

The latest news from the Barossa Improved Grazing Group

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Natural Resources
Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges



Natural Resources
SA Murray-Darling Basin



The BIGG Bulletin

December 2019

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Upcoming BIGG events

Grass to Dollars Course



A fantastic opportunity for producers across the Barossa and surrounding areas- the Grass to Dollars Course will run for 12 months, with 8 x half day group sessions and individual on farm coaching sessions.

You will improve your understanding and increase your production system through learning:

- How much can an animal eat, how to measure this and how to determine if this is adequate?
- How much pasture can you grow and how to improve this?
- How to turn the maximum amount of pasture profitability into meat and/or wool?

Deliverers: Tim Prance, T Prance Rural Consulting BIGG's Deb Scammell, Livestock Consultant Talking Livestock, Clare

Prices: \$1,025 per business (ex GST) . This is less than half price of the actual fee thanks to funding from MLA and Adelaide Mt Lofty Ranges NRM.

Timing: likely to start early in the new year...but you must register now!

LIMITED SPOTS REMAINING!

- REGISTRATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 14th December!!

[More details: Grass to Dollars Flyer and Registration Details](#)

BIGG Beyond 2020 Conference



SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday 18th February 2020!!

The 2020 Conference will be the biggest yet! It will focus on looking beyond 2020 in the Barossa and surrounding areas, to manage the livestock, land, people and business.

Our aim is for you to walk away with a list of ideas and practical solutions to use on your farm. It will also provide an opportunity to catch up with your neighbours, chat with other farmers and look to the future.

Keep an eye out for more details as we finalise them!!

Other 2020 Events!

We already have plenty of events in the pipeline for 2020!! Please pop these dates in your diary!

- **Ewe Containment Area Bus Trip- 1st week of February 2020!**

- we will visit local containment ewe sites to learn from other farmers about how they run their areas to gain maximum production.

- **Progressive Soil Pit Field Day- Thursday 19th March 2020**

- soil pits have been dug at our 4 weather station sites so come along to learn about soil health and acidity. You can bring along your own soil tests too!

Free Soil Test Kits



Thanks to those who have indicated an interest in a free soil test kit- these will be mailed out to you this week!

There are still plenty of kits available if you would like one!!

The free soil testing program available through the Adelaide Mt Lofty Ranges NRM is continuing through 2019-20 and all landholders in the AMLR NRM region are encouraged to apply. This is available to properties from hobby farms to complete commercial enterprises. Large properties may be eligible for multiple tests to cover different soil types.

The program re-starts each financial year, so landholders who received a test in the 2018-19 financial year are able to use this again this year.

The test is a complete test including all major and trace elements, pH, salinity and carbon levels. Interpretation is by Andy Cole, an independent land management advisor.

We encourage landholders to get their samples in early, as the lab will be very busy over summer. Sample kits are available by contacting [Rebecca Tonkin](#) (details below), through the Gawler Natural Resources Centre, or by contacting BIGG's [Georgie Keynes](#).

Please note this offer is only available to properties in the AMLR NRM region.

This project is supported by the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

I'd like a free soil test kit!

Webinar Recording: Summer Feeding Ewes & Ewe Containment Project

The MLA PDS containment ewe project is progressing well with the major and minor sites going through activity plans and in some cases building pens in preparation for ewes to go into containment over the next few months. The project will benchmark results on farm when ewes are contained for a period of time. We will also be looking at feed and any other associated costs with containing ewes versus potential returns and improvements in ground cover and feed on offer when stock are kept off paddocks.

The sites confirmed are spread across the area as follows:

Tim	Brown	Mt Pleasant/ Keyneton
Chris	George	Mt Pleasant
William	Hurn	Angaston
The Keynes's		Keyneton
Ian	Koch	Moculta
Neil	Loffler	Stonefield
Paul	McGorman	Sanderston
Pete	Mitchell	Angaston
Brett	Nietschke	Koonunga
Karl	Schiller	Angaston
Karl	Zerner	Eudunda
Kym	Mosey	Kapunda
Bruce	Schutz	Eudunda
Ryan	Foulis	Springton

These sites will continue to be monitored through the summer months to learn what's working and what needs to be fine-tuned. Stay tuned for a bus trip in February for a visit to some of these sites!

If you missed the summer feeding webinar- check out the link below--



The image is a promotional graphic for a webinar. It features a dark blue background with a subtle pattern. At the top left is the BIGG logo (Barossa Improved Grazing Group) and at the top right is the MLA logo (Meat & Livestock Australia). In the center, the text "Summer Nutrition" is displayed in a large, white, sans-serif font, with a white play button icon overlaid on the word "Summer". Below this, the name "Deb Scammell" is written in white, followed by her title "Consultant / BIGG Technical Facilitator". To the right of her name is the Talking Livestock logo, which includes a silhouette of a person's head and the text "TALKINGLIVESTOCK" and "NUTRITION • PRODUCTION • HEALTH". At the bottom of the graphic, a dark grey banner contains the text "If you missed the Summer Feeding Webinar last week click the link to watch it!" in white.

BAROSSA IMPROVED GRAZING GROUP
BIGG

mla
MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

Summer Nutrition

Deb Scammell
Consultant / BIGG Technical Facilitator

TALKINGLIVESTOCK
NUTRITION • PRODUCTION • HEALTH

If you missed the Summer Feeding Webinar last week click the link to watch it!

A BIGG year!



With the (almost!) end of another year we would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone that has helped to make 2019 one of BIGG's biggest!

In 2019 BIGG has delivered a huge range of learning and networking opportunities for producers including the annual conference, a bus trip to Jamestown, drought recovery workshop, an MLA pasture update and two webinars. The total number of producers who attended these events was over 150!

2019 also brought three new grants to help BIGG continue to provide opportunities for producers, including the MLA Producer Demonstration Ewe Containment Project, the SAMDB Connecting Communities Project and AMLR weather station project. We were also very happy to welcome our new technical facilitator Deb Scammell who brings some great skills to the group.

One of the biggest highlights of the year, as a result of the hard work and enthusiasm of BIGG's advisory committee and the Angaston Ag Bureau over the past 6 years, BIGG were able to become an independent incorporated body. As a result, the new BIGG board was elected and they are working to make 2020 an even bigger year!!

Thank you first and foremost to the producers who continue to find value in the work BIGG does, for sharing stories, being enthusiastic to learn and to continue challenging BIGG to deliver beneficial project.

Thanks to all who have supported the BIGG journey so far by providing your time and 'brain space'- the BIGG advisory committee, the executive committee, the BIGG Board and the Angaston Ag Bureau. A special thanks to Bruce Hancock, BIGG's trusted mentor and Michael Evans, who was treasurer for over 5 years, we wouldn't be here without the support you have both provided.

Finally a special thanks to our project supporters who continue to provide funding to help BIGG deliver projects.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to a BIGG 2020!!

.....one final note!

In an exciting development for next year BIGG will be launching a new sponsorship and membership packages for local producers and businesses.

As a member you will receive free entry to BIGG events and exclusive information!

As a sponsor you will receive opportunities to join the BIGG network and be a part of this exciting community group.

We will send out the application form in early 2020 so please keep an eye out!!

From the Inbox.....

- Fire Danger Index - with crop harvest just around the corner dont forget about harvesting when conditions are safe. To help with this, check out the 'Fire Danger Index' graph calculated from the data for each of BIGG's weather stations (just go to the [BIGG homepage](#), click on your relevant weather station and scroll down to the graph). The graph shows the level of fire risk in near real time and is updated every 15 minutes. Harvest conditions are considered unsafe when the Fire Danger Index is >35.
- Thriving Women Conference- 24/25 February 2020 Hahndorf [More Info](#)
- Negotiating with the Banks- WoTL webinar with Deb Purvis- 10th December [Register](#)
- Sheep Connect SA Feedback- help shape the future of Sheep Connect [Survey](#)

Your BIGG Contacts

Technical Facilitators:

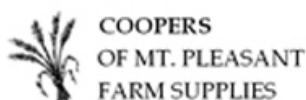
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Government of South Australia
Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources

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