



GOAT INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

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OUTCOMES FROM THE 2010 GICA AGM

The Goat Industry Council of Australia (GICA) met in November 2010 in Launceston for its AGM and November council meeting. The meeting coincided with Meat and Livestock Australia's AGM, which was held in Launceston the same week.

The meeting was a positive one for the Association, which saw motions passed on the extension of the Invasive Animals CRC, and increased funding for LPA auditing.

Importantly, the Council voted to have MLA investigate certification of boer-infused goat meat. This is a key milestone in progressing this issue which was first raised at the Association's 2009 Biennial Conference.

Similarly, the Council sought a formal costing from Animal Health Australia for a national abattoir surveillance trial. This is something the Association has championed for some time and, pending the results of the costing, should be a big step toward roll-out of a program.

APPOINTMENT OF GICA EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Blue Sky Consulting has been engaged to provide Executive Officer services for GICA. Patrick Hutchinson will be the consultant assigned to GICA. Until recently, Patrick worked in the Industry Systems unit of MLA (designing LPA programmer etc). The interest from industry's AHA reserves is being used to fund the role, similar to roles within other peak Councils.

INCREASED LPA AUDITING

Goat producers need to be aware of their obligations as part of the Livestock Production Assurance Scheme – the system which governs your National Vendor Declarations. To ensure market access is not at risk by producers not doing the right thing, industry has signed off on 100 additional audits to be conducted by LPA officers over the coming year.

Members are encouraged to ensure their chemical records are up to date and care is taken when completing NVDs.



SAVE THE DATE

The 2011 Goat Industry Biennial Conference
Dubbo - Friday, 8 July 2011

Full details will be publicised shortly.

fibre

by Steve Roots

The average price for mohair at the last sale in the November 2010 sale was \$14.33/kg clean.

The first sale of the year in South Africa saw a price per kilogram increase in all lines, which should reflect on the first sale for 2011 in April.

In conjunction with the Rural Skills Centre at Dubbo and Mohair Australia, an Angora goat shearing bridging course has been developed.

This course is designed to hone the skills of existing self taught Angora goat shearers and to allow current sheep shearers to adapt their skills. The first course has been well received with 6 registrations.

dairy

by Yvonne Byers

Export orders for dairy goats is very strong, with prices ranging from \$300.00 - \$1,000.00 depending on genetics and milk turn off. This has been helped by Turkey relaxing its ban on imports. More breeding stock is needed to meet this demand.

A Saanen doe bred and owned in NSW, at this stage looks like being the world's record holder for dairy goat milk production.

There is a shortage of goat milk available for manufacturing cheese and yoghurt.

Goat cheeses continue to win awards and with top chefs and restaurants promoting their use, the future looks good. Interest in beauty products based with goat milk (soap and lotions) has also increased.

The extreme weather conditions during the main kidding season did cause management problems and some losses. Internal parasites increased and the problem of so few drenches registered for dairy goats, needs research. Most dairy goat farmers now have some form of biosecurity as part of farm management when traveling to and from show rings.

FEBRUARY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Association's Goat Industry Committee met in Dubbo on 25 February 2011. Some of the Committee's discussions are outlined below.

NLIS Tag Combinations

The Committee has been working toward approval for male/female NLIS tags which are currently not approved as a combination. This should allow management and NLIS information to be displayed on the one tag combination. The Committee has identified a number of combinations which will be forwarded to the NLIS Standards Committee for trials and approval.

Goat Threat Abatement Plan

The Committee agreed to approach the Minister for Environment following the NSW State Election to ensure NSW Farmers' Association is consulted in the development of the NSW Goat Threat Abatement Plan – currently being developed by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.

Goat Industry Biennial Conference

The Committee spent some time agreeing on a theme, location, date and speakers for the 2011 Biennial Conference. Full details of the Conference will be publicised in coming months, but at this point we would ask Members to mark 8 July 2011 in their diaries and begin considering any motions they would like to submit. Committee members and the Association's Policy Advisor are available if you would like to discuss any ideas you're planning to put forward.

western rangeland

by Rick Gates

The continued good season has reduced supply of rangeland goats to abattoirs and live exporters. Eastern kill figures are less than half those of 09/10.

In the Western part of the state goats can be seen in good numbers from aircraft, though the terrain is inaccessible by land due to water, high grass and flood damaged tracks.

The good season is welcome and goat numbers will return when they can be accessed.

Skin off market is at \$3.60 - \$3.80/kg in the South-Eastern market.