

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Terminal lambs; feed them, but don't keep them

ADELAIDE, South Australia – 18 December, 2014



The South Australian Sheep Advisory Group (SASAG) is reminding all sheep producers engaged in the terminal lamb trade to maintain accurate tallies and boundaries or risk Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) infecting their properties.

In recent years there have been several cases of OJD infection resulting from lambs retained in SA flocks which were sourced from areas without an approved Regional Biosecurity Plan (RBP).

Terminal lambs are those which are purchased with the specific intent of finishing for slaughter prior to cutting their first permanent teeth.

Under the terms of the South Australian RBP:

- Terminal 'T' tag lambs (identified by a National Livestock Identification Scheme 'T' tag) may enter South Australia for fattening.
- Terminal 'T' tag lambs **MUST** either be sold for slaughter before they cut their first permanent teeth, or be sold to a feedlot or property "approved" by the Chief Inspector of Stock (under Order for the control of OJD).
- All lambs must be accompanied by a National Vendor Declaration (NVD) and a National Sheep Health statement.
- Individual SA sheep producers will be expected to retain copies of the NVDs and Sheep Health statements for seven years.

The SASAG cautions all producers that there is a disease risk associated with the trade, yet those who adhered to the RBP terms have not been responsible, to date, for any of the OJD infections identified in SA.

Industry best practice includes the identification and grazing of specific areas for the sole use by terminal trade lambs.

The risk associated with the terminal lamb trade is under constant review as part of the SA OJD control program which aims to control and limit any disease spread.

The OJD control program has dramatically reduced the number of infected flocks within SA and is recognised internationally as an example of excellent disease control at minimum cost.

About SASAG

The SA Sheep Advisory Group (SASAG), established under the *Livestock Act 1997*, provides advice to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries on the operation of this Act as it relates to property registration, industry codes of practice, vendor declarations and relevant regulations for the sheep industry as appropriate. The SASAG is also responsible for providing the Minister with advice on the use of the Sheep Industry Fund.

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