

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

ABN 40 008 585 135



**October
2022
Mohair
News**



National Presidents Letter

Dear Members,

I support the new changes to the company and wanted to outline why you should vote "FOR" the proposal.

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 the financial year. Which helps with reporting and bookkeeping. It will be 1 July to 30 June. If you support the change at the AGM we will give all members 6 months free membership by rolling the annual subscription from 1st January 2023 to expire on the 30th June 2024.
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. Regional funds will not be lost and will be available to the states. In fact we hope several regional leaders participate strongly in the state group.
6. We have included a youth branch to help foster future farmers and broadened the scope to include vets, teachers, students etc... and not just current farmers.
7. The new rules and regulations cannot be changed or adjusted by the national board unlike current by laws but must go to Members with at least 20% of the votes that may be cast to get a change.

I think many of you thought the first circulated document was the final and in fact it was a working draft document that we have adapted and changed through the consultation process. It all started with an email and zoom meeting with Divisional presidents on the 22 July 2022. There has also been a zoom meeting with NSW division and Eastern Region. Now we have made several changes to the document based on the feedback of the roundtable discussions and emails. In summary what has changed:

- A. Changed Honorary/life membership to have full voting rights
- B. Defined the scope of Associate membership and given them full voting rights.
- C. Staying with 5 national board directors.
- D. Staying with the Youth section however clarified the terminology and age bracket.
- E. Updated options to register animals from Group and Syndicate sire matings.
- F. Included unregistered animals on annual return to understand yearly production numbers.

Also reference to the Modern Angora Goat is about improved product positioning along the lines of Modern Merino. With Angoras it is about us highlighting the use of imported genetics from South Africa and Texas to improve the production traits of the animal. It is not about weaving or non-weaving types.

Through an industry survey in 2019 we found out that the MAL three tiered structure is no longer applicable, we have an unworkable and outdated constitution, and we don't have sufficient demand (no commercial base) to sell quality bucks and surplus does to supplement mohair returns.

I have also included the results of the recent 2022 Agrifutures run goat fibre industry survey as a supplement and our joint letter from MAL and AMMO (endorsed by the respective boards) to Agrifutures asking for a RD&E review meeting is included in this newsletter. The goat fibre survey results best demonstrate the small nature of the mohair industry, 9 farmers surveyed had more than 200 Angora goats. I believe several large producers have not contributed however the industry is probably at its lowest level of production despite the international markets.

The motivation to reboot is important and will strengthen the purpose of the company and future positive pathway of the mohair industry in this country.

It is now your time to vote.

Yours sincerely,
Nick Gorrie

Your Invite to Attend

– MAL & AMMO Annual General Meetings and AMMO Mohair Auction Day

Thursday 24th November 2022

- 11am to 3pm Agri futures RD&E full industry review in Wagga then across to Narrandera for dinner.
RSVP to Hayley.maher@agrifutures.com.au
- If staying in Narrandera please join us & the mohair buyers for dinner.
- Thursday night dinner in Narrandera. RSVP to Michelle at AMMO (admin@ausmohair.com.au) to receive the details.
7pm with Light refreshments beforehand at the restaurant for early arrivals.

Friday 25th November 2022

- 8am - View mohair on sale at AMMO warehouse
- 9am – Morning tea with local council at AMMO warehouse.
- 10am – Internal Parasite presentation by Dr Matthew Playford
Narrandera Ex Servicemen' s Club (NES)
- 11.30am – B2022 Auction held (NES)
- 12.30pm – Lunch (NES)
- 2pm – Australian Mohair Marketing Organisation (AMMO) Annual General Meeting (NES)
- 3pm – Mohair Australia Ltd (MAL) Annual General Meeting (NES)

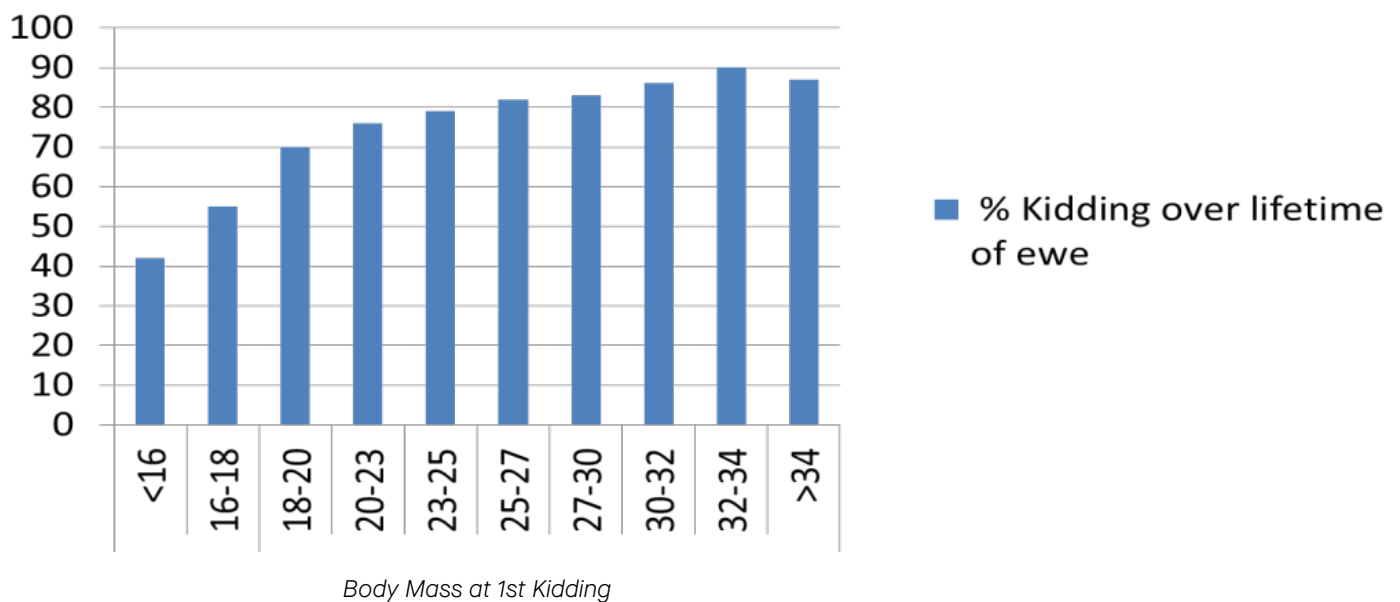


Weaning and the First 18 Months

Nutrition – weaning and the first 18 months

The First 18 Months

Multiple studies have concluded that the body mass at first breeding, usually 18 months, has a critical effect on the lifetime reproduction and production capacity of the ewe. The target for raising ewe kids intended for breeding should be that the kid has reached a body mass of approximately 27kg by the time of first breeding. It is of particular importance to note that the cost incurred in the supplementation of small and young kids will ensure that animals will develop to their full potential, and will produce and reproduce more effectively for the rest of their lives. The graph below demonstrates the optimum lifetime kidding percentages which can be achieved. Increased hair production is also achieved and is discussed below.



Graph of the effect of body mass at first kidding over lifetime kidding%

While pre-weaning growth rates of ram and ewe kids may be satisfactory, post-weaning growth rates, in kids that do not receive supplementary feeding after weaning, are often very poor. Kids that are weaned lose weight fast due to “weaning shock” and under normal Karoo conditions can take too long to regain their weaning mass. Low kidding percentages of two-toothed ewes frequently obtained by farmers as well as the high mortality rate that can occur from weaning until first mating is often due to this factor. During this period the mortality rate is on average 12, 5 % which is appreciably higher than in other types of small stock. The problem of unsatisfactory growth in newly weaned and young kids on natural grazing is usually due to an **energy** deficiency. The dramatic improvement in growth rates in these kids when supplemented shows the necessity for an effective supplementary feeding programme. This supplementary feeding should ideally be started before the kids (creep feed) are removed from the ewes so that they have already adapted to the diet.

The effect of **weaning and nutrition** on the growth rate of kids is demonstrated in experiments carried out when feeding **weaned** (removed from mothers) and **un-weaned** (left to graze with mothers until natural weaning occurs) kids.

- In the experiments where the ewes and kids received supplementary feeding (80% milled lucerne and 20 % mealie meal) the average daily increase (ADI) of the **un-weaned** group was 33, 8 g compared with the 21,9 g of the **weaned** group.
- When this trial was repeated with just lucerne hay the **un-weaned** kids increased by 17,7 g per day compared with the 9,6 g per day of the **weaned** kids.
- The daily gain of the un-weaned group on the lucerne/mealie meal ration was 54 % more than the **weaned** group. On the poorer ration (lucerne), the growth of the **un-weaned** group was 85% better than the **weaned** group.

The growth rate between the two feeding programmes confirms the big effect nutrition has on post-weaning growth and describes the phenomenon known as weaning shock.

The experiment was repeated under veld conditions as well as exchanging ewes to determine the ewe effect as well as nutrition .As a result of good rains before the commencement of the experiment, the veld was in above-average condition during the period of the experiment.

- The effect of weaning the kids and effect of running with other ewes (exchanged) was determined. The ADI of the kids was calculated for the period from weaning (four months of age) until the age of seven months.
- The ADI of weaned kids was 10, 2 g and that ewes exchanged was 12, 4 g.
- On the other hand, the ADI of the non-weaned group of 34 g was approximately 3X better than that of the weaned and exchanged groups. This dramatic difference was statistically highly significant.

From this it is clear that weaning does have an inhibiting effect on post-weaning growth. Further, the practice of swapping ewes in order to decrease stress during weaning, is of very limited value.

When comparing the effect of weaning differences in rams and ewes

- The ADI of the ram and ewe kids is almost the same when they are not weaned.
- However, when they are weaned the daily increase of the rams is significantly higher than that of the ewe kids.

In practice it is therefore best not to remove the ewe kids together with the ram kids, but to delay this wherever possible until they are older (6-7 months old), before the next mating season.

Ewes wean their kids naturally at about five-and-a-half months. When poorer nutritional conditions on the veld are present it can be expected that the ewes will wean their kids naturally at an even earlier stage.

The additional input costs of feeding weaned kids does not only benefit in lifetime reproductive benefits but also improved mohair return.

Dr Mackie Hobson

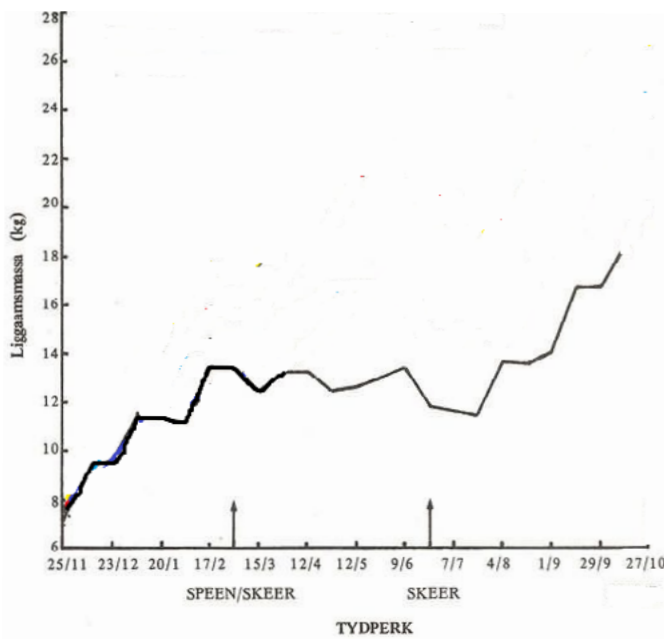


Weaning shock in Angora goat kids

Dr Mackie Hobson Monday, 18th March 2019

Angora goat kids growth rate of kids to weaning is good, however after weaning the kids struggle.

Below is a typical growth curve of kids on many Angora goat farms.



Kids that are weaned lose weight or do not progress due to “**weaning shock**” and under normal Karoo conditions are not able to recover sufficiently. From weaning until first mating the mortality rate is on average 12, 5 % which is appreciably higher than in other types of small stock. The acquired immunity of the kid until 9 months is poor so parasites also have a major impact during this time of stress.

The effect of weaning shock can be demonstrated in extracts from studies by Gretha Snyman (Grootfontein) on 4 to 7 month old kids.

Even where **kids are supplemented** the impact of weaning stress on growth rates is marked.

- Where ewes and kids received supplementary feeding (80% milled lucerne and 20 % mealie meal) the average daily increase (ADI) of the **un-weaned** group was 33, 8 g compared with the 21,9 g of the **weaned** group.
- When this trial was repeated with just lucerne hay the **un-weaned** kids increased by 17,7 g per day compared with the 9,6 g per day of the **weaned** kids.
- The daily gain of the un-weaned group on the lucerne/mealie meal ration was 54 % more than the **weaned** On the lucerne, the growth of the **un-weaned** group was 85% better than the **weaned** group.

The experiment was repeated under **veld conditions**. As a result of good rains before the commencement of the experiment, the veld was in above-average condition during the period of the experiment. The ADI was calculated from weaning (4 months) to 7 months old.

- The ADI of **weaned** kids was 10, 2 g
- The ADI of the **non-weaned group** of 34 g

The practice of **swopping ewes or running with older goats** in order to decrease stress during weaning, is of very limited value as these kids had ADI of 12,4 g compared 10,2 g where no adults were present.

If left Angora goat ewes would wean their kids naturally at about five-and-a-half months. If veld conditions are poor then the ewes would naturally wean their kids earlier. The impact on the ewe and future conception necessitates that we wean earlier. Supplementary nutrition to reduce this set back of weaning stress is therefore important. This should ideally be started before the kids (creep feed) are removed from the ewes so that they have already adapted to the diet. This should be for a minimum of 2 weeks before weaning.

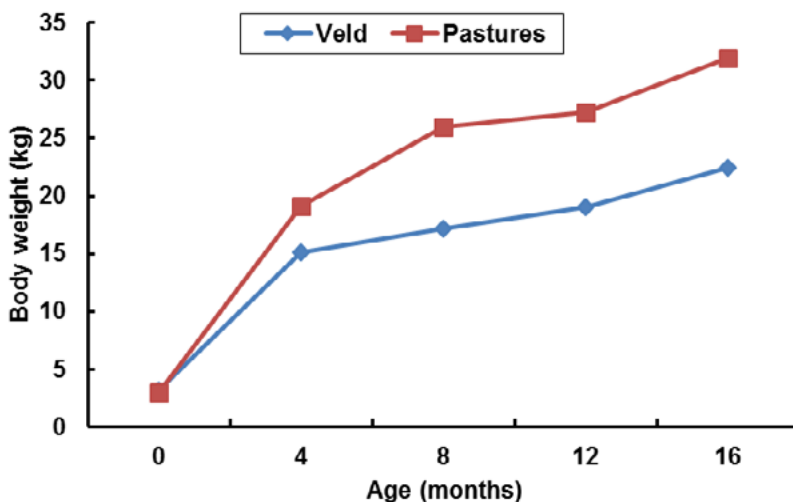
It is also a good idea to move the ewes and leave the kids so that there is less stress on the kids and they are familiar with their surroundings and where to find the water and feed.

Looking at Gretha Snyman's data for the longevity project 2000 to 2015 the impact of nutrition can be seen when comparing ewe kids raised on the veld compared to lands.

Monitoring growth rates of weaned kids in attempting to reach a target mass of >27kg at first mating

We all know that the target is to get the maiden ewes to an ideal weight of 27kg +. However not many of us know what their weights should be and certain points in their development to reach this. By checking the average weight of the kids at strategic times we can determine 'where they are' and where we need to look at reviewing their management and what impact weaning stress and nutrition had on these kids.

Growth curves of kids raised under different management systems in the graph below.



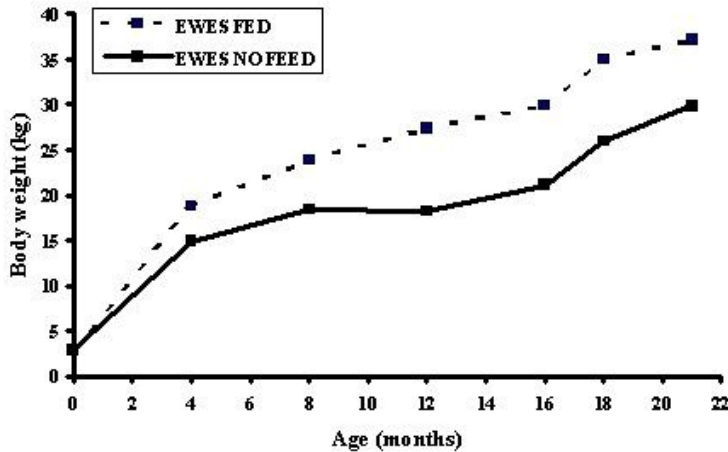
Grootfontein demonstrates the importance of feed on the weaned kids and follows a similar pattern.

Where ewe kids were run on pastures, they maintained a steady growth rate of ± 32 g/day from 8 to 12 months. In comparison, the ewe kids run under veld conditions without any supplementation, lost on average 2 g/day between 8 and 12 months of age.



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Growth curves of ewe kids receiving supplementary feeding after weaning compared to kids receiving no supplementation in the graphs below.



If we look at data collected by Gretha Snyman (Longevity project 2000 to 2015) we can determine the EWE kids weights at strategic times.

LIFE STAGE	AVERAGE WEIGHT (KG) VELD	AVERAGE WEIGHT (KG) PASTURE
BIRTH	3.2	3.0
WEANING (4 MONTHS)	15.1	19.1
8 MONTHS	17.2	26.0
12 MONTHS	10.1	27.2
16 MONTHS	22.4	32.0

To achieve a weight of 27kg at first mating the the average daily gains (ADG/Day) are on average.

LIFE STAGE	ADG/DAY (G/DAY)
BIRTH TO WEANING	113
WEANING TO 8 MONTHS	40
8 TO 12 MONTHS	9
12 TO 16 MONTHS	30

With these references obtained by many years of work by Grootfontein we are able to benchmark the growth rate of our Angora kids.

REFERENCES

BODY WEIGHT AND GROWTH RATE OF ANGORA KIDS, Gretha Snyman, Grootfontein Agricultural Development Institute, Private Bag X529, Middelburg (EC), 5900

DIE EFFEK VAN ENERGIEBYVOEDING AAN JONG GROEIENDE ANGORA BOKKIES, P D Grobbelaar en C M M Landman, Afdeling Diereproduksie Landboukollege Grootfontein

The effect of different weaning practices on post-weaning growth rates of Angora Kids and reproduction of Angora ewes. (J.H. Hoon#, W.J. Olivier & P.J. Griessel)

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16th October 2022,

Att: John Harvey - Managing Director, John Smith - General Manager Research & Ellen Buckle – Senior Project Mgr all of Agri futures

Dear Ellen and John,

Subject: Agrifutures (AF) Australian Goat Fibre Industry RD&E Plan 2022 – 2026

This plan was prepared during 2021 by a representative group of participants from the Australian Goat Fibre industry. At the time, Agri futures were informed that the mohair industry was in the process of reviewing their strategy, and there was acknowledgement at the time the lack of a clear strategy since 2014 was the core reason for the stagnation of industry growth. In the last 12 months international demand for mohair has been strong, with Australian mohair of all types selling well and raw prices selling above previous highs and averages to complete clearances. Levy collection for Australian mohair sold in Australia has followed this trend.

The first Agri futures project is underway after significant delays in commencement and poor execution. One example is that Dr Sandra Baxandall has distributed the survey thru her social network before we had even opened the email with the final survey to distribute to our members was a concern. The goat fibre survey results are in and probably best demonstrates the small nature of the mohair industry, 9 farmers surveyed had more than 200 Angora goats. We believe several large producers have not contributed however the industry is probably at its lowest level of production despite the international markets. The survey also highlights the lack of cashmere growers in Australia and their ability to generate any levy funds moving forward. Is it 5000 or 2000 cashmere goats there is a difference in the report which may be a typo. Are they located in SE Qld or Vic? Why is mohair and cashmere in together at AF?

We are also concerned that Agrifutures don't appear to have responded to our feedback over the last 12 months and have not increased their engagement with the levy paying members of the industry. For example I have not seen any material on the MLA Going into Goats Mohair Module that is proposed by Justine Hall to be updated by AF. What is the status of this side project?

The AMMO board has recently taken the initiative and completed a strategy formulation process and has a revised 5 year growth strategy and business plan.

There are a number of core strategic themes which have been outlined and costed over the next 5 years at approximately \$1.6m. Approximately half of this amount has been allocated to salary related expenses, and the remainder to specific projects associated with the development of industry and producer capabilities to position Australian Mohair as 'The most valuable Mohair in the world'.



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This aligns with the thinking of Christine Mulhearn & Martin Worthy at the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment at the levied industries form in Sydney on the 21 June 2022.

The key cause of financial underperformance by AMMO over the past decade has been identified and rectified. It is forecasted that the business will return a profitable result for the 2023 financial year.

It is the view of the board of MAL and AMMO, that the stage 2 of the RD& E Plan should be paused and reviewed in terms of deployment of the levy funding. It will be important going forward that the deployment of all industry reserves are carefully coordinated. In the context of this narrative, industry reserves can be categorised as follows:

1. Production Levies
2. AMMO cash reserves
3. MAL cash reserves
4. Future AMMO profits
5. Future MAL profits

In addition to these reserves there exists opportunities to obtain government and other commercial industry funding for specific projects, and generally these grants exclude the costs of salary related expenses. That means that the industry will need to fund the salary portion of the strategy from its reserves. I would suggest the next step is a face to face/virtual meeting to discuss how to best address the challenge presented above.

Yours sincerely,

Grant

Grant Forsdick - Chairman

Australian Mohair Marketing Organisation (AMMO)

Nick

Nick Gorrie - President

Mohair Australia Ltd (MAL)



Roast Kid

METHOD

Rub the meat with olive oil. Sprinkle with herbs, marjoram, rosemary and thyme. Wrap in foil or in a roasting bag, and put in an oven on a medium heat [165C].

Cook for 30 minutes per 500gms of meat, plus 30 minutes. Make a sauce by chopping onions, celery, parsley, thyme and a bay leaf.

Place them in a pan with 750mls of stock or water and simmer for 20 minutes.

Heat 25gms butter in a pan, add 25gms and stir until brown.

Strain the stock and add to the browned flour. Stir until stock thickens, then simmer for 10 minutes.



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