

Sheep Innovation Day and Farm Tour

Hosted by Breeders BEST genetics.

*A day designed to re-energise your approach to sheep
in great southern farming systems*

Thursday, September 9

9.30am to 4.30pm at Genstock

“Sherwood” 334 Shamrock Road, Kojonup

With support from WAMMCO, MLA and WALRC



WALRC
WA Livestock Research Council

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| 9.30am | Registration and coffee fill |
| 10.00am | Welcome and logistics |
| 10.15am | Board buses to feedlot |
| 10.30am | The logistics, the challenges and the opportunities of confinement feeding at scale

The Heggaton approach to confinement feeding has been modelled on the system finessed by Nyabing farmer Allan Hobley. With over 12,000 in confinement per year, the flow-on effect to this enterprise has been significant. Allan Hobley is joined by Craig Heggaton , Murdoch University's Serena Hancock , and Genstock's Dr Michylla Seal to discuss not only the do's and don'ts of confinement but how to optimise your livestock production system once you have made the confinement commitment. |
| 11.30am | Sheep feedlots – the new normal

With a holding capacity of 10,000 the feedlot is now a fixture in the Heggaton business, and an essential part of managing supply at WAMMCO. In this segment we turn to WAMMCO's Rob Davidson and host Craig Heggaton to take a look at the challenges and opportunity the feedlot presents, both to the farming business and to WAMMCO. |
| 12.00 | Board buses to pasture site at Koojan. |

- 12.15 **The bottom line impact of deferred grazing and improved pasture innovation**
- Since launching a pasture regeneration program 10 seasons ago, and a big ramp-up in the last couple of years, the dividends are paying off. Agronomist **Tim Trezise** has led the initiative to introduce tetraploid and diploid ryegrasses and aerial seeds and sub clovers, with support from business analyst **Paul Omodei**. But what has it cost, have they persisted and what have been the paybacks?
- 1.30pm Back at the shed for lunch – including inspection of sheep handling equipment and other displays
- 2.00pm** **Sheep are OK!** Two of the Great Southern’s largest sheep producers, **Richard Coole** and **Wayne Pech** explain their business preference for significant sheep numbers in the system. We discuss strategies for sheep sanity (technology that works, the payback of top-notch sheep handling gear, the approach to managing flies) and why canola prices aren’t tempting them to make life easier.
- 2.30pm **In the face of record land values, knowing your true profit drivers in a sheep enterprise is essential. But what are they?** Planfarm consultant **Paul Omodei** challenges us to consider the true profit drivers of a sheep enterprise, drawing on benchmark data from across the state.
- 3.00pm Afternoon break
- 3.30pm **How WAMMCO is taking lamb production to the next level:** WAMMCO duo **Rob Davidson and Damien Giumelli** combine to share the story of WAMMCO in a season like no other. WA’s best spring has coincided with the introduction of the DEXA and what this might lead to; clashed with COVID-challenged shipping conditions and new-look markets.
- 4.00pm **Driving change at the farm gate:** MLA’s **David Beatty** is spear-heading the R&D charge to drive greater profitability and create a carbon neutral farming system. Dave provides a snapshot of the big hitters to come out of your levy.
- 4.15pm **A professor’s reflection:** Professor **Dave Pethick** is one of the lamb industry’s greatest champions. He has had a long association with WAMMCO and the Heggaton family and today we ask him to reflect on what he’s heard and seen and most importantly, what are his take home messages for the sheep producers in the audience.
- 4.30pm Close and refreshments.



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