://www.mla.com.au/>

Goat Industry Council of Australia <https://www.goatindustrycouncil.com.au/>

Mohair South Africa <http://www.mohair.co.za/>

American Angora Goat Breeders Association <http://www.aagba.org/>

New Zealand Angora Goat breeders <http://www.mohairproducers.co.nz/>

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