

Clippings



MOHAIR AUSTRALIA Ltd., HAGSA Ltd and Friends

Victorian Region Newsletter
June 2022

Diary Dates for 2022

15 - 17 July. Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show Bendigo Showgrounds, North Bendigo.

November - Christmas Party

25 February 2023 Foster Show

Message from the editor

Welcome to another edition of Clippings.

It's been a cold and very wet start to winter here in South Gipps, with over 100mm in a week. But we are on hilly ground, so there is no chance of suffering the devastating floods which have hit other parts of the country.

In this edition here is information about the NLIS requirements here in Victoria, a brief note about the use of Chlorsig in goats, and the usual wrap up from around the net and our Market report.

Keep warm and healthy.

Happy reading.

Lill Roberts lill@netspace.net.au



Photos courtesy of the Heritage Angora Goat of Australia Facebook page and Bella St Clair.



A Message from your President Margaret Nicholls

Winter: cold wet and windy weather.

Victoria has even had a snow fall already. Keep warm and healthy and also keep your goats warm and healthy. We have sent quite a number of our older and poor quality goats to the abattoir and we were queried about some of their ear tags. So I thought I should brush up on the rules in Victoria concerning moving of animals to and from your farm. There is an article about what to do and not to do in this edition of *Clippings*.

There are 4 reasons for moving goats: showing, selling to other breeders, sell to abattoir, buying in from other states

Now for the latest on the Foster Show. A new idea will be a display of mohair products such as hand made and bought garments, rugs, blankets, scarfs and hand made toys. If you have any interesting items please bring them along. Also I will be displaying old books, catalogues from past shows and sales, and newsletter I want to show a bit of our long history of mohair growing in Australia. Don't forget our photo competition. Keep your camera handy to capture moments of interest on your farm. More information later in the year.

It is about late July is the time for the shearing of your show team.

I am very pleased to see that there will be a show and display of angoras at the Bendigo sheep show this year. We are lucky it can be held again at last.

That will do for now and hope that your bucks have done a good job and we all look forwards to a lovely crop of kids in spring



My grandsons feeding a kid at their local kindergarten. They are looking forward to having goats close to home in the future.



Putting Mohair into the hands of Crafts people

Regular readers of *Clippings* will be aware that one of the goals of the Heritage Angora Goat Society of Australia is to put Australian grown mohair into the hands of spinners, felters, knitters, weavers and any other types of fibre based craft. Being a rare breed, the heritage mohair has appeal. This is due to a current trend towards using less mainstream fibre and embracing the large diversity of fibres which are produced by some lesser know and rare breeds.



Mohair Rare Stand at the Bazaar.

To this end, Mohair Rare were able to secure a table at the recent Hand Weavers and Spinners Guild of Victoria's Bazaar Day.

The Bazaar is an annual event (subject to Covid) where members of the Guild take their unwanted fibre, craft tools, books, yarn anything really that is related to fibre arts and sell them.

The Mohair Rare table was separate from the rest of the Bazaar, but still proved to be popular. Items for sale at the table were washed locks, carded fleece, combed fleece, rovings, mohair wool batts and dyed locks. The raw fleece for the products was sourced from the network of Heritage Angora Goat breeders including Oakey Range in Biala NSW and Croajingalong Stud in Orbost. As it was election day, the teal coloured locks proved popular with one lady buying all of them!

It was the first chance for some time to attend a fibre event and have our product out there in the market place. The next chance will be the Black and Coloured Sheep fibre day to be held in Pakenham at the start of October.

Mohair Rare has also been invited to the September meeting of the hand Knitters' Guild of Victoria in September. It will be a chance to showcase the heritage mohair and talk about the history of the Australian Heritage Angora Goat.

Congratulation to Melissa Gollin

Melissa's beautiful photo of one of her Heritage Angora kids has won the Rare Breed Trust of Australia's photographic competition for this year.

Melissa's photo of her kid, Wesley can be viewed on the Rare Breeds Trust Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10159741723762225&set=gm.10159624092991690>

National News

The latest edition of Mohair News (April 2022), the national journal of Mohair Australia is available. It contains the following:

- A touching tribute to Bill Smith, who passed away in February. Bill was a leader in the mohair industry in NSW and is greatly missed.
- Roundup of the NATS 2022.
- A very useful Model of Management for Calendar angoras throughout the year.
- The report from the Tasmanian Division on its annual show
- Report about the Sydney Royal Show, including a reprint of an article which appeared in *The Land*, about Morgan Mrowka and the fulfillment of a dream to become a judge at this prestigious show. (Ed note: The link to an electronic version of this article on *The Land* website, is behind a paywall, so is not included, but can be accessed via the link below.)
- Advice on the new membership procedures
- AMMO report which includes a summary of future strategies.
- President's report which touches on various issues such as interactions with bodies such as Mohair South Africa and Agrifutures, as well as the price of mohair, and the future plans for an electronic herd book.

The full journal can be accessed here: http://mohair.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Mohair_Newsletter_April_2022_WEB.pdf

Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show

This is a big event in the fibre calendar, and is held on 15-17 July at the Prince of Wales Showgrounds. There will be mohair producers from NSW in attendance this year.

This is the first show for three years. 2020 was cancelled due to Covid, and 2021 was already to go, when the Victorian Government imposed a lockdown. The news of the lockdown reached show participants as they were setting up for opening day which was the next day.

There will be angora goats at the Show, and Victorian based producers are encouraged to head along and give support to those who have travelled to the show.

All the information about the Show can be found on the website:
<https://sheepshow.com/>

Newsletter from Dr Baxendell

The May 2022 newsletter from Dr Sandra Baxendell is available at:
<https://www.slideshare.net/SandraBaxendell/2022-may-newsletter-pdf>

Included in this edition is:

- Pregnancy diagnosis
- Bloat
- Wethers acting like a buck
- What to do if a doe aborts
- Cloudburst

Dr Baxendell's newsletters are free and contain great information for all goat owners.

Current Victorian NLIS Requirements

In response to a question from an angora breeder about the current requirements, the following has been received from the Goat Health Veterinary Officer Biosecurity and Agriculture Services Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions PO Box 501, Swan Hill VIC 3585

Tagging requirements

All non-exempt goats, regardless of age, must be identified with an electronic National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) (Sheep) tag before being dispatched from a Victorian property.

There are no electronic NLIS ear tags accredited specifically for use in goats. This is because of the difficulty associated with arranging field trials with enough goats to be confident about the reliability of the tags being tested in all goat breeds. Goat producers must use accredited NLIS (Sheep) tags and must specify when placing orders that the tags they are purchasing will be used to identify goats.

There are two types of electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags available:

NLIS (Sheep) breeder tags are colour-coded to match industry's 'year of birth' tag colour system and are used to permanently identify goats before they leave their property of birth.

NLIS (Sheep) post-breeder tags are pink and are used to permanently identify introduced goats not already identified with an electronic tag, or that have lost their original tag.

Implanted microchips are not NLIS approved devices.

Tagging requirements

- Only one electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag must be present on a goat at any time.
- NLIS (Sheep) tags purchased for the identification of goats must not be used to identify other livestock species (such as sheep, cattle, alpacas and pigs).

NLIS (Sheep) tags must not be removed unless the device is damaged and cannot be read electronically.

Tagging using an NLIS (Sheep) tag is optional for miniatures and the designated dairy goat breeds.

NLIS tags can be ordered online at tags.agriculture.vic.gov.au or by calling Agriculture Victoria on 1800 678 779

Interstate tagging requirements for goats

Goats dispatched from an interstate property and entering Victoria must be identified in accordance with the legal requirements of the jurisdiction from which they were dispatched, however non-exempt goats entering Victoria for exhibiting at a show or similar event must be identified at the time of their entry into Victoria with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag.

All non-exempt goats introduced into Victoria must be tagged with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) pink post-breeder tag before being dispatched from a Victorian property, unless they are already tagged with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag.

Requirements when moving goats between properties

The owner or person dispatching goats from one property to a property with a different PIC must supply a National Vendor Declaration (NVD) form or alternate movement document to the person receiving the goats. When goats are moved between properties, the person receiving the goats must register the movement on the NLIS database within two days of the animal/s arrival at the new property. This includes movements in-

volving exempt goats that are not identified with an electronic NLIS tag. For these goats, a mob-based movement (MBM) transfer must be completed.

A movement includes private sales of goats, goats being agisted or lent, goats being rescued or given away or goats traded through online selling platforms such as AuctionsPlus, and Gumtree.

For more information about the NLIS database or to sign up for an account go to www.nlis.com.au or contact the NLIS database helpline on 1800 654 743.

Further information can be found at:



Contact the Agriculture Victoria NLIS helpline on 1800 678 779 - Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.30PM
Website – agriculture.vic.gov.au or use this QR code

Use of Chlorsig in Goats.

There has recently been a couple of posts on a Facebook page dedicated to Goats in Australia. The thread related to the use of chlorsig (chloramphenicol) and whether its use is allowed in goats. It has been used for eye infections where something like a seed has scratched the goat's eye and an infection has resulted.

A cut and paste from the discussion follows. It was posted by a knowledgeable person, who for professional reasons, cannot be identified.

There may be different wording in different states but in Victoria under the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992. stock means any animal of which any part is used as, or which produces any product that is ordinarily used as, or manufactured into, food for humans, and includes bees, fish and birds; and there is an Order under this Act (G19) that states 6 (2) A person must not sell or use a veterinary chemical product...namely Chloramphenicol in stock or horses...as it is a prohibited constituent.

The discussion went on to say that all goats could potentially be part of the food chain and as such, chlorsig should not be used on any goats.

<https://apvma.gov.au/node/11626?fbclid=IwAR1en-wS4mEuRKE2FVh5HFpKmyHM0QEc16afbHX8oJUbkfN9lVr5y1s3Wh0>

Opticlox is an off label alternative option if prescribed by a vet.

Editors note:

For those unfamiliar with Chlorsig, it is used in human medicine. I was prescribed it by my eye surgeon both prior to, and after I had cataracts removed from my eyes. I used it for about 2 weeks. It is available without prescription from a pharmacy.

Market Report—David Williams



The last two Cape sales have generally been on the positive side. Mainly fully firm. At the last sale there was a particularly good selection of best style kid fleece and these attracted enthusiastic support from all buyers. Other kid, young goat and fine adult fleeces were firm to buyers favour (Currency fluctuations). The larger than normal offering of adult and strong adult fleece was passed in by the brokers (did not reach the brokers expectations). This somewhat surprised the buyers as the prices were in line with the market expectations.

A South African buyer attending the sale said many prices at AMMO's last sale were similar to Cape price levels. This means, delivered to South Africa, some prices were above South African price basis once the freight etc was included. Shipping and financial problems still persist and disrupt normal buying operations. Freight has increased by over 250 percent in 2 years. Could be more by the time this last sale is shipped.

Trying to convert the prices into comparable prices in Australian Dollars is not easy. There are a lot of extra features that need to be taken into consideration. Handle, style and character, CV for length and micron etc. As an example, they make a 33.5mic adult top and they also make a 33.5mic young goat top.

The difference in price is considerable. Currency fluctuations also make a difference in price.

Mohair Buyers

A.M.T.

WE BUY MOHAIR DIRECT FROM THE GROWER

WE ONLY SELL TO PROCESSORS AND WORK CLOSELY WITH OVERSEAS TOP MAKERS AND MANUFACTURERS

WE OFFER:

COMPETITIVE PRICES FOR YOUR MOHAIR

PROMPT PAYMENT

SORTING REPORT (if requested)

ASSISTANCE ON PREPARATION FOR SALE

WE TAKE GREAT CARE IN CLASSING MOHAIR – NOT ONLY TO CUSTOMERS' REQUIREMENTS, BUT ALSO BY EXPLOITING THE NATURAL FEATURES OF OUR FIBRE (STYLE AND CHARACTER) TO GAIN THE MAXIMUM PRICE.

WE ARE SUPPORTING FURTHER PROCESSING OF AUSTRALIAN MOHAIR IN AUSTRALIA FOR ALL AUSTRALIAN GROWERS!

IF YOU NEED ANY ASSISTANCE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL US

David Williams Mobile: 0419 352 399

John Hoornweg Mobile: 0428 488 422

Email: david@amtMoh.com.au

AUSTRALASIAN MOHAIR TRADING PTY LTD

Unit 2, 114 Fairbairn Road, Sunshine, Vic, 3020.

To facilitate ease of handling, please consolidate all bags into one (or more) bag or wool pack. Ensure all bags, bales are clearly with your name and address and AMT address".