

Merino Bloodline Performance

Which Bloodline will make you the most money?

Additional Trait Measurement Funding for Merino Wether/Ewe Trials - 2006

Australian Wool Innovation has provided funding for wether/ewe trial committees to carry out additional trait measurements as an initiative incorporated in the Merino Bloodline Performance project.

Aim – to expand the scope and accuracy of comparative flock performance by providing merino wether/ewe trial committees with the opportunity to measure additional traits that are of significance to the merino industry above the ‘standard traits’ currently being measured and assessed. *Refer to appendix 1 for ‘Standard Traits’.*

Method – under the Merino Bloodline Performance project funded by AWI, NSW DPI will be administering the Additional Trait Funding applications.

Application process

- ◆ Complete the attached application form and return to Sally Martin, NSW Department of Primary Industries, PO BOX 51, Young NSW 2594 by **30/4/2006**.
- ◆ Notification to wether/ewe trial committees of success – 3 weeks after closing date.
- ◆ Payment will be provided to the successful applicant on:
 - receipt of a tax invoice by NSW DPI Project Leader for the additional trait measurement that have been approved and;
 - receipt of a report on the value to the wether/ewe trial participants (*proforma attached*):
 - the report should include – site identification; contact and trial details; what the additional trait information was used for; list benefits and outcomes; a copy of the site report (approval to publish the site report on the website (to be constructed)) and;
 - provision of the data to NSW DPI to be included in the Merino Bloodline analysis and subsequent publication in the National Merino Bloodline Performance Package.

For more information contact:

Sally Martin
Project Leader (Merino Bloodline Performance)
NSW DPI, PO BOX 51, YOUNG NSW 2594
P: 02-6382 1077 **M:** 042 740 1538 **F:** 02-6382 2228
E: sally.martin@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Appendix 1. Standard Traits Evaluated in Merino Wether/Ewe Trials

- ◆ Fibre Diameter (micron)
- ◆ Wool Yield (percentage)
- ◆ Greasy Fleece weight (kg)
- ◆ Body weight (kg)
- ◆ (Subjective) Fat Score (1-5)
- ◆ AWEX ID and/or Bin Lines

Available Funding

Test	Abbreviation	Cost per test
Faecal Egg Count	FEC	\$3.50
Staple Strength and Staple Length	SS SL	\$4.00
Staple Strength	SS	\$3.50
Staple Length	SL	\$0.50
Staple Profile	SP	\$1.20
Fat & Eye Muscle Depth	Meat	\$2.75
Wool Processing	WP	\$55/bulk test test per team
Pregnancy Scanning	PS	\$1.00

Maximum amount paid per site

Wether comparisons, on-farm bloodline comparisons and ewe productivity comparisons offer woolgrowers an opportunity to benchmark their genetics to the rest of the industry. In recognition of their important role in the Merino industry throughout Australia, Australian Wool Innovation Limited and Meat and Livestock Australia is providing funding to expand the range of measurements collected at trial sites.

A minimum of 10 wether and/or 50 ewes per team will get preference for funding additional traits, this requirement is in line with criteria set out in the Guidelines for Designing and Conducting Merino Wether Comparisons and On-Farm Genetic Evaluations.

Consideration will be given to allow two FEC tests to be conducted in the first year to provide meaningful data (minimum of 10 wether/ewes per team).

Guidelines to be used in site management

NSW Department of Primary Industries have developed a set of guidelines for designing and conducting wether comparisons and WA Department of Agriculture have developed guidelines for running ewe productivity trials. It is important that if NSW DPI is administering funds provided by AWI that these guidelines are followed and that the appropriate evidence is provided to NSW DPI. A copy of the guidelines can be down loaded from the Merino Bloodline website www.merinobloodlines.com.au or a hard copy is available from Sally Martin, NSW DPI, Young.

Data ownership and publication

The data collected at each site will be transferred to the National Wether Trial Database administered by NSW DPI, Orange. The use of this database is managed by NSW DPI to produce the National Merino Bloodline Performance Package. Bloodlines entered into wether or ewe comparisons have the right to withhold their identity from publication, however the data will remain in the database.

Additional Trait Funding Application for Wether/Ewes Trial Committee's

Please fax back to 02-6382 2228 or
post to Sally Martin NSW DPI, PO BOX 51, Young, NSW, 2594

Section 1 – Wether/ewe Trial Site Details

1. Wether/Ewe Trial location and/or name
2. Contact Person(s)
3. Contact Postal Address
.....
..... STATE PCODE
4. Phone: Fax:
5. Email:
6. Number of teams involved in current trial?
7. Number of wethers/ewes per team?
8. Starting date of the current trial 8a. Finishing date of current trial.....
9. Duration of the Trial? (please circle) 2 years 3 years 4 years other.....
10. Month of shearing? (please circle) Jan Feb Mar Apr May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec
11. Previous trials at location (eg 1999-02; 2002-05)
12. Current measurements collected: Micron Yield Body weight
 Fleece rot score Other (please state)
13. What software do you use to analyse the wether/ewe trial data?

Section 2 – Additional Trait Funding

14. Please indicated the Additional Traits you wish to have funded (please tick):
 Staple Strength Staple length Faecal Egg Count Meat (fat/eye muscle)
 Staple Profile Other (please specify)
15. Estimated total costs/head: \$.....
16. Testing company(ies):.....
17. Why do you want to collect this additional trait information? (what benefits or outcomes?)
.....
.....
18. Will you be interested in seeking funding for additional trait testing in the future? Yes No

Section 3 – Site Participation in National Bloodline Performance Evaluation

I/We agree to provide NSW DPI and AWI with the data that has been funded by the Additional Trait Funding to be included in the National Wether/Ewe Trial database and published in the National Bloodline Performance Evaluation Package. In addition we will provide all the data collected at the wether/ewe trial site to be included in the National Bloodline Performance Evaluation.

Wether/ewe Trial Site Committee Member (Print Name):

Signature: Date:

Additional Trait Measurement Funding Site Report

This report is to be submitted when claiming payment for additional traits measurements.

Site Location: _____

Contact Person(s) _____

Contact Postal Address _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email _____

What data was collected? (*list*)

What were the outcomes from the use of the additional data collected? (*list*)

Promotional Activities

Field Day	If yes what month does this occur? How many people attended in 2004? How many people attended in 2005? How many people attended in 2006?
Site Report	How many copies distributed annually?
Media publicity	Please attaché any copies with report.
Display at sheep events	If yes, which events?
Other?	Please describe

Check List – Have you met all the essential requirements for the funding?

A copy of the site report is included	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
A copy of the tax invoice(s) for additional trait funding are included	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
A copy of the wether/ewe trial data has been supplied to NSW DPI – Email: sally.martin@dpi.nsw.gov.au	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Would you be interested in having a PDF copy of your site report on the Merino Bloodline Performance website.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Wether/ewe Trial Committee Member (*Print Name*): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____