

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

ABN 40 008 585 135



Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season



**December
2022
Mohair
News**



National Presidents Letter

Dear Members,

Don't give up your day job! That was the message that I came away with from the AGM meetings in Narrandera this year and the postponed sale at very short notice didn't help the cause. Although MAL AGM result was disappointing, I can see both sides of the argument. We have written up the draft AGM minutes for your review. It will not be confirmed until next years' AGM in Canberra.

We do need to move on and get on with the job of improving our position.

I found a really good quote on the Westray Merino Stud website and it also could relate to using good quality registered Purebred Angora bucks in our industry. ***"Quality genetics remain the most cost effective way of making permanent and cumulative improvements to your herd."*** It got me thinking in 2023 we do need to be collaborating more with people in the wool industry.

This issue of Mohair News covers some really good ground. We have continued the weaning and the first 18 months with two NEW articles. Goat meat prices have come back and we have included an article from Auctions Plus – Market Pulse. We have received some good reports on Qld and WA activities held by the divisions and these are in this issue.

We look forward to working with you in 2023 and see what the New Year brings.

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Gorrie

MAL Christmas Close down period from
December 19th 2022 until January 9th 2023.

Mohair Australia Ltd Annual General Meeting Minutes

25 November 2022.

Start 3.00pm.

1.Registration of Attendance

At meeting – Grant Forsdick, Reg Scott, Phillip Oliver, Brian Ross, Mandy Statham, Peter Simpson, Norm McCrea, Matt Shady, John Hoornweg, Nick Gorrie

Joined by RSVP Zoom invite – Lynne & Don Carter, Warick Burns, Catherine Fox, Sue Jordan, Vicki Winley, Graham Dau, Jacob Stevens, Sue Bell, Jennifer Readford and Helene Ypma

Later joined by Zoom Debbie Scattergood.

Guests in the room: Andrew Forsyth, Craig Clancy & Gill Scott. We did have some connection issues through the meeting because of poor wifi at the venue.

Played Elena Schneider from the Schneider Group short introduction and welcome to the natural fibre connect international conference. The “little humming bird” story of hope and opportunity....

2.Apologies and Proxy votes

Mary Dixon, Iain Rainer, Sandie Smith, Steve Roots, Alma Haaijer. Proxies will be counted.

Rebecca Kuss	Graham Sutherland
Catherine Fox	Jennifer Readford
Terry Cummins	Rowan Ross
Stephen Smith	Sandy Smith
Doug Stapleton	Doug Nicholls
Doug Stapleton	Margaret Nicholls
Leonie Scott	Gina Woods
Graham Larke	Annette Worsfold
Craig Richards	Inge Myer
Steven Roots	Justine Hall
David Payne	Alma Haaijer
Warick Burns	

Reg held 4 undecided ones and Mandy held 1 undecided one. Emailed and Mailed proxies were counted. Catherine Fox's proxy was counted.

3.Confirmation of Minutes from previous AGM

Moved Nick Gorrie Seconded Lynne Carter. Motion Carried.

4.Motion 1. Acceptance of Presidents report.

Typo correction 5th paragraph should be matter. Moved Nick Gorrie Seconded by Grant Forsdick Motion Carried with 1 against recorded.

5.Motion 2. Acceptance of Treasurer financial report.

Moved by Vicki Winley and Seconded by Mandy Statham. Motion Carried with full support.

Grant Forsdick thanked Vicki on behalf of the board for the great work she had done in bringing the accounts up to date. Reg Scott separately thanked Vicki for great engagement with the regions and divisions.

6.Motion 3.

Typo rules and regulations should read October 2022 page 1 and 25 and note April 2022. There was some discussion around withdrawing the motion. Reg Scott questioned the 3 week notice, when 6 weeks was the required for members to review the final document. Given the extended consultation period, which commenced with divisions during July 2022. It was decided to put it to the vote at the meeting as the review time was considered not material. Note GF referred to the Eastern regions early adoption of a NO strategy – and this was led by RS, DS, PO. One of the reasons why MAL is not attracting commercial producers is with an outdated constitution and a hobby farmer attitude.



Moved Nick Gorrie Seconded Grant Fordsick. Motion Failed.
Recorded as 9 for and 30 against.

7.Motion 4.

Discussion around altering the wording of the motion. 2 points General Meeting vs Extra-ordinary meeting and discussion vs decide. No change made. Motion put to the group as proposed.

Moved Nick Gorrie Seconded Grant Fordsick. Motion Failed.
Recorded as 16 for and 22 against. 1 not indicated on proxies.

8.General Business

It was noted that the board will be respectful of the process and the outcome of the vote based on the document presented. It is important to note the board didn't engage any external firms (solicitors or lawyers) on producing the draft, so apart from a lot of time there was no cost to the organisation. The template used was one that complies with the corporations act. The board did participate in a workshop presented by Associations Forum in 2021, and they made comment on a number of points that required changing for the constitution to meet the requirements set by the corporations act. MAL board chose to use a complying template and modify for MAL purpose. John Hoonweg mentioned that the original M&As of MAL was a 12 month process and the cost was about \$60,000 in 1986.

Nick asked a question of the Eastern region about their understanding of the Australian Mohair Company (AMC). The spokesperson didn't know or didn't understand the question. This lead into a discussion around MAL's real effectiveness in advocacy , influence and its representative role in the industry.

John Hoonweg asked a question regarding Victorian division funds and management of divisional equity. Grant Fordsick presented an answer to this question: Directors have a fiduciary and as such were responsible for the prudent management of company money. Controls for expenditure are in place and will be maintained. Divisions can put in a proposal and the board will consider it. Reg Scott was a little concerned about the process and mentioned this at the meeting. It was pointed out that the board had supported all of NSW divisions proposed activities. Reg Scott asked a question around national budget for 2023. Nick Gorrie answered that the board has discussed a budget. Note NG presented a draft budget for the past financial year and has a draft budget to present to the Jan MAL board meeting. We have discussed it as a board and MYOB does allow us to

map this out and track actual vs budget. It can be a follow up point to the meeting. It is important to understand membership fees do not cover all the overheads.

Reg Scott asked a question around the Mohair News not having the regions and divisions listed. Nick Gorrie answered It was mainly a formatting issue because we are printing in groups of 4 because it is A3 folded. It was a smaller edition so we didn't want to add another 2 pages. Therefore 2 pages had to be cut. Information is available on the website. Spoke about the board decision to publish online to save on postage and printing. John Hoonweg mentioned advertising. We welcome submissions and advertising. Nick Gorrie suggested that Reg Scott takes on the role of editor – Reg declined.

Reg asked a question regarding directorial roles on APMC and any potential conflict with MAL. Grant answered. Current interim directors of APMC are Nick Gorrie, Grant Fordsick, Lynne Carter and Graham Dau. Constitution is not ratified, and company is not operational at this stage. Directors will need to consider their position and potential conflict at the time the company constitution is ratified, and board appointments finalised.

Reg made comment about how today's vote shows the position of the current membership towards the version of the constitution presented. Grant Fordsick acknowledged that the board had a duty to continue to manage under the current constitution.

The meeting closed at 4.47pm

Weaning and the first 18 Months continued from last edition...

Immunity in Angora goats

Friday, 12th March 2021

Immunity in Angora goats

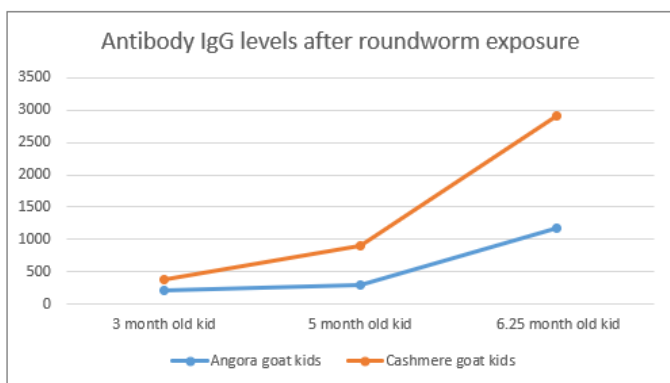
Why do Mohair producers struggle with the control of parasites in Angora goats more so than in sheep, particularly in weaned kids?

It is well known and proved that the Angora goat has a poorer ability to resist certain internal parasites compared to sheep.

Goats historically evolved as browsers and so have been less exposed to infective larvae and oocytes which are rarely found more than 20cm above the ground.

Even when comparisons between Angora goat kids and other goats are made the acquired immunity is poorer. This can be demonstrated in the development of Antibodies against roundworms between Cashmere and Angora goats compared over 3 years of data. (Ref: Breeding Fibre Goats for Resistance to Worm Infections Gastrointestinal, nematode or helminth By S. Walkden-Brown, B. Sunduimijid, M. Olayemi, J. Van Der Werf and A. Ruvinsky)

This is one of the reasons that when treating kids for parasites (roundworms, coccidiosis) the levels of parasites appear to quickly climb to previous levels after repeated exposure. The graph is consistent with the greater ability of Cashmere goats compared to Angora goats to limit infections following a challenge.



What is this immunity?

There are 2 types of immunity:

- **Innate immunity** is the general non-specific responses without prior exposure to the pathogen (genetic inherited response)
- **Acquired (adaptive) immunity** is the immune response when recognising specific antigens with the development of a very specific immune response (antibody-mediated, cell-mediated, or both) and with the development of memory cells. (T and B lymphocytes).

How does immunity work against intestinal parasites?

It is believed that intestinal parasites stimulate a Type 2 antibody-dependant response while with intracellular parasites a Type 1 response is stimulated. The **Type 2** response involves the flooding of the local mucosa with inflammatory cells (mast cells, eosinophils) and the development of immunoglobulins (IgE). Initially cytokines including interleukins. The first line of defence is the gut-associated lymphoid tissue which responds to the antigens released by the parasite. (See the enlarged mesenteric lymph nodes of the Angora kid stimulated by a severe chronic coccidiosis infection in the photo below)





Immunity results in:

1. **Expulsion of the adult parasite** by damaging its cells or by the stress to resist the attack from the host.
2. **Reduced fecundity and delayed development** of the adults in its effort to survive
3. **Reduced establishment of larvae**

A number of factors have an impact on the immune system resulting in the poor and delayed response by Angora goat kids.

AGE

The immune response of goats against *H. contortus* (wireworm) has been reported to be lower and develop later in age as compared to sheep (Hoste et al. 2008).

The age of the development of acquired immunity in Angora goats may vary but studies suggest that some resistance to roundworms is established by 12 months of age and that there is no marked increase in resistance beyond that age, although if adjusted for infecting dose size suggested an increase in acquired resistance may occur up to 18 months of age.

Studies supporting this:

- Adult goats develop at least some host resistance to gastrointestinal nematodes but it occurred later than 12 months of age. (Vlassoff et al. 1999)
- In Angora goats, there is less development of resistance with age and exposure so there is less divergence in the level of infection between young and adult animals. (Le Jambre and Royal -1976)
- Kids acquired their first nematode infections between 2 and 3 months of age and the intensity of infection increased erratically thereafter to reach a plateau once the kids were 14 months of age. (Helminth and arthropod parasites of Angora goats in the southern Karoo | G Horak 1, KM Macivor, C J Greeff)
- 2 Angora goat kids worm population was evaluated monthly for 2 consecutive years from the time they were 1 week old until they reached 12 months of age. Nematode burdens increased erratically in the kids reaching the greatest numbers when they were 1 year old and were generally low in adults (I G Horak 1, M M Knight, E J Williams)

Goat kids can develop resistance to infection provided that they have sufficient challenge beforehand. This suggests that parasite control methods that rely on maintaining some parasite burden in the host are more likely to be successful than those that suppress worm infections totally.

Roundworm management based upon close monitoring of worm egg counts (WEC) and treatment intervention only when the WEC exceeds a given threshold based on worm species involved, animal condition, nutrition, and climatic conditions is likely to maintain immunity in the population and help regulate infections. (Kahn et al., 2006; Scrivener et al., 2006).

Also, see Target selective treatment and Roundworm management on the website

<https://www.angoras.co.za/article/targeted-selective-treatment-ts>

<https://www.angoras.co.za/article/roundworm-management-strategies-in-angora-goats>

REPRODUCTIVE STATUS

Pregnancy (a month before kidding) and lactation (2 months) result in a weakened immune system with the result that when usually 5% of stage L3 wireworm larvae picked up off the pasture develop into adults this can rise to 25-30%.

This is also reflected in the study where ewes that had given birth and were lactating had significantly higher FECs than 'dry' does in the flock, suggesting that like sheep, goats exhibit a post-parturient relaxation of immunity. (A Vlassoff 1, S A Bisset, L W McMurtry)_

SEX

Adult ewes (dry) have better immunity than 'kapaters' and rams. The susceptibility of male animals to infections may be due to sex steroids (androgens), which modulate several aspects of host immunity (Klein 2000), and hence, these are often more susceptible to infection and carry higher parasite burdens.

NUTRITION

Nutrition is vital to the goat's immune response effecting both the goat's resistance and resilience as supported by studies:

- Deficiencies in trace elements such as selenium, molybdenum, copper, zinc have been associated with higher worm counts.
- Protein supplementation can increase the rate of acquisition of immunity and resistance to reinfection (Coop and Holmes, 1996).
- Goats receiving a high protein diet had decreased faecal egg counts compared with those with a normal protein diet during lactation (Hoste et al., 2005). This trial also showed that the response of goats to supplementary feeding was characterized by an improvement in resilience, while effects on host resistance were less evident. (Resilience is the ability of the host to maintain production in the face of infection with parasites while resistance is the ability to resist or throw off infection).
- It has been reported that goats infected with *contortus* and given extra protein in their diet had higher eosinophil counts (Torres-Acosta et al. 2004; Marume et al. 2011; Pathak & Tiwari 2013), decreased FEC and worm burdens (Knox et al. 2006), compared to goats given lower protein intake.

Therefore supplementary feeding, in particular provision of extra protein, can assist resilience to infection especially during times when metabolic resources are being directed to overcome the pathophysiological effects of infection (Knox et al. 2006).

GENETICS

Heritability to worm resistance although lower than sheep is a selection trait that can significantly impact roundworms as demonstrated in studies:

- Genetic resistant animals had a lower FEC and had higher antibody levels (IgG) and mucosal eosinophilia in response to a secondary challenge infection than the non-resistant line. (Gill 1991)

- The genetic resistance resulted from the expression of acquired immune responses rather than innate responses. FEC and PCV are two important parameters as an indicator for resistance as they are heritable with the range from 0.1 to 0.35 (Bishop 2012).

The selection for worm resistance is very achievable, see the website <https://www.angoras.co.za/article/breeding-worm-resistant-angora-goats>

STRESS

Weaned Angora kids were monitored for antibody levels, weight gain to demonstrated the effect of weaning stress on decreasing the ability of kids to amount an effective immune response. (H. Imik M. Aytaç).

See the impact of weaning stress on Angora goat kids on the website <https://www.angoras.co.za/article/weaning-shock-in-angora-goat-kids>

This will explain why Angora goat kids are so susceptible to parasites and why good management is required when raising Angora kids

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SA Sybokhaarkwekersvereniging

SA Mohair Growers' Association



The impact of Brown Stomach Worm (and Coccidiosis) on Angora Kids

Wednesday, 29th August 2018

Brown Stomach worm (BSW) (*Teladorsagia circumcincta*) can have a significant impact on weaned Angora goat kids especially in the autumn and early winter (March-June).

The natural and acquired immunity of weaned Angora kids under 9 months is very poor and hence why they are particularly susceptible to Brown Stomach Worm (BSW) during Autumn and early winter.

In the spring when the risk of BSW is high, but the kids are now a year old, so have a more developed immune system to deal with the challenge. Angora goats are generally much more susceptible than sheep to BSW.



The infective stage 3 larvae develop 5-6 days after the eggs hatch. These infective larvae are relatively tough and are capable of overwintering in cold conditions. Once the L3 larvae are taken in by the grazing goat they leave their protective sheath after 3 days and penetrate the lining of the abomasum. Brown stomach worm larvae do not feed on blood, but damage the lining of the stomach as they mature to adult worms. For this reason pale mucous membranes (anaemia) are not such a significant feature compared to 'wireworm' infestations.

Adults (about 10mm in length) develop after about 9 days and the adult females start producing eggs (50-100 eggs a day)

at about 18-21 days after infection. The larvae can become 'hypobiotic' and remain dormant for several months in the abomasum to emerge the following spring.

What damage does the BSW larvae do?

- After exiting their protective sheath the larvae penetrate the lining of the abomasum. This causes an inflammatory response by the wall of the abomasum.
- Parietal cells are penetrated and damaged. The parietal cells are responsible for secreting acid and maintaining a low pH environment of the abomasum. The result is that the pH of the abomasum rises (becomes more alkaline) which results in Trypsinogen and Pepsinogen not being converted to Pepsin and Trypsin. The enzymes Trypsin and Pepsin are vital for the digestion and breakdown of protein into a useable form.
- The increased pH may also lead to bacterial proliferation and resulting diarrhoea. That is why the abomasal content may appear and smell unfavourably different on PM.



Photo of the Abomasum showing severe inflammation and the 'ostrich' skin ulcerated and nodular appearance following Brown Stomach worm (Photo www.wormboss.com Source: Dr R Woodgate, Department of Agriculture Western Australia)

What damage does Coccidiosis do?

There are many stages in the development of the coccidia, and at each stage intestinal cells are invaded and then destroyed – causing repeated damage to the intestine. The intestinal

damage can release blood and cause inflammation of the lining of the gut. The animal loses blood, water and protein and cannot absorb nutrients as efficiently. If enough damage is done, it becomes extremely ill and may die. Angora goats are less prone to haemorrhage (bleeding) than sheep as a clinical sign.

What causes the blood protein levels of the goats to drop?

- There is an inflammatory response and loss of protein through the mucosal wall of the abomasum caused by the penetrating brown stomach worm larvae.
- Damage to the parietal cells of the abomasum by BSW causes an increase in the pH of the abomasum resulting in Pepsin and Trypsin not being formed and effecting protein digestion and absorption.
- Loss of protein through diarrhoea and decreased protein uptake via the intestine with both coccidiosis and BSW.
- The loss of appetite by the kid reduces protein intake
- Adult worms also suck blood (3-4 weeks after initial infection) but the effect is not as pronounced as wireworm.
- Inflammation of the intestinal tract by coccidiosis causes the release of protein exudate and reduced the ability of the absorption of protein.



Photo: An Angora kid with heavy Brown Stomach Worm and Coccidiosis showing 'swelling disease'. Note there is no significant diarrhoea.

The Recovery of Albumin levels in Angora kids following Brown Stomach Worm and Coccidiosis

A case study involved 9 month old Angora kids which had been dosed with a levamisole containing product 10 days earlier. The

kids were weak, showed a loss in condition, some had diarrhoea and a few kids showed swelling 'swelsiekte' and deaths were reported.

A post mortem was conducted to determine the cause of deaths.

On Post Mortem the following was found:

- Subcutaneous oedema, ascites. ('Swelsiekte')
- Brown stomach worm (and a few wire worm) in abomasum.
- Inflamed abomasal wall
- Faecal egg count of 36 kids averaged 8600 epg roundworm (Brown stomach worm) and 22 900 epg Coccidiosis.
- The mesenteric lymph nodes were enlarged



Mesenteric Lymph nodes enlarged



Ascites (fluid in abdomen)



Mohair Australia Ltd. Mohair News

36 of kids showing clinical signs of weakness, oedema (swelling) and diarrhoea were:

- blood sampled on day 0, 3, 7, 14, 21, 28, 38 (albumin levels)
- all dewormed (First Drench) and treated for coccidiosis (vecoxan)

Blood samples were taken on days 0, 3, 7, 21, 28, 38 after treatment for BSW and Coccidiosis.

day 0	day 3	day 7	day 14	day 21	day 28	day 38
22	21	20	22	23	22	25
20	21	22	25	28	31	30
19	20	22	25	28	29	29
19	19	21	24	28	28	29
18	19	21	24	25	27	29
18	18	20	24	25	26	28
17	18	19	24	25	26	27
20	17	18	21	23	25	27
15	16	17	21	23	25	27
15	15	16	20	23	24	27
13	15	16	20	22	23	27
18	14	16	19	21	23	27
14	14	15	18	21	22	26
16	13	14	17	21	21	26
15	13	14	17	21	21	26
13	13	13	17	20	21	26
15	12	13	17	20	21	26
15	12	13	16	19	21	25
14	12	13	16	18	21	25
14	12	12	16	18	20	23
13	12	12	16	17	20	23
12	12	11	16	17	20	22
14	11	11	15	17	19	21
14	11	10	13	13	16	21
13	11	10				
12	11					
11	11					
11	9					
11	7					
12	6					
10						
9						

The Albumin levels were checked arranged highest to lowest in the table below.



The RED (table above) indicated kids that died post treatment. It is interesting to note that:

- If the Albumin level dropped below a critical level of
- ALL the kids died- no exceptions.
- If the Albumin level was between or equal to 10-11 the survival rate was 50% (3/6)
- If the kids maintained a blood Albumin level of >12 g/l they recovered post treatment

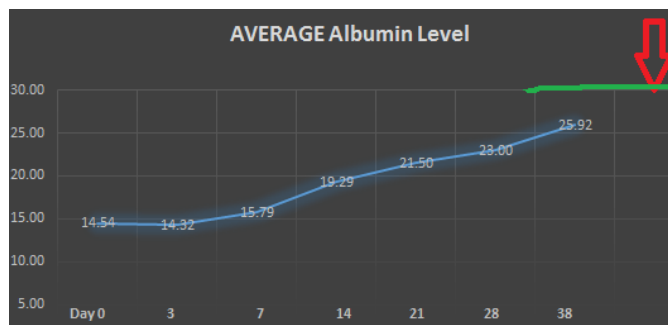
Faecal samples were checked on day 14 to ensure no parasites remained.

What are 'normal' Albumen levels in Angora goat kids?

- 6 'normal kids' were blood sampled and the Albumen levels ranged between 30-38 g/l (average 33 g/l).

- From previous studies on 'swelling disease' goats which did not swell the albumin levels averaged 30g/l.

For kids recovering with the albumin levels returning to normal the target would be for the Albumin levels to return to > 30g/l (target- marked green on the graph below)



From this graph it can be extrapolated that it **would take between 50-60 days for these kids to return to 'normal' after having had a severe brown stomach worm/coccidiosis infection.**

This study highlights a few important points for the Angora farmer to keep in mind in order to ensure the health and wellbeing of their Angora kids

1. Taking a faecal sample and getting it checked 10-14 days after dosing is important to ensure there is no anthelmintic (dose) resistance on his farm.
2. The anthelmintic (dose) treatment in Angora goats should be 1,5x that of sheep
3. Combination doses are better and slower to develop resistance.
4. From the end of March to June it is vital that Faecal egg counts are monitored to prevent the kids getting into this position

A study field study of different treatments has also been done to determine if any treatment protocol resulted in a quicker recovery to normal albumen levels. SAMGA Website

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SA Sybokhaarkwekersvereniging

SA Mohair Growers' Association



AMMO Press release

12 December 2022,

Dear Producer,

The Board of AMMO has engaged with international buyers and other parties to gain better insight into the state of the global mohair market. It is clear that there has been a temporary oversupply caused by a number of demand side occurrences. The two major factors have been the sharp increases in energy prices in Europe combined with the Chinese 'COVID Zero' policy.

The view from South Africa is that there are pointers that the market is returning to normal again, with demand increasing from China over the past week.

The sale prices in South Africa have held up well for their November and December sales, and prices are expected to open at similar levels in the new year. It is important to note that the South African Mohair Trust has purchased 60,000 kgs of South African grown fibre at previous auctions in 2022 because of a slowdown in demand and is planning to bring it back into the market in 2023.

The suggestion from buyers is for AMMO to plan an auction on 27th January but make an effort to sell volumes in the meantime. The Board has decided to sell by means of open tender and proactively engage with interested parties during December and early January and re-evaluate the situation at our board meeting on the 12th January.

Thank you for your patience in this regard.

Grant Forsdick
Chairman

AMMO
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Mohair Australia Ltd – WA Division

Mohair Producers / Angora Goat Farmers of Western Australia attended Gidgegannup 76th Agricultural Show on Saturday 29th October 2022.

With the help of Dr Susan Jordan (Wynchgate Farm), Dr Gina Woods & Jan Wuppermann (600 Acre Woods) and Annette & Andy Worsfold (Chananne Angoras) we set up the display stand in the hopes that the predicted weather forecast which was for wet & windy conditions would not ruin the day. The Gods must have been looking out for us as we only encountered a light shower in the afternoon, the wind factor made it very successful in selling Auzzie Kid Mohair gloves, beanies, scarves and coats.

Henry and Pickles from 600 Acre Woods and Yum Yum from Chananne Angoras were very popular with the public lots of cuddles, pats and many photos were taken on the day.

It was also the first show in many years that had Angoras and mohair back on exhibition. Special thanks to the four exhibitors in the mohair classes, great to see such a lovely turnout of fleeces presented. A huge thank you to judge Emma Rowatt for stepping in at last moment.

Congratulations to award winners.

Supreme Angora Exhibit - Lynndon Grove Clancy (3147)

Reserve -Lynndon Grove Matilda (3198) bred by Lynndon Grove Angora Goats and Mohair, owned and exhibited by Dandalee Park.

Champion and Reserve Champion Fleeces also exhibited by Dandalee Park.





Warwick State High School Angora Goat Workshop

22.11.2022

Mohair Australia Ltd
PO BOX 248, Mundaring WA
6073, AUSTRALIA

Dear Board Members Mohair Australia Ltd,

I am writing to thank you for your support in sponsoring the Warwick State High School Angora Goat Workshop day held 21st November 2022. The day was deemed a success with 40 participants from 3 different schools around the Southern and Darling Downs region joining in on the activities.

An outline of proceedings started with an overview of the Angora Goat industry, products, markets and job opportunities. This introduction proceeded with rotational workshops teaching students about the desirable characteristics of mohair and appropriate terminology used when judging fleeces both on and off the animal. To conclude the day, students practiced their learnt skills taking part in a junior judging competition, a worthwhile and positive experience for all.

A huge shout out must go to Jacob Stevens and Graham & Leanna Dau for giving up their work day to come and impart their knowledge at no cost. We are very fortunate to reside in an area where such enthusiastic support from Angora producers is readily given to enhance student knowledge.

I think we can all agree that supporting students and developing knowledge and skills in such a niche industry is essential in safeguarding the future of mohair production within Australia. We once again sincerely thank you for your support. Discussions for a similar event next year have already been discussed, and we are hoping that Mohair Australia would once again like to support us on our endeavour to develop the skills of young individuals geared towards employment in the rural sector.

Yours Sincerely

Amanda Coy
Agricultural Science Teacher

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Warwick State High School





Are Goats the “Canary in the Coalmine” for Australian Livestock Prices?

Published Tue, 6 december 2022

By Emma Fessey



Goat production in Australia has risen profoundly in recent years, facilitated by the improved seasonal conditions and sustained focus on producer specialization. Along with the increase in managed goat enterprises, the rising returns for goat meat has challenged traditional livestock options, while supply chain improvements have facilitated improved market access.

However, the recent headwinds driven by international markets have triggered a sharp decline in goat prices in the second half of 2022, as the market comes under pressure from many angles, including supply chain bottlenecks and fragile consumer confidence. Over the Hooks (OTH) prices for goatmeat peaked at 920c/kg cwt in June 2022, which quickly retracted by 47%, to 485c/kg cwt in November (MLA).

Driven by three consecutive seasons of favorable conditions, especially in regions more suited to goat production in 2021 and 2022, Australia has seen a very strong recovery of stock numbers. Matching the surge in supplies was high consumer demand, along with additional processing capacity, which had seen prices skyrocket across the past two years. **Figure 1** below illustrates the indexed prices of goats, sheep, and cattle from 2016-2022, highlighting the comparatively strong run for goat prices in late 2021 and early 2022. Coming out of the drought, goat prices responded quickly, with prices rallying to new highs. This was followed by both sheep and cattle prices which saw the ESTLI and EYCI reach impressive peaks in September of 2021 and January of 2022, respectively.

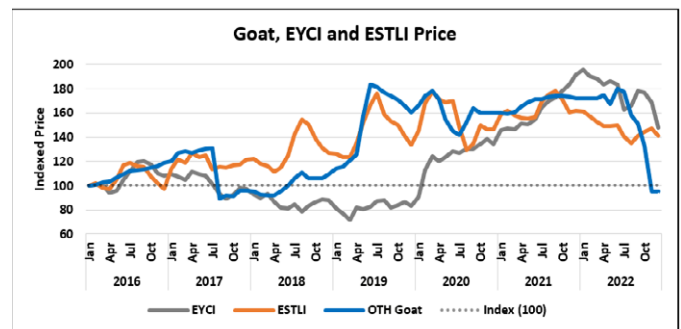


Figure 1: Average monthly OTH goat (12-16kg cwt), EYCI and ESTLI prices on a c/kg basis, indexed from Jan 2016 (Index = 100). 2016-November 2022

Indeed, taking the Australian goat market as a leading indicator, with faster implementation of higher production and slower export markets - is the sharp decline in goat prices considered the “canary in the coalmine” for the larger livestock sectors?

We know that both the cattle herd and sheep flock have been in expansionary phases, with additional production forecast to hit the markets in 2023 and concerns regarding processing bottlenecks. With the economic conditions and consumer sentiment in overseas markets expected to be tougher in 2023, the outlook for Australian livestock prices initially looks rougher than in previous years.

Given the heavy influence upon export markets for Australian goat meat, most notably from the US, which takes approximately 57% of total shipments, the recent decline in prices is grounded from overseas. Clear concerns around rising costs of living, higher interest rates and a looming recession continue to weigh on international markets – with a direct and comparatively quicker feedback loop for the Australian goat market.

AuctionsPlus Goat Market Summary:

Goat production in Australia had been rising since 2020 - underpinned by positive seasonal conditions and an increase in the amount of specialized goat producers. 2022 yielded a very strong start to goat throughput on AuctionsPlus, with the first three months of the year registering a total of 54,512 head listed

online - 115% higher than the same period in 2021. January saw the largest monthly listing of goats on the platform with 25,267 head offered, selling to a strong market. Fast forward to the winter months, and goats followed a similar trend to the sheep and lamb market, with listings decreasing significantly across the second and third quarters of the year. As seen in **Figure 2**, listings across quarter two and quarter three of 2022 were back 49% and 72% respectively on 2021 numbers, while the final quarter of 2022 is shaping up to follow a similar trajectory.

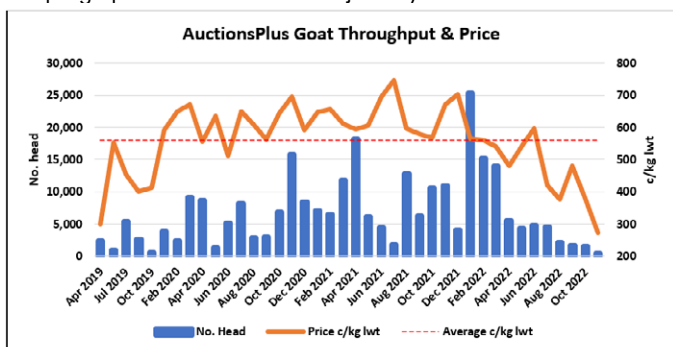


Figure 2: AuctionsPlus monthly goat throughput and average c/kg lwt price returned from April 2019-November 2022.

Recent declines in listings and c/kg prices in AuctionsPlus commercial goat sales can be attributed to widespread wet conditions, labor shortages and processing backlogs. There is however a myriad of factors outside of Australia which weigh heavily on the value and demand of both rangeland and managed goats.

Global export market:

The strong gearing of the goat market to overseas importers influences its sensitivity to the demand from and performance of international markets. **Figure 3** provides a snapshot of the Australian goat export market for the year-to-date in 2022. Just 9% of total goatmeat produced in Australia is traded domestically (MLA), while the remaining 91% is exported. The US is the largest importer of Australian goat meat - taking approximately 66% of total Australian exports in 2021 and 57% YTD in 2022 (MLA).

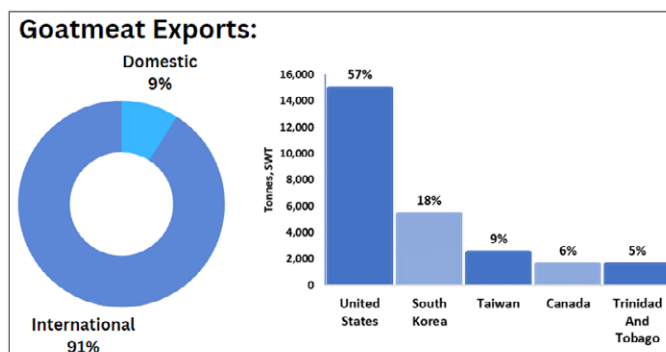


Figure 3: The Australian goat export market YTD 2022. Left: Proportion goatmeat to international and domestic markets. Right: Top 5 importers of Australian goatmeat with their import weight (tonnes swt) and proportion of total goat exports.

The US, which is a critical link in the export chain for Australian goat meat, has played a substantial role in the softening goat market in the second half of 2022, as the cost-of-living crisis and retail prices of meat play-off against each other. The high cow slaughter rates in the US have seen their total red meat inventory in cold storage for August sit 20% higher than in 2021 (UTAH farm Bureau), subsequently constraining red meat prices on a retail level. While this has been noted as a short-term price trend, the retail pressure for meat in the US has had a knock-on effect, causing negative ramifications on the value of the Australian goat market as overall demand eases.

To reinforce the “canary in the coal mine” metaphor, reduced consumer sentiment combined with headwinds from economic conditions and overseas markets has facilitated a decline in goat prices online and OTH. Further to this, the EYCI has recently registered significant declines, with the latest price closing at 869.7c/kg cwt on December 5th – 22% lower year-on-year and 15% lower than the previous month. While there are a multitude of factors influencing price performance, market drivers which impact one livestock commodity are certain to impact others, just at varying magnitudes. Despite the relatively small and “niche” market compared to sheep and cattle, the goat industry can play a vital role as the “canary”, where national and global market drivers impacting price and demand can be echoed to an extent across the broader livestock industry.

Ref: 2022 6 Dec, Emma Fessey, Auctions Plus Online - Market Pulse.



MOHAIR AUSTRALIA LIMITED

By-Law No 6

Relating to Membership Subscription fees for the classes of membership in Article 5

Breeder -	5.2.2	(i) Persons who or corporations which (b) are willing to pay a Subscription as determined by the National Executive in accordance with Article 7 - currently \$150.00
Commercial -	5.2.3	(i) Persons who or corporations which - (b) are willing to pay a Subscription as determined by the National Executive in accordance with Article 7 by - currently \$150.00
Trader -	5.2.4	(i) Persons who or corporations which - (b) are willing to pay a Subscription as determined by the National Executive in accordance with Article 7 - currently \$150.00
Education -	5.2.5	(i) Educational institutions being bodies corporate or unincorporated institutions which - (c) are willing to pay a Subscription as determined by the National Executive in accordance with Article 7 - currently \$150.00
Junior -	5.2.6	(i) Persons who are 18 years of age or younger who - (c) are willing to pay a subscription as determined by the National Executive in accordance with Article 7 - currently \$50.00
Ordinary -	5.2.7	(i) Persons who or corporations which - (c) are willing to pay a subscription as determined by the National Executive in accordance with Article 7 - currently \$60.00

Are you using or buying Registered PUREBRED Angora Bucks?



We have had reports of people buying purebred Angora Bucks and not being able to get them registered with the breeder or having a big delay in being able to register the progeny.

A few tips before inspecting:

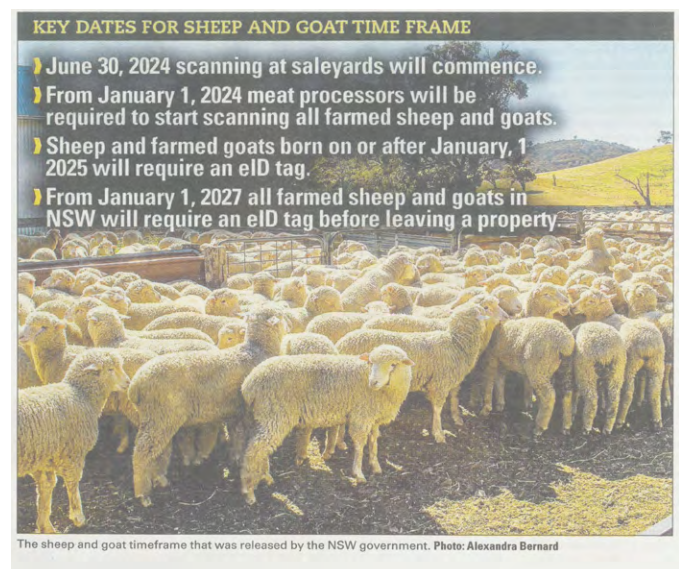
- *** Make sure you ask about having them registered or option to get them registered when booking in your inspection time on the phone or email.
- *** LOOK UP if they are a current stud breeder member on the MAL herdbook.
- *** When viewing ask to see their registration papers or full pedigree.
- *** Ask for them to be registered before you come back to pick them up or delivered.
- *** Shearers often tell us that people use their own bucks without really looking at them or comparing them.

Once you have them home unregistered it is much harder to get them registered.....



Goat Industry Council Australia (GICA) Summary of face to face meeting key points:

- (Electronic identification RFDs) EIDs state rollout are being announced across the country. Example of NSW rollout from The Land Newspaper included below.
- EID process will help capture lost levies on transaction levies (farm to farm).
- Contact GICA rep (Sue Jordan) if interested in being nominated for MLA ambassadors' program (goat meat coaching / training program).
- Funding opportunities for MLA local goat community and cluster groups / sponsorship of events.
- MLA news - Study that examines sources of Angora Goat Reproductive Loss - Dr Kiri Westphalen and associates through Charles Stuart University, Wagga Wagga NSW 2678. More details in the next issue from Kiri.
- GICA strategic plan launch - Angora goats included.
- Transactional / slaughter levy for goats is going to be increased in the future. Be prepared for \$1.50 to \$2.00 per head. What extra services and support do we get with the increase?



Biosecurity – GoatMAP – Changes to Compliance

Animal Health Australia have recently finished a review of GoatMAP with Goat Industry Council of Australia and Herd Health that has split the existing program into two modules – biosecurity and JD – as well as added a new module for CAE, which was identified as another industry priority disease.

<https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/declarations-and-statements/> This change to compliance affects any shows who hold Goat Competitions, sell Goats or hold Goat Exhibitions.

Reduction sale of breeding does @Lynndon Grove

- Ages from 2-1/2 years to 7 years old does



- *** Sound does with good mothering ability and robust breeding types with quality mohair production
- *** Bucks available from yearlings to 4 years old
- *** Only the best kept for improvement of genetics
- *** Will do starter grower groups
- *** Genuine people only contact Lynne 0408832093 for price range of age groups - available late January

Email Lynne.don37@bigpond.com