

SA Sheep Advisory Group

SA Sheep
Industry Forum
13 March 2014



Current SASAG members

- Jane Kellock (Chair) - Farrell Flat
- Leonie Mills (Deputy Chair) - Cowell
- Ian Rowett (Stud Merino Rep.) - Marrabel
- Allan Piggott (British Breeds Rep.) – Moorlands
 - Bradley Bateman (LSA Rep.) – Millicent
 - John Symons - Kangaroo Island
- Kelvin Westbrook - Loxton and Tibooburra
 - Ruth Robinson - Jamestown
 - Richard Halliday – Bordertown
 - Elena Petrenas (Ministers Rep.)

SA Sheep Industry Fund

- The South Australian Sheep Industry Fund (SIF) was established in 1999.
- All producers contribute to the SIF when a sheep is sold for >\$5 via a transaction contribution (currently 35c).
- If the sale occurs via a stock agent or abattoir, these entities pass on the monies collected to the SIF.
- If the sale is by private treaty, the vendor is responsible for this contribution to the SIF.



SA Sheep Industry Fund

Sheep Industry Fund (SIF) contributions are collected from approximately 6-6.5 million transactions per annum and invested in programs that promote:

- On-farm productivity and biosecurity
- Predator control
- Market access and emergency preparedness

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SIF Investment Priorities

1. Maintain a robust and relevant animal health program in South Australia
2. Improve community awareness of the sheep industry
3. Improve sheep welfare conditions
4. Improve industry access to training opportunities
5. Support industry development across the value chain; and
6. Increase industry access and adoption of current and new information



SIF Investment Priorities

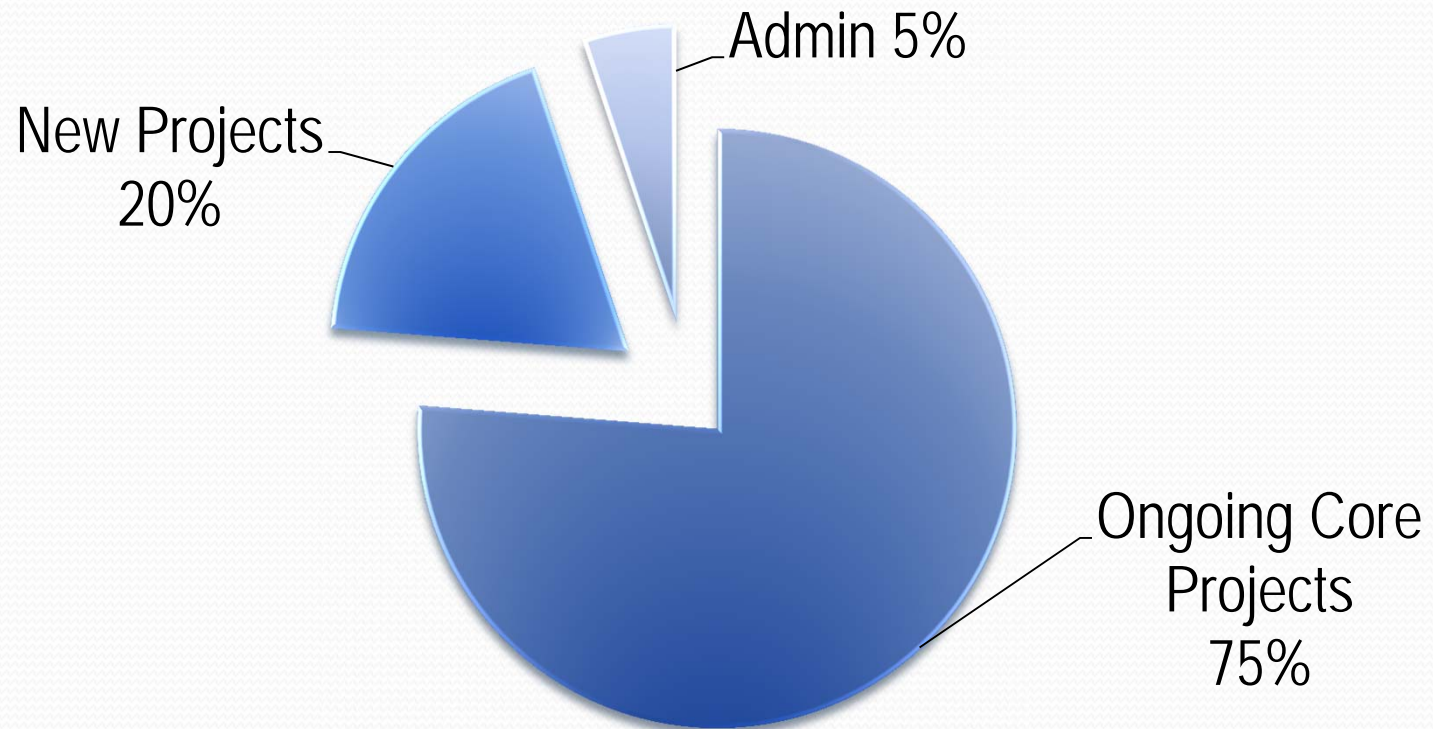
The SASAG has a focus and preference for innovation when considering funding applications.

“The SASAG is open to all new and innovative ideas and is careful to avoid spending producer funds duplicating work already occurring.”

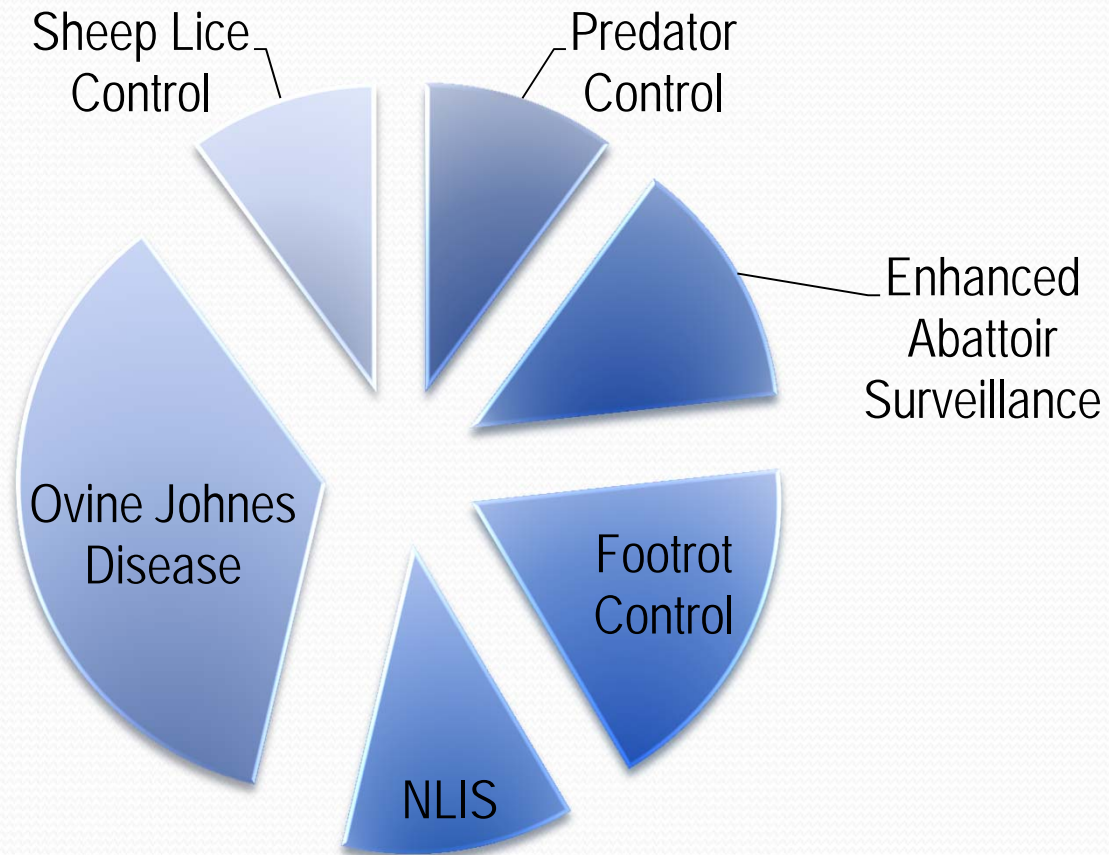
Jane Kellock, SASAG Chair



\$4M 2013-14 SIF Expenditure



Ongoing Core Projects



Predator Control

Dog Fence Board

- An ongoing program to maintain the pest exclusion fence that protects the sheep flocks to the south from predators to the north.
- The 5,614km long, 1.8m high mesh fence begins on the Darling Downs in QLD and finishes at the Nullarbor Plain in SA.

Biteback – Dingo Control

- Assisting landholders to implement best-practice wild dog control methods across pastoral districts, predominantly in areas south of the SA dog fence.
- Landholders coordinate ground and aerial baiting, plus trapping and shooting activities, combating livestock predation.

Enhanced Abattoir Surveillance

- This ongoing program provides valuable information to producers about their sheep's health as observed at slaughter on conditions that could be losing them money.
- The Enhanced Abattoir Surveillance (EAS) program currently operates at Thomas Foods International's Lobethal and Murray Bridge abattoirs.
- Inspectors check for 20 diseases in sheep and lambs, inspecting carcass, viscera, lungs and heart.





Current Short Term Projects

- Research aimed at identifying causes of lamb losses in low rainfall mixed farming districts
- Increasing producer knowledge about production losses associated with grass seed infestation
- Research into the most effective methods of lice treatment in cleanskin sheep breeds; and
- Supporting LambEx 2014 which is being held in Adelaide from 9-11 July

Improving Low Rainfall Lamb Weaning Strategies

- Survey data indicated 70% of mixed farms on Eyre Peninsula achieved lamb survival results of less than 100% at marking, with weaning survival estimates of 60-90%.
- Identifying the timing and causes of lamb losses at lambing, and thereon to marking and weaning to provide the producers with the opportunity to improve their lamb weaning percentages.
- Address the losses by implementing management, genetic and feed/forage strategies leading to a significant economic benefit to the industry.

Winning Against Grass Seeds SA

- The project will be a key component of a National Grass Seed Action Strategy which is uniting the lamb (and sheepmeat) industry nationally to focus on the issue of grass seeds.
- The Strategy aims to support action to reduce the level of grass seed infestation, carcass and skin damage thereby reducing the financial and animal welfare impacts of grass seeds to the SA Sheep Industry.
- By focusing on key management and tactical strategies the project aims to increase the profitability of all sectors in the lamb supply chain.
- Identify and develop markets for seed infested carcasses.

Eradication Options for Sheep Lice in Cleanskin Sheep

- The prevalence of lice in South Australian cleanskin sheep will be estimated by conducting a random survey of 50 cleanskin sheep flocks.
- A treatment trial will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of four lice treatments (including one organic) in eradicating lice in cleanskin sheep.
- This information will be used to inform cleanskin sheep flock owners of the best methods for eradication and prevention of lice in their flocks.

The logo for LambEx 2014 features the word "LambEx" in a stylized font. The letters "Lamb" are orange and "Ex" are purple. The numbers "2014" are positioned above the "Ex". The bottom of the letters has a grass-like texture. The logo is centered on a white rectangular background.

LambEx 2014

- South Australia will host LambEx, the national sheep and lamb conference and supporting exhibition at the Adelaide Showgrounds.
- LambEx draws together the whole of industry including producers, service providers, processors, supermarkets, other retailers and educators, from Australia and overseas.
- This will coincide with the 175th anniversary of the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of SA.





SA Sheep Industry Stakeholder Forum

- Bring together key industry stakeholders and producers to improve communication and awareness of each other's programs/projects relevant to the SA Sheep Industry.
- Provide the opportunity to identify key areas for collaboration and identify key industry issues and gaps that need addressing.
- Develop an action plan based on the identified key industry issues and gaps in knowledge for the SA Sheep Industry.
- Review this action plan; agreed outcomes and actions at a subsequent forum.



For More Information Contact

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