

The official journal of
Mohair Australia Ltd. Serving
breeders of angora goats &
producers of mohair

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**August
2022
Mohair
News**



Mohair Australia Ltd. Mohair News

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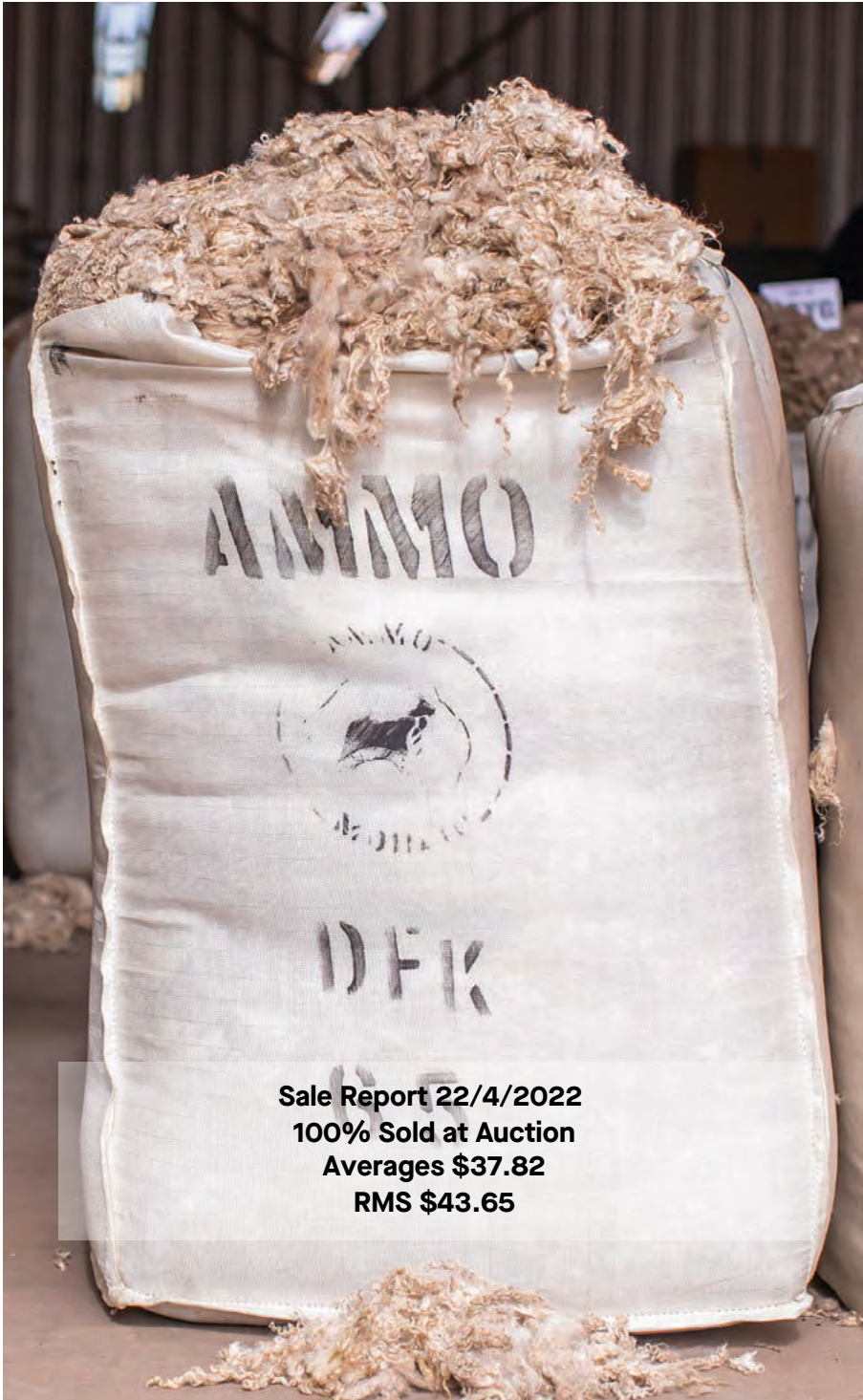
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Current Membership fees

Please note that all fees include a copy of this quarterly "Mohair News"

Breeder	\$150
Commercial	\$100
Trader	\$150
Education	\$150
Ordinary	\$60
Junior	\$50

Membership fees are due now. As has been previously noted, plus it is on the renewal form, you are required to send (email, post or fax) the renewal form to the office at time of payment.

If you have misplaced your renewal form, you can access the form from the website.

FRONT COVER

Pictured is Reg Scott, NSW Division President, Morgan Mrowka Judge and Helene Ypma holding Rivers 1906 which was awarded Best in Show in the Angora Goat Section at the Sydney Royal Easter Show 2022.

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REPRINTS of articles from "Mohair News" are welcome, provided the Editor receives courtesy communication and the "Mohair News" is acknowledged.



National Presidents Letter

Dear Members and Growers,

It is always good to start with the weather! At our place the weather has not let up and we have had more rain and cold weather which has challenged us to get all the husbandry done before kidding. It is even more important to provide adequate shelter after shearing, prepare properly for kidding and make sure you don't have any underlying animal health issues present to get the best practical outcomes this year. Fingers crossed for everyone however nothing beats hard work at this time.

You may have heard we are planning to modernise and update the Mohair Australia Ltd constitution and I have included the first open letter in the newsletter. The updated and final constitution and rules and regulations will be available separately and part of the AGM documentation. I would encourage members to take a positive mindset and think about how we get a YES vote vs rallying a group of NO voters. We are planning to have the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Narrandera on Friday the 25 November and will put together a program of events around the meeting, mainly because we think we have a better chance of getting your vote if you come along!

Lynne Carter has provided some really good information from Dr Mackie Hobson from Mohair Growers South Africa it is referenced and a good resource to know about. There is a huge amount of information available on the web and other reference sources, but it takes time to wade through and learn where to find the right information when needed.

Grant reminds me that RMS will effectively become the entry level standard for future sales and regenerative agriculture will become the differentiator.

Vicki has been working through the accounts for end of year and starting to prepare reports for the AGM. I know she has spoken to many of the treasures in the active regions and divisions to help restore/cross check their financial positions during 2 years of covid and when I was covering the position. She has also reached out to all the educational (school) members to ask them about their status and renewing membership. We have lost several schools because good teachers move on and the goats are not kept on by the schools. There has also been renewed interest in all breeds of sheep by Ag plot schools.

Sue has included some good GICA/NSW farmers information on the push for mandatory Electronic Identification Systems (EIDS) (microchip in the VISUAL tag) in Sheep and Goats given the outbreaks in Asia of Foot and Mouth and the importance of traceability in the domestic system.

We have also included a hardcopy of the goat fibre survey for you action if you have not done yet. It is important to get a true snapshot of the industry and please share with your networks.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Gorrie

NSW Farmers EID policy

No eID tag-free option for goats

AGRICULTURE Minister Dugald Saunders has firmly stated there will be no exemptions on national mandatory sheep and goat electronic identification system (eID) - not even for rangeland goats.

In response to a standing invitation to have a go at tagging rangeland goats, Mr Saunders has been there and done that.

"I have handled goats ... even little goats, the horns are just a disaster," Mr Saunders said.

Last week in *The Land*, producers selling rangeland goats direct to abattoirs called for exemptions from an eID system due to work health and safety concerns.

Under the current system harvested rangeland goats are eligible for a tag free movement option, only when sold directly from property of capture to a processor or a registered goat depot.

But Mr Saunders said there would be no exemptions.

"At some point you have to include everything because could they be a risk? Of course they could be," Mr Saunders said.

—SAMANTHA TOWNSEND

The Land Newspaper
- Thursday August 11



NSW Farmers president James Jackson – members will vote on sheep EID policy reform next week.

NSW Farmers to vote on motion supporting national sheep EID

Terry Sim <https://www.beefcentral.com/news/>

New South Wales farmers will next week consider an urgency motion to support national mandatory sheep electronic identification as Foot-and-Mouth-Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease outbreaks continue in Indonesia.

Current NSW Farmers policy supports voluntary sheep and goat EID for on-farm management, and enhancement of the current mob-based system to improve accuracy.

The association led by president James Jackson has opposed the introduction of mandatory individual electronic identification for sheep and goats.

However, after consulting with its sheep meat and wool committees, the association has proposed the urgency motion to its annual policy-making conference next week, recognizing the heightened FMD and LSD risk and that effective livestock traceability can shorten the life and minimize the impact of any outbreak.



The NSW Farmers' Annual Conference returns will be held at Sydney's Luna Park from 19-21 July.

The NSW Farmers urgency motion reads:

To adequately protect Australian agriculture and the sheep industry from the threat of a serious biosecurity incursion, NSW Farmers supports:

The national adoption of EIDs in a manner that is both financially and practically implementable and ensures the long-term sustainability and profitability of our valuable export markets;

The use of EIDs to proactively minimise the impacts of any possible disease outbreak;

Capping the price of EIDs at 70c;

Cost recovery for the implementation of on-farm technology to utilise EID's; and

A staged rollout of EIDs over a five (5) year period

Sheep and goat EID is mandatory in Victoria, but lack of support for a mandatory sheep EID system by the other state farming organisations has been a major obstacle to progress toward a national scheme.

NSW Farmers, Queensland's AgForce and the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of Western Australia have been most vocal in their opposition to a mandatory sheep and goat EID system, despite its introduction for cattle several years ago.

The SFOs have continued to support the current mob-based visual tag National Livestock Identification System for sheep and goats despite evidence it is not meeting National Traceability Performance Standards set to ensure authorities could effectively trace livestock movement in the event of an exotic disease incursion.

A NSW Farmers spokesman said in light of the Foot and Mouth Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease outbreaks in Indonesia, Australian agriculture faces a growing threat of a serious biosecurity incursion.

"As a matter of urgency, NSW Farmers members will be asked to vote at our Annual Conference on whether to adopt EIDs for sheep in a manner that is both financially and practically implementable and ensures the long-term sustainability and profitability of our valuable export market.

"NSW Farmers members set the policy of the association, and

it is important to get their decision before any further comment is made," the spokesman said.

Federal Minister for Agriculture Murray Watt reportedly told The Guardian this week that a number of states and farming groups were yet to back the extension of mandatory electronic tracing to sheep and goats, even though it has proven to be an effective biosecurity tool in the cattle industry.

National peak bodies support EID reform

WoolProducers Australia president and NSW wool grower Ed Storey said the NSW Farmers urgency motion was a matter for the association's members.

"But I would encourage them to consider the word 'cost' in a holistic way."

He said the overall costs of the system should be considered in terms of the value it brought to producers and for market access in coming years.

"We need to use the technology that is here now and this is an opportunity to improve on the current system.

"However EIDs are only one facet of these reforms, there are a number of other measures, starting with the agreement and implementation of a nationally harmonised set of business rules between the states, the establishment of a multi species database and robust cost sharing agreements between industry and governments that must be done to establish a fit-for-purpose national traceability system," he said.

"It is those support systems that will ensure its success just they do in Victoria."

Sheep Producers Australia chief executive officer Bonnie Skinner said SPA supports the implementation of national traceability reform that includes the implementation of EID for sheep.

"There have been at least 11 reports since 2002 recommending improvement of traceability systems or the implementation of EID.

"Traceability is a key component of a robust biosecurity system and allows the quick and effective tracking and tracing of animals in the event of a disease outbreak such as FMD," she said.

Pregnant and Lactating Ewe/Doe

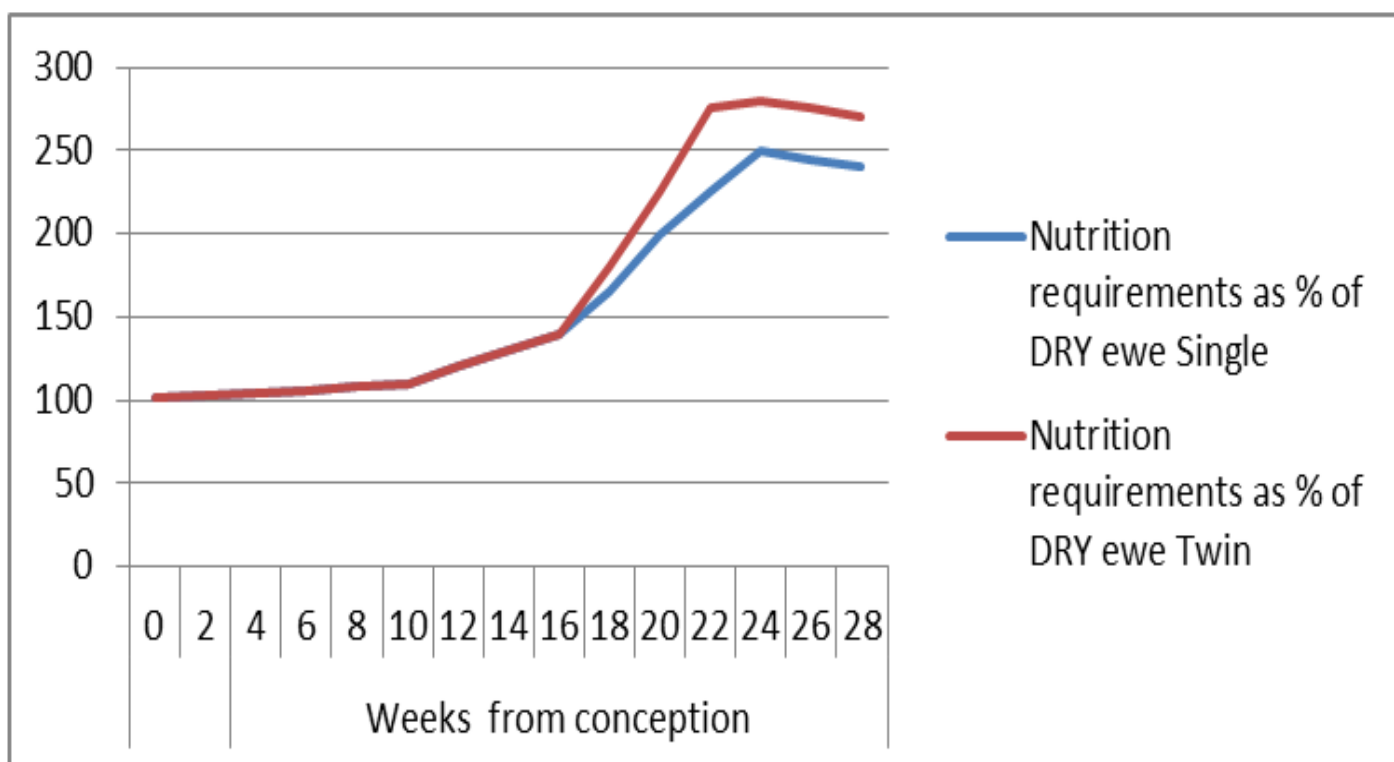
Nutrition - The pregnant and lactating ewe

First two months of pregnancy

The nutritional requirements of the ewe during the first two months are still relatively low, and the natural grazing should normally be sufficient.

Last six weeks of pregnancy and lactation

Most losses occur in the period just before birth until seven days after birth. Nearly 80% of these mortalities are related to the nutrition of the ewe during the last weeks before kidding and the first weeks after kidding. The nutritional requirement of a late pregnant Angora ewe is known to increase more than two fold (200% above standard maintenance requirements) compared to that of a dry ewe. This figure is too often forgotten or underestimated.



Nutritional requirements of the ewe during pregnancy compared to dry ewe (100%)



Effects of inadequate nutrition during late gestation include

- Abortion after day 90 of pregnancy
- Poor lactation (udder formation, low colostrum and milk production)
- Low birth weight
- Foetal Programming
- Poor mothering instincts
- Abortion

The nutritional requirements of the ewe are increased considerably, and energy supplementation must be increased accordingly. Trials were performed to determine blood glucose concentration in 20 pregnant ewes receiving a high and low plane of nutrition during the fourth month of gestation (Wentzel, Le Roux and Botha). They concluded a drop in blood glucose levels due to nutritional stress to be the likely trigger for the onset of hormonal changes related to abortion in Angora goat ewes. In addition, the stress of sub-nutrition during the experimental period increased the incidence of perinatal mortality.

In a ewe which is energy deficient there is a decrease in blood glucose level which is passed on to the foetus. This triggers a stress-response by the foetus, causing a rise in cortisol (steroid) production. As these steroids are oestrogen precursors, this has the ultimate effect of increasing oestrogen production. This causes the regression and eventual destruction of the Corpus Luteum (CL), the area of the ovary responsible for progesterone production. In goats the CL is the only source of progesterone and is solely responsible for maintaining pregnancy, whereas in sheep, progesterone is also produced by the placenta. For this reason, sheep are significantly less likely to abort during energy shortages.

The aborted foetus is usually well formed, normal in appearance and sometimes still alive when aborted. When energy is supplemented appropriately, abortions will typically stop within two weeks.

It is important that care should be taken when the ewe is moved to a new type of grazing during this time (e.g. to cultivated pastures or lucerne lands). When such a move takes place the ewe takes time to adapt to the altered diet, and the temporary deficiency created by this can lead to abortions even in the midst of plenty. During such a movement an energy supplement should be supplied, or lucerne hay provided a week before the move until several days after introduction to the lands

During cold snaps it is important to remember cold stress also increases glucose consumption by up to 66% which is aggravated by restricted grazing at times when goats are housed in sheds. Abortions typically then occur 1-5 days later. Pregnant ewes should therefore when possible be given supplementary feeding when housed.

- Lactation

The feeding requirements of the goat ewe in lactation are higher than at any other time during the reproduction cycle. Should these requirements not be satisfied, milk production, and consequently the growth of the kid, will be adversely influenced. Although sufficient energy supplementation can normally give the desired results on natural grazing, it may be necessary during droughts, and in the case of ewes having twins, to give a limited protein supplementation as well.

- Low birth weight

Birth weight largely determines the survival prospects of the kid. Eighty percent of the kids that die do so in the first month due to decreased colostrum and hence maternal antibody intake, poor milk intake and poor mothering (excluding predation).

The effect of birth weight of the kid relative to its survival prospects (M.Sheldon)

- Foetal programming

Foetal Programming is a recent development in the research field. Research has shown that whatever happens to the foetus in the uterus can have an influence on production later in life. This has proven to have both intra-generation (mother-progeny) as well as inter-generation (grandmother-mother-progeny).

Nutritional shortfall in late gestation programmes the foetus to be born into a nutritionally stressed environment and thereby results in slow growth rates.

In sheep it has been proven that decreasing feed during day 30-50 of gestation (the period during which the foetal udder is formed) results in that ewe lamb having a higher milk production during its lifetime. More research in this field is required.

- Poor mothering instinct

Links are known to exist between mothering instinct and the progesterone/ oestrogen status of the ewe at kidding. This in turn can be linked to the nutritional status (see above).

Managing the Pregnant Ewe/Doe

Managing the late pregnant ewe

Managing the late pregnant ewe to kidding is one of the most important periods in the production cycle on the farm.

This includes the importance of

- Nutrition from day 90 of pregnancy
- Providing an energy source to pregnant ewes during cold periods especially if placed in a shed during the passing of a cold front.
- Minerals and Vitamins 4-6 weeks before kidding
- Vaccination 4-6 weeks before kidding
- Managing the roundworm population

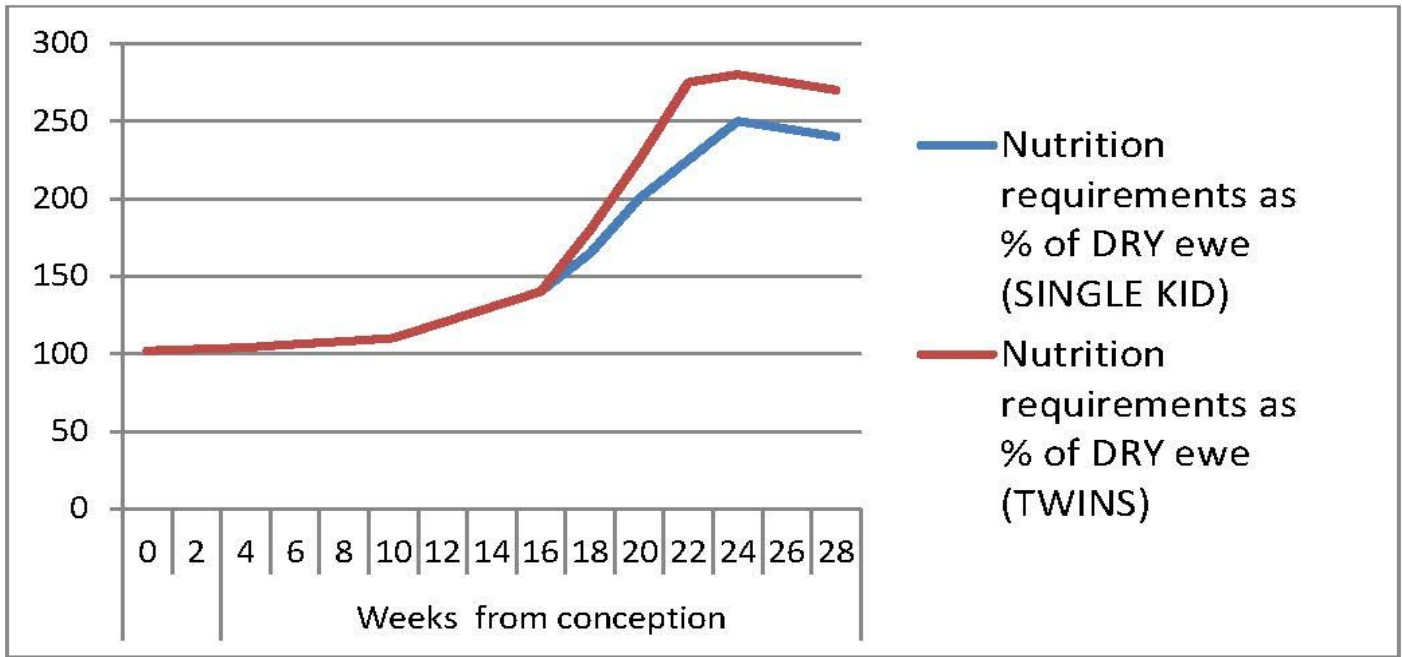
Nutrition from day 90

The importance of high levels of nutritional supplementation in late-pregnant ewes is difficult to over-emphasize. Inadequate nutrition during late gestation

- Is the most common cause of abortion after day 90 of pregnancy
- Leads to poor udder formation, low colostrum and low milk production
- Results in low birth weight and ewes' discarding kids

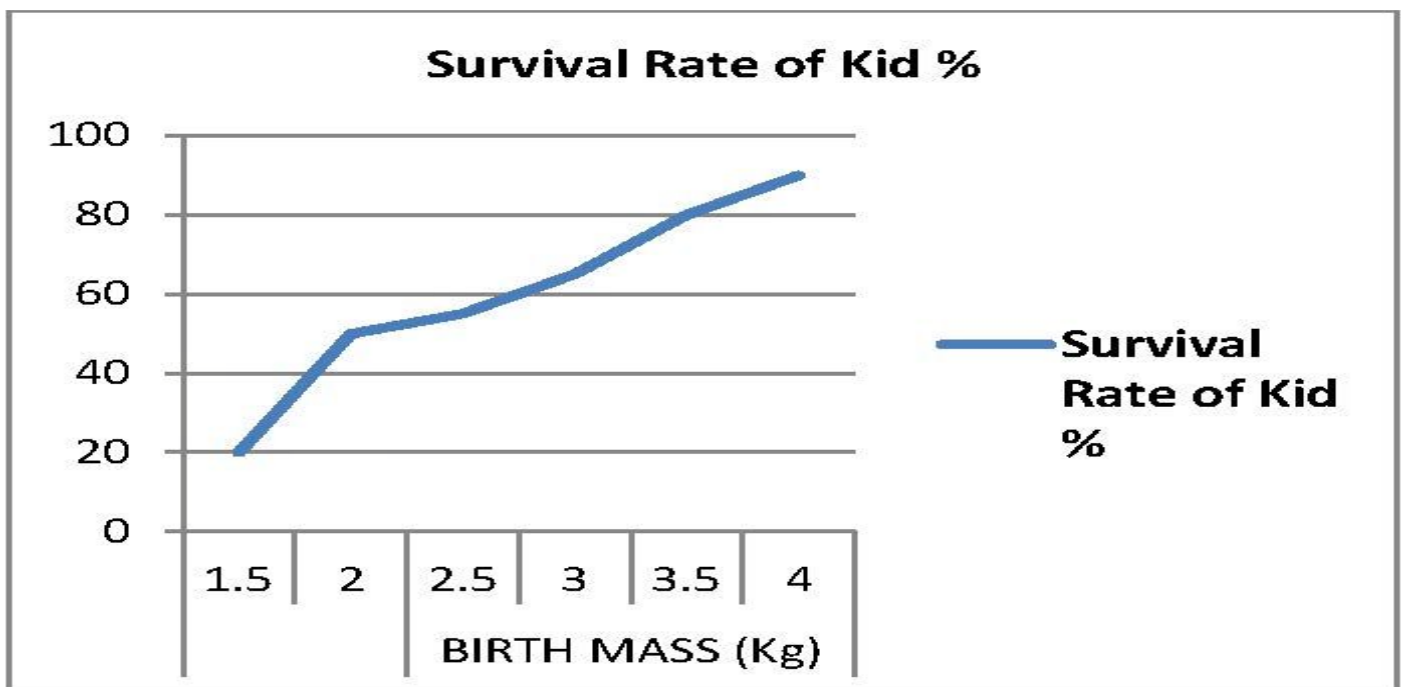


The nutritional requirement of a late pregnant Angora ewe is known to increase 2-3 fold compared to that of a dry ewe. This figure is too often forgotten or underestimated.



Comparing the nutritional requirements of a dry ewe (100%) against a pregnant ewe with single or twin kids

Birth weight of kids largely determines the survival prospects. 80% of the kids that die do so in the first month due to decreased colostrum, milk supply and poor mothering (ignoring the jackal for a minute).



The survival rate of kids is largely determined by their birth weight

Cold weather

During cold weather it is important to remember cold stress increases glucose consumption by up to 66%. This is aggravated by restricted grazing at times when goats are placed in a shed during cold raining weather. Abortion usually then occurs 1-5 days later. Pregnant ewes should therefore when possible be given supplementary feeding when housed. Feeding molasses sugar is not as effective as starches (grain/maize) in increasing blood glucose.

Why is energy so important in a pregnant Angora ewe compared to sheep ewe?

In a ewe which is energy deficient there is a decrease in blood glucose level which is passed on to the foetus. This triggers a stress-response by the foetus, causing a rise in cortisol (steroid) production. As these steroids are oestrogen precursors, this has the ultimate effect of increasing oestrogen production. This causes the regression and eventual destruction of the Corpus Luteum (CL), the area of the ovary responsible for progesterone production.

In goats the CL is the only source of progesterone and is solely responsible for maintaining pregnancy, whereas in sheep, progesterone is also produced by the placenta. For this reason, sheep are significantly less likely to abort during energy shortages.

The aborted foetus is usually well formed, normal in appearance and sometimes still alive when aborted. When energy is supplemented appropriately, abortions will typically stop within two weeks where under nutrition is the cause.

Minerals and Vitamins

The only source of Vit A for the kid is via the colostrum as it does not cross the placenta. Vitamin A is synthesized from carotene, which is present in green plants. Deficiency can result in birth defects and negatively affect immune status. Multivitamin (ADE) supplementation should be considered especially under winter grazing conditions.

Trials conducted indicate that weaning % can be increased by 4.6 % in Angora goats when supplemented with minerals Manganese, Zinc, Selenium 4-6 weeks before kidding.

Vaccination 4-6 weeks before kidding

For the most effective colostrum transfer of antibodies through the kid this is the best time to vaccinate your ewes.

Monitoring roundworm burdens in late pregnancy

The Angora goat's resistance to roundworm infection is generally poor compared to sheep. The physiological stress placed on the ewe during late pregnancy and lactation decreases their immunity level even further. Studies have demonstrated that 5% of L3 stage wireworm larvae picked up from the vegetation establishes as adult worms in a normal adult dry ewe.

During late pregnancy and lactation this increases to 30-40% due to the ewe's poorer immune response during this period. Furthermore environmental conditions become more favourable for roundworms during this time. The result is that there is increased veld or pasture contamination with roundworm eggs which the kids then start picking up. The effect of nutrition vitamins and minerals on the immune system again emphasises its importance.

By paying close attention to these factors and giving appropriate supplementary nutrition during late pregnancy in the Angora ewe, the risk of abortion may be reduced and the kidding percentage, health and growth rate of the kids maximised.



Dystocia - Difficult Births

With Angora kidding becoming a more intensive farming practice, farmers are now often more involved with the birthing process.

We all recognise the onset of labour with the ewe usually wandering off on its own and the initial signs, which may last 1-8 hours, of uneasiness, kicking, pawing the ground, lying down and getting up frequently, and sporadic urinating or attempts at urination.

We are also familiar with the second stage of labour including the appearance of the water sac and evidence of a foot exiting the birth canal. This stage last about 1-2 hours (15-30 minutes per kid). Stage 3 involves the placenta being passed about 15 minutes after the kid is born.

The question is when should we intervene and take action and so hopefully save the life a kid when things go wrong?

It is important to know what is normal in order to recognise a problem during parturition (birth).

When to Give Assistance?

If any of the following occurs

- The mother has been straining for 30 minutes.
- The water sac is observed for longer than 1 hour
- The ewe is showing signs of severe distress or fatigue, including bleeding from the rectum of the mother or a swollen tongue of the kid
- It can visually be determined that the kid is coming in an abnormal way. (For example, you see 3 or more feet, the tail, etc.)

RULE: Never try to pull kid that is in an abnormal position. The position of the kid must be corrected. Excessive force can result in shock, haemorrhage, trauma, infection, fertility problems, and very possibly an eversion or prolapsed of the vagina and uterus.

Causes of Dystocia

- Failure of the cervix to completely dilate.
- A kid that has an extra-large head and shoulders or is just an overall large kid.
- Twin kids coming simultaneously.
- A ewe that was disturbed during the initial phases of kidding.
- A kid that is not in the proper presentation, position, or posture. Causes of Dystocia

What to do when a ewe is having difficulty?

- Clean the vulva, anus, and surrounding areas.
- Clean hands and arms with soap and water, and apply a mild antiseptic.
- Apply liberal amounts of a lubricant to a plastic obstetrical sleeve. It is almost impossible to use too much lubricant.
- Shape the hand into a natural wedge, with the fingers tight together. Then insert the hand with gentle force into the vagina and pelvic areas. Any forward movement should be done during the breaks in the uterine contractions. Forcing the hand forward during a contraction or with a significant amount of effort can cause severe injury and possible death to the ewe and kid.
- Determine the presentation, position, and posture of the kid.

Presentation - This refers to whether the kid is coming head first, backwards or sideways.

Position - This refers to whether the kid is right-side up or upside-down.

Posture - This refers to where the legs of the kid are in relation to its body.

Normal kid: Head first, Right side up (on its chest) with Front legs and head coming first.

- It should be determined if the front or hind legs are coming through the birth canal
- Determining if the kid is alive or dead. This is done by performing the following tests

Pinching between the toes and having the kid pull away.

Placing a finger in the mouth and feeling the kid suckle.

Gently poking the eye – the kid usually moves its head.

Checking rectal tone by placing a finger in the rectum - the tissue around the finger should contract.

Delivery of a kid in normal presentation, position and posture

- Chains or ropes should be placed on both front legs with one loop of the chain/rope above the first joint (fetlock) and a half-hitch between the fetlock and the hoof.
- If the ewe is down, traction should first be placed on the kid's lower limb. (If the mother is standing, place traction on either limb.) The shoulder of this limb should be pulled through the birth canal. Traction should then be placed on the opposite leg and the shoulder pulled through the birth canal.
- Once both shoulders are through the canal, pressure can be placed on both limbs and the kid pulled until the chest is outside of the mother's pelvis.
- If the kid is fairly large, it should be rotated 45-90 degrees, allowing the widest part of the kid (the hips from side-to-side) to pass more readily through the widest part of the mother's pelvis. Rotation of the kid is accomplished by crossing the legs and applying pressure to the upper limb and body while rotating.
- All traction placed on the kid should coincide with the mother having a contraction and pushing.

If manipulations need to be performed, it is very beneficial to have a spinal block (epidural) administered by a vet.



Abnormal Presentations, Positions, and Postures: Delivery of a kid that is coming backward, but in normal position and posture



- A large kid should be rotated 45-90 degrees before attempting to remove it.
- Traction should be applied from directly behind the mother in a slightly upward direction (towards the tail of the mother) until the hips of the lamb/kid are removed.
- At this point the kid can be rotated back to normal and removed routinely.

Normal presentation and position, except one or both front legs are retained



- With one hand, try to cup the end of the hoof on the leg(s) that is retained. This will protect the uterus and allow the limb to be pulled towards the pelvis. Sometimes a chain can be placed on the retained limb for extra control.
- If more space is required, one hand can be placed on the chest or head of the kid. Then while pushing the lamb/kid back into the pelvis, the other hand can be used to cup and pull the retained limb into the pelvis.

Two front legs are coming through the pelvis, but the head is turned back



- The head can be turned to either side, straight behind or even down between the legs. A kid in this position is often dead or very weak.
- Once the position of the head is identified, the head should be grasped. Often, gently placing the fingers in the eye sockets or mouth of the animal will help give some control. The head can then be manipulated into the proper position. It may also be necessary to push the body of the kid back into the uterus with one hand while positioning the head with the other. This allows that little bit of extra room that is often necessary.

Normal presentation, but upside down and leg(s) retained

- Both front legs should be identified and pulled out of the vagina using the techniques found in the previous information.
- Once the legs are accessible, the kid is rotated to normal position by crossing the legs and placing pressure on the upper leg and shoulders, while rotating.
- The head should also be held and rotated along with the body.
- Once the kid is properly positioned, it can be removed routinely.

Backward presentation, upside down, and both legs retained (breech)



- Attempt to rotate the kid to an upright position. This is done by grasping one side of the kid (hock and/or front leg) and pushing down in a sweeping motion. (In some cases, it may be necessary to get the hind limbs out and use them to rotate the kid.)
- Once the kid is right-side up, but the legs are still retained, pull the hock of one leg into a flexed position. Then force the hock upwards and forward while cupping the hoof of that leg. Pull the foot towards the middle of the kid and backwards towards the vagina.

Backward presentation and right-side up, but legs retained

- Same as above without rotating the kid.

Four Legs in the Birth Canal

- Make sure the legs are all from the same kid.
- If all 4 limbs are from the same kid, deliver the hind legs first. Delivering the hind legs first will allow the head to follow naturally.
- Rotate the kid if necessary, using the information found in the previous information.

Delivering Twins



With multiple births, it is common to have the legs of one kid and the head of another entering the birth canal at the same time. If front legs and a head are present in the birth canal, gently pull on the legs to make sure that the legs and head are from the same kid. If the legs and head are not from the same kid, take plenty of time to repel (push back) the head of the lamb/kid that is present and follow the legs up to the body of the other kid. Orient the legs and head of the same kid in the normal presentation, position, and posture for delivery. Deliver one kid, and then follow the same steps to deliver the second. If the problem is simultaneous delivery of twins, repel one back into the uterus while holding the other.

• Common Mistakes

Allowing the mother to be in labour too long before giving assistance.

Trying to deliver a kid that is in an abnormal position without first correcting the problem. Never apply traction to a kid with the head or leg back without first correcting the problem.

Applying too much traction. No more force than the equivalent of two people manually pulling should ever be used.

Note: In most cases where assistance has been given, it is beneficial to administer antibiotics to the ewe to help prevent potential bacterial infections.

Ref: infovets.com/books/smrm/C/C460.htm

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SA Sybokhaarkwekersvereniging
SA Mohair Growers' Association



Australian Sheep and Wool Show 2022

After 2 years of Covid cancellations all roads led to Victoria and Bendigo for the Australian Sheep and Wool Show. On exhibition were 2000 odd sheep entries representing 26 breeds, Sheep auctions (a Collinsville Polled Merino ram made \$115,000! He was a beauty too!), Yard Dog competitions, Shearing and Wool Handling Championships, Arts and Crafts exhibitions (Wagtail Yarns had a stall and had plenty of interest), Fashion Parades, together with Angora goats and mohair all featured. The ASWS certainly was the place to be during 15th – 17th July 2022!

Thanks to the significant efforts of Tim Ferguson (Mallee Park, Hopetown, Victoria) Angora goats and Mohair were back in the 'big shed' that housed British breeds, Dorpers, Aussie Whites and the like. Giving us inordinate exposure. The Angora goats' personality endeared them to all the onlookers who came through the shed as well as some curious sheep breeders! Thanks to the huge efforts of Bev Stent there was information to be handed out and questions answered. Tim and his daughter Jaycee were also instrumental in the organisational side ensuring the infrastructure like tables, ribbons and Show books/schedules were supplied on time for the competition.





Whilst it was disappointing that no Victorian exhibitors, including Schools were present in our section, NSW school Narrandera High under the guidance of Ag teacher Matt Shady and willing parent and teacher at St Francis Leeton NSW, Rachel McDonald, exhibited Angora goats and Mohair fleeces, together with Willow Glen Angoras who exhibited Mohair fleeces, competed in the events.

The Stock and Land featured all the happenings of the 2022 event in a recent paper. Rob Muirhead (Stock and Land – July 21st, 2022) stated that: “Judge Norm McCrea, Wagga Wagga, NSW said while Narrandera High School NSW was the only exhibitor showing Angora goats at this year’s ASWS, the school presented some excellent goats and created an impressive competition It was good to see the kindness of the students exhibiting and taking up the challenge of showing ... Mr McCrea said he was also impressed by the Mohair fleeces shown, with some real quality in the exhibition.”

Results are listed below

ANGORA GOATS		
CHAMPION AND RESERVE CHAMPION DOE AND BUCK	NARRANDERA HIGH SCHOOL	NARRANDERA NSW

MOHAIR FLEECES		
CHAMPION AND RESERVE CHAMPION MOHAIR FLEECE	WILLOW GLEN ANGORAS	WEST WYALONG NSW

ANGORA PARADERS COMPETITION	
1st	NATALIE CLIFFORD
2nd	SOPHIE CLIFFORD
3rd	CLARE CLIFFORD

ANGORA GOAT AND MOHAIR YOUNG JUDGES COMPETITION	
1st	HANNAH MCDONALD
2nd	MADDISON CLIFFORD



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25 June 2022

Dear Members,

We have been working hard to prepare the new constitution which comes with a new set of rules and regulations (which would replace the current M&As and by-laws) to update and modernise Mohair Australia Ltd. It all started with us participating in a series of “capacity building” workshops run by Associations Forum and funded by Agri-futures from non-levied money. We then engaged Associations Forum to provide some specific advice for us based on the current M&As and by laws. The change will also give more focus to the organisation and deliver better value to the current and future members. We are circulating the new material well ahead of time so you can conduct a full review and give us your feedback in the coming 4 weeks so we have time to review our position to gain your full support when it will go to a member vote on the 25 November 2022 at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). There are real positives for supporting change and not just maintaining the status quo. We wanted to pull out some key points from the documentation and list them below:

1. We have updated the way we can communicate, conduct meetings and vote using technology.
2. We have made all new registrations does and bucks \$2.00 per head. We have also made transferring registered animals \$2.00 per head. This is a reduction in current fees.
3. We are moving the subscription year to the follow a financial year. Which would be 1 July to 30 June.
4. We have updated the rules and regulations to include group matings and DNA testing for the registration of progeny. In larger herds it is probably a little unrealistic to think everyone is going to single sire mate does.
5. We have taken the major decision to merge all regions (active and non-active) with their state entities, therefore creating state branches instead of the using the word divisions.
6. We have included a youth branch to help foster future farmers.
7. It also means the rules and regulations cannot be changed or adjusted by the board but must go to Members with at least 20% of the votes that may be cast to get a change.

We would like to reference and quote three paragraph's from the letter dated 5 June 2001 which was written 21 years ago by the MAL President Margaret Harris.

“The three tier representational structure upon which Mohair Australia is based may have suited our democratic purposes when membership exceeded 3000. Now we have subscription membership of just over 300 (New South Wales 145, Victoria 64, Queensland 55, Western Australia 28, South Australian 23 and Tasmania 17). Of you 27 branches (21 regions and 6 divisions) only 11 are fully functioning and one-third are now financially inactive.”

“Maintaining the current structure is both ineffective and inefficient in financial terms as well as in allocation of resources. There is a high ratio of office bearers in Regions and Divisions to membership numbers (approx. one third) and associated accounting and audit fees are also high, now absorbing \$20 of every subscription membership with a similar amount going to communication. Clearly, we have to face up to the need to make operational changes.”

The attached diagram addresses the question of representation and the structure of the Board enabling greater focus on Mohair Australia's dual roles. The Board has not yet adopted the model and there is a range of views held by the Directors as to the best approach to take, including a desire by some to maintain the status quo. The Board has therefore resolved to send this proposal to you for your consideration and to give you the opportunity to comment prior to any recommendations being put to the membership by way of a General Meeting".

We think supporting the "status quo" this time around could be detrimental to the future of the organisation.

You will notice membership categories are changing with the new structure. They will be Full Breeder, Associate, Educational, Youth, Honorary and Support membership. Current Ordinary members can re-join as Support Members although there is no voting rights or Associate Membership with voting rights. Current commercial members probably best fit the Associate category however they can re-join as Support, Associate or Full Breeder members. Education and Youth membership stays the same. Youth subscription will automatically include membership to the Youth Branch/Group.

Personally, I am finding it an exciting time to be in the Mohair industry and Angora goat seedstock business because there is strong international demand for mohair. In Australia we are at a point with commercial production getting critically low and registered stud breeder membership under fifty. Identifying and developing future farmers is a really important role of the organisation because we are getting to critically low levels. I don't think animal sales in this country have kept in step with current mohair sales. This creates an opportunity for us to improve and be rewarded for it.

If you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Lynne Carter, Sue Jordan, Grant Forsdick or Vicki Winley on the National MAL board.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Gorrie

President – Mohair Australia Ltd

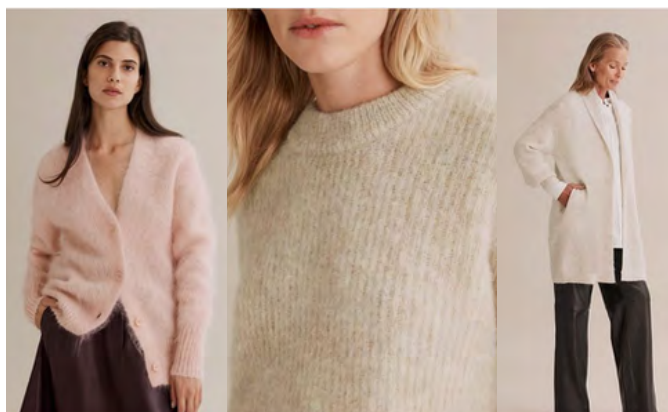
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International industry news

Earlier last month, part of the Mohair SA team traveled to Cape Town to apply for our US Visas for the textile exchange conference Colorado Springs this November. We used the trip to Cape Town to 'hunt for mohair' at the high-end V&A Waterfront shopping mall.

We noted that Australian brands, Country Road and Trenergy have lots of mohair in their knitwear ranges. We expect Emporio Armani and MaXhosa to feature Mohair in their knitwear and home collections and they didn't disappoint. This makes our hearts warm, and we are smiling





Something to buck about: Goat listings charging to new highs

By Emma Fessey

AuctionsPlus commercial goat listings for the 2021-22 financial year totaled 154,041 head - a 25% rise on FY21. Buoyed by widespread positive seasonal conditions and fruitful breeding, goat listings have continued to rise as demand remains robust across all categories to reach an overall clearance of 76%.

Listings as seen in Figure 1, have followed a similar pattern to FY21 despite a notable surge in listings across the third quarter of FY22 with a record of 34,915 head listed in January 2022. The most recent June quarter of the financial year has seen goat listings reduce with a total of 18,298 head offered across the three-month period - a 41% decline YOY yet still above the same period in FY20.

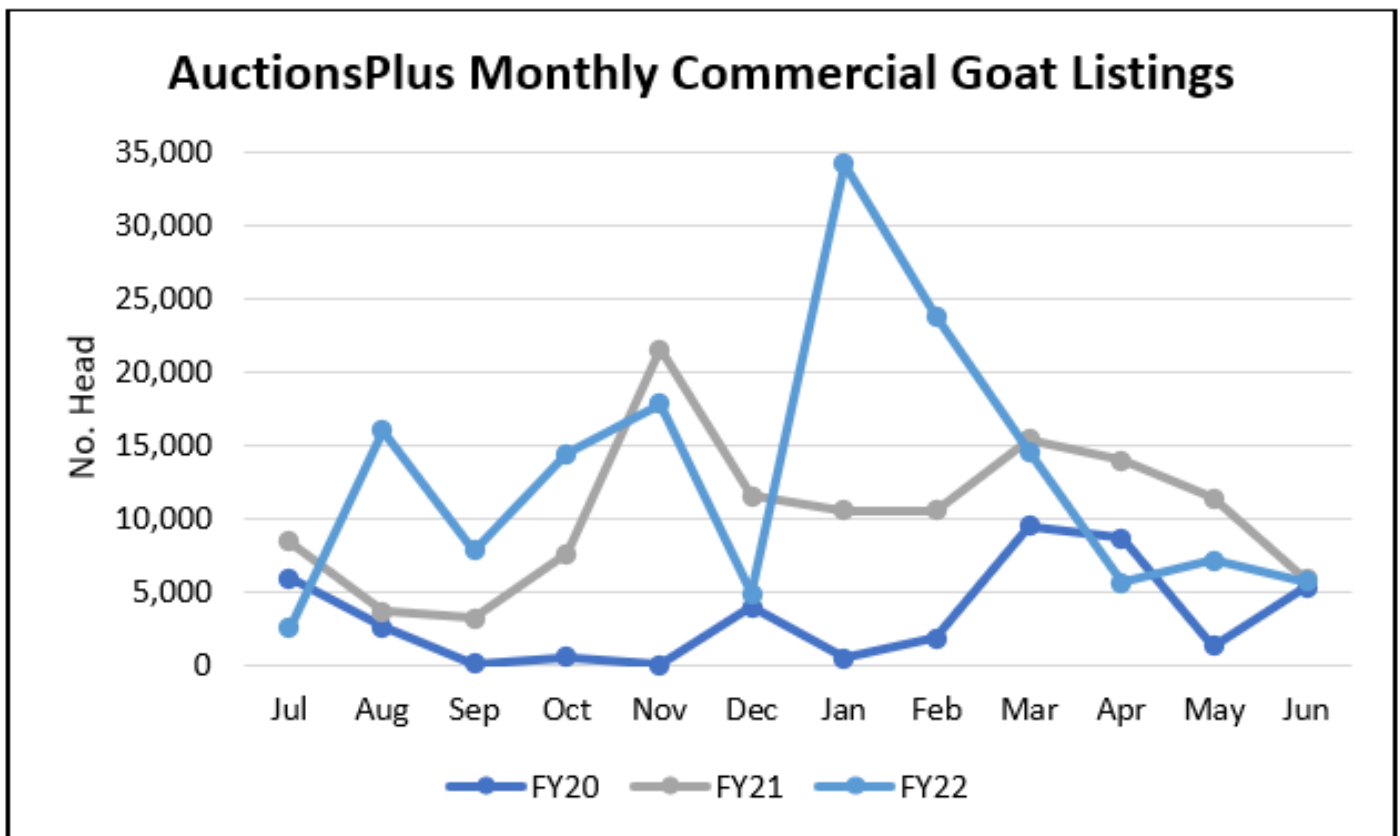


Figure 1: Financial year monthly commercial goat listings FY20- 22

Queensland accounted for 57% of goat listings for the financial year with 87,442 head - a 39% rise from FY21. NSW listings accounted for 42% (64,196 head), up 0.4% YOY while SA and Victoria had a total of 51 and 2,352 head respectively. Looking to regions, Southern Queensland was the largest listing region for the year, making up 37% of the total, followed by Western NSW with 33%. Western Queensland listed 22% of the total goat offering, while the NSW Slopes and Plains and Central West NSW accounted for 4% and 3.8%, respectively.

On the purchasing side, Queensland secured 63% of sales with 83,563 head, with Longreach and Charleville accounting for the two largest purchasing towns across the year. NSW secured 29% with 37,827 head while Victoria registered a significant rise in purchases from FY21, accounting for 8% of total sales, with 10,797 head - up 621% YOY.

	FY22	FY21	FY20	% CHANGE
QLD	87,422	62,722	18,150	39%
NSW	64,196	64,003	22,006	0.3%
VIC	2,352	2,518	12	-7%
SA	51	0	0	-

Figure 2: Number of head offered from each state

TOP 5 LISTING TOWNS			TOP 5 PURCHASING TOWNS	
1	MORVEN, QLD	16,800	LONGREACH, QLD	17,963
2	MITCHELL, QLD	16,570	CHARLEVILLE, QLD	10,702
3	BROKEN HILL, NSW	12,910	BOURKE, NSW	8,327
4	MILPARINKA, NSW	11,211	MILLMERRAN, QLD	6,083
5	MUNGALLALA, QLD	9,251	DIRRANBANDI, QLD	5,296

Figure 3: Top listing and purchasing towns across FY22

Proportion of state based goat listings and purchases across FY22



Figure 4: State breakdown of listing and purchasing proportions



Mohair Australia Ltd. Mohair News

Rangeland does and bucks accounted for a combined total of 69% of listings across the financial year. Doe listings reached a total of 73,279 head (48%) while Buck listings totaled 31,926 head (21%). Both categories were upheld with robust demand, registering a clearance rate of 90% for bucks and 71% for does. Prices for bucks ranged between \$78-\$157 to average \$110/head or 543c/kg lwt. Prices for does ranged from \$80-\$250 to average \$139/head or 614c/kg lwt.

First cross Boer/Rangeland does and bucks accounted for 19% of total listings with 17,756 head (12%) of does and 10,783 head (7%) of bucks. Clearance rates across the bucks reached 95% with prices ranging from \$90-\$800/head to average \$246/head or 592c/kg lwt. Doe clearance rates reached 61% across the year with prices ranging from \$109-\$450 to average \$194/head or 770c/kg lwt.

Purebred Boer does and bucks accounted for 7% of listings with Boer does totaling 9,458 head (6%) and bucks accounting for 924 head (1%). As increased value is placed on bloodlines and breeding quality amongst goats, both categories registered significant price rises from the previous financial year. Boer does averaged \$498/head – up \$261/head with a clearance of 86% while bucks averaged \$856/head - up \$398/head from FY21.

Boer/Kalahari bucks and does also reaped significant prices across the year with both categories registering a rise in listings from FY21 - indicative of the rising number of managed goat enterprises continuing to evolve. A total of 4,932 head of does were offered, accounting for 3% of listings which returned an average of \$395/head. For the bucks a total of 3,299 head were offered which averaged \$445/head and reached a clearance of 74%.

The number of goat sales which were interfaced with AuctionsPlus rose by 86% YOY with a total of 13 sales held across the financial year, up from 7 sales held in FY21. A highlight from the stud goat sales included the second annual Red and Black goat sale in November 2021 at Cobar, NSW which saw Australian Buck records tumble when “Marrakesh” sold for \$21,000.

Broadening the scope to national slaughter data, recent MLA data has revealed July 2022 levels are sitting considerably higher than the same time last year. Goat meat production in the first quarter of 2022 rose to the highest level since 2018, driven by higher slaughter volumes and the increasing capacity at abattoirs following labor shortages and closures due to COVID. Victoria and Queensland are leading the state-based goat slaughter for the month as revealed in figure 5 with both states rising by 39% and 77% YOY, respectively. Figure 6 also reveals the significant rise in goat slaughter across 2022 to date, albeit following a similar pattern to the previous two years while production levels are expected to rise approaching the warmer months.

	JULY 2022	JULY 2021	% CHANGE
QLD	7,992	4,512	77%
NSW	2,405	1,707	41%
VIC	11,103	8,012	39%
SA	3,083	693	345%

Figure 5: State based goat slaughter for July in 2021 & 2022. Source: MLA

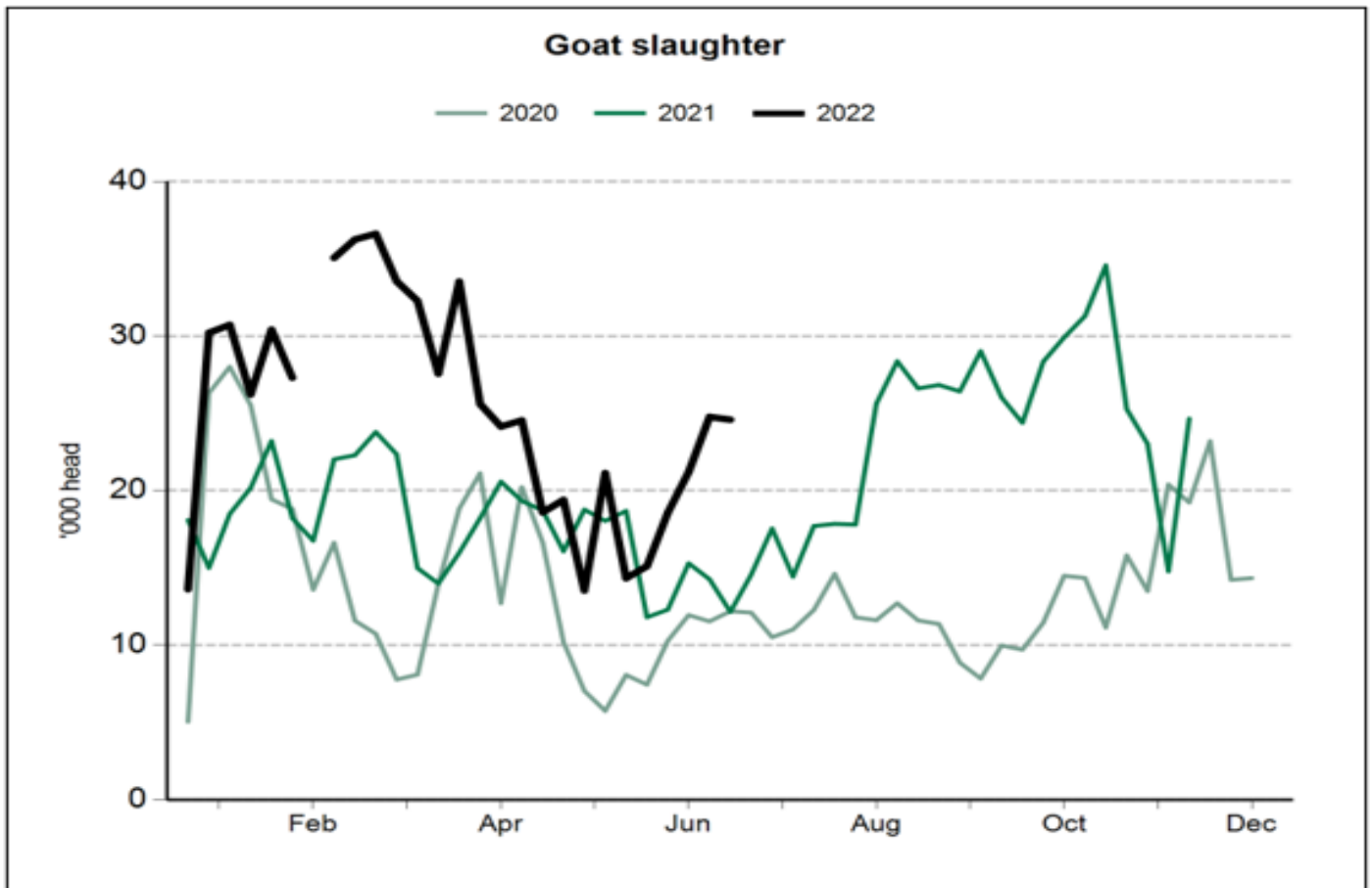


Figure 6: Number of goats slaughtered nationally 2020-2022. Source: MLA

	LISTED	MIN	MAX	AVERAGE	CLEARANCE
BOER BUCK	924	\$126	\$4,500	\$856	34%
BOER DOE	9,458	\$69	\$2,700	\$498	86%
BOER/KALAHARI BUCK	3,299	\$98	\$1,600	\$445	74%
BOER/RANGELAND BUCK	10,783	\$90	\$800	\$246	95%
BOER/RANGELAND DOE	17,756	\$109	\$450	\$194	61%
KALAHARI BUCK	84	\$500	\$8,500	\$1,889	44%
KALAHARI DOE	23	\$150	\$4,960	\$3,884	91%
KALAHARI/BOER DOE	4,932	\$140	\$1,750	\$395	69%
KALAHARI/RANGELAND BUCK	849	\$90	\$980	\$437	64%
KALAHARI/RANGELAND DOE	673	\$94	\$200	\$147	60%
RANGELAND BUCK	31,926	\$78	\$157	\$110	90%
RANGELAND DOE	73,279	\$80	\$250	\$139	71%

Figure 7: AuctionsPlus FY22 national Goat listings and prices

The G.O.A.T Taco

SERVES: 50

PREP TIME: 5-7 hrs

DETAILS

Ingredients for the braised Aussie goat

2 each Australian goat legs
Caribbean jerk seasoning, as needed
¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
2 each large carrot, chopped
3 each celery stalks, chopped
1 each medium onion, chopped
2 ½ cups coconut milk
8 cups chicken stock

Ingredients for the Green cabbage slaw

2 cups green cabbage, shredded
¼ cup carrot, grate
¼ cup red onion, julienned
2 Tablespoons red wine vinegar
1 Tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

Ingredients for the Habanero-pineapple relish

2 each fresh pineapple, ripene
¼ cup Fresno peppers, ¼ inch dice
¼ cup fresh cilantro, chiffonade
¾ cup red onion, ¼ inch dice
2 each Habanero Pepper, Minced

Ingredients to serve (per taco)

1 each 6" flour tortillas
1 Tablespoon Jamaican jerk sauce
¼ cup green cabbage slaw
2 ounces braised Australian goat
1 Tablespoon pickled mango
1 Tablespoon habanero pineapple relish
10 each fried leek strands



From <https://www.getflavor.com/recipe-the-g-o-a-t-taco/>

Method for the braised Aussie goat

Preheat oven to 275F.
Rub goat legs with Caribbean jerk seasoning to cover completely.
Heat a large roasting pan over MEDIUM HIGH heat, add oil and sear goat until all sides are browned.
Remove legs then add carrots, celery and onions to the pan and cook until onions are soft- about 12 minutes.
Next, add legs back into rondo then add coconut milk and chicken stock to the pan. Tightly cover and place in the oven for 5 to 7 hours or until fork tender.
Once cooked, let rest for 1 hour, then remove meat from the pan and shred into 1-2-inch-long strands. Place shreds back in the strained juices and refrigerate until ready to use.

Method for the green cabbage slaw

In a large bowl, mix together all ingredients and reserve under refrigeration until ready to use.

Method for the habanero-pineapple relish

Remove the peel and leaves from pineapple and cut into ½" thick slices with the core.
Grill on a clean grill for 2 minutes on each side creating "x" marks on both sides.
Remove pineapple and allow to cool for ten minutes before dicing.
Mix pineapple with remaining ingredients and reserve under refrigeration until ready to use.

To serve

Place tortilla on a hot flat top for 30 second on each side.
Add one tablespoon of jerk sauce down the middle of the tortilla and top with slaw evenly from side to side.
Top with two ounces of shredded goat meat, then spread mango and relish evenly on top of the meat.
Garnish with fried leeks and serve immediately.

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