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GICA Meeting

The Goat Industry Council of Australia ('GICA') held its Annual General Meeting and general meeting at NSW Farmers' Association Offices on 10 and 11 November 2008. The following issues were discussed, threat abatement plan for feral goats, Goat NVD/LPA current direction, Marketing overview, research and development overview, Live export, MAP update, Pool Faecal Colifal and vaccine impact on export, National Goat Health Statement, Jones Disease and Kid Rearing program, Australian Animal Welfare strategy, Emergency Animal Disease communication plan and GICA's future direction. For further information please go to the GICA web site at www.gica.com.au

Goat Industry Committee Meeting

On Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 December 2008 the Association's Goat Industry Committee ('GIC') held their face to face meeting in Sydney. The Committee discussed a number of issues and received a presentation from Ian Cathles (Animal Health Australia). An overview of the issues discussed and outcomes from this meeting is provided below.

Goat Health

A number of goat health issues were discussed including drench resistance, Johnes Disease and the National Goat Health Statement. The Committee identified drench resistance as one of the major goat health problems and they will contact the appropriate organisations to seek greater access to animal husbandry chemicals for goat producers. The Committee also discussed the National Goat Health Statement, which has been signed off by Goat Industry Council Australia ('GICA'). GIC are also investigating the potential to have a NSW Goat Health Passport that will identify major disease and health risks when producers are purchasing goats.

Goat Levy into Victoria

The Victorian Government currently charges goat producers in NSW a levy of 12 cents per head when goats are sold and/or slaughtered in Victoria. The levy is used to provide financial assistance for OJD affected producers in Victoria. The Association has previously written to the Victorian Government seeking removal of the levy. The GIC are concerned that this has not been adequately considered and will continue to pursue the issue

2009 Goat Conference

The GIC discussed the upcoming Goat Conference, which will be held in Dubbo on the 17 June 2009. The Committee also discussed potential themes, speakers and sponsors.

Other Issues discussed included:

- Exports
- Gudair Vaccine
- Progression of conference motions
- Goat Health Statement

2007 Goat Industry Conference Motions

The Committee has been continually working on the motions that were passed at the 2007 biennial conference. A full action sheet including the progress of motions will be supplied in the April Newsletter.

NLIS update

National Livestock Identification has been a hot topic in the press for the last few months, with the possible introduction of pink transaction tags for non-vendor bred goats and sheep. The Association does not support the introduction of

compulsory transaction tags and has been encouraging producers to correctly fill out their NVDs (each goat and sheep member should have received a briefing note on this issue). Goat and sheep members have expressed concerns with transaction tags, especially regarding movements that do not constitute a change of ownership. The Goat Industry Committee recognises producer's concerns particularly regarding the movements where the transaction tags will apply. The Committee and Association are representing Member's views through the NSW Implementation Committee. The Committee has written to GICA requesting them to form policy on NLIS, particularly on transaction tags. Please see below the Association's policy on transaction tagging:

The NSW Goat Industry Committee recently passed the following motion:

Feb 09 *That the NSW GIC does not support the introduction of mandatory use of pink transaction tags from 1 July 2009.*

Association policy

AC 07 *That the Association continue to oppose the mandatory electronic NLIS tagging of sheep*

07 Oct EC *That the Association reinforce its opposition to multiple tagging of sheep, in particular its opposition to pink transaction tags on all sheep sold that are not off the property of birth*

The Association has been encouraging producers to fill out their NVDs correctly by putting out a briefing note.

National Goat Health Statement

The National Goat Health Statement has become available to producers from 1 February 2009. The Statement will allow producers to provide additional information about the health status of their goats and will reduce some of the risk to producers as it provides the health status of the goats they intend to trade. The statement was developed by the goat industry for the goat industry and will bring a new level of assurance for producers involved with trading goats. For more information or to obtain a copy of the National Goat Health Statement visit the Goat Health website www.goathealth.com.au

Useful websites

Name	Content	Webpage
Meat and Livestock Australia	The MLA webpage provides Goat producers with information on a number of issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marketing• National Livestock reporting service• Eating quality• Animal health tips• Industry programs MLA also produces a newsletter called <i>Goats on the go</i> .	www.mla.com.au
NSW Department of Primary Industries	The DPI provides producers with information on topics such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breeds• Management and production• Health and disease	http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/goats
Goat Industry Council Australia	GICA is the Goat industries national body. Their webpage provides producers with information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Levies• Animal health• Chemical use• Live export• Marketing• Research and development	www.gica.com.au

CLAIM THE DATE

The 2009 Goat Biennial Conference will be held in Dubbo on Wednesday 17th June. The theme of the conference is '**Healthy Goats, Healthv Profits**'.

The Goat Industry Committee is calling for nominations for the Committee and Motions for the Conference on 17 June 2009. Please submit your nomination/motion to the Goat Policy Officer Claire Hull via email hullc@nswfarmers.org.au or fax (02) 82511752.