

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)

The latest news from the Barossa Improved Grazing Group

[View this email in your browser](#)



The BIGG Bulletin

June 2021

In this issue.....

- The Break!
- Lamb Autopsy Workshop
- Keep Feeding Despite the Rain- Webinar tonight!
- Soil Health and Grazing Workshop Recap
- From the Inbox

The Break!



At long last, a decent drop of rain!

On the 8th of June BIGG's four weather stations each recorded approximately 20mm, which was much needed.

At each of the sites, both the growing season rainfall totals (i.e. from April) and the soil moisture levels however remain below what they were at the same time last year.

Site	Growing season rainfall (mm)		Estimated soil moisture in the profile (%)	
	2020*	2021**	8/6/20	8/6/21
Flaxman Valley	120	69	48	43
Keyneton	106	48	32	25
Koonunga	119	60	57	13
Moculta	129	45	50	33

*Rainfall from 1/4/20-8/6/20

*Rainfall from 1/4/21-8/6/21

Further details about the soil moisture status of each weather station paddock, including what's been happening in each, can be found in BIGG's latest 'soil moisture report'.

The report can be viewed [here](#).

This project is supported through funding by the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board.

Lamb Autopsy Workshop

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Improve your lamb survival by learning about the simple and practical methods you can use to investigate lamb deaths on your property.

Tuesday 29th June 2020
9:00am – 11.30pm
Keyneton Station

- Gordon Refshauge from NSW DPI will provide a practical demonstration on lamb survival including mismothering, predation and dystocia
- Update on Adelaide Uni honor's project on 'Individual condition scoring & pregnancy status of twin bearing ewes'
- Bring along your own lambs for autopsy
- Morning tea included

Please RSVP by Friday 25th June to Deb Scammell 0407790622 or deb@talkinglivestock.com.au

RSVP Now

The containment sites are being supported by MLA as part of the containment ewe PDS. This field day is supported by MLA, AWI, Adelaide University and NSW DPI through the project "Increasing lambing percentages through better use of pregnancy scanning technology".

Feeding Despite the Rain Webinar-
TONIGHT!

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

'Keep feeding despite the recent rains'

Webinar

on **Wed., 9th June at 7.30 pm (TONIGHT!!)**

[Register now](#)

Deb Scammell (Talking Livestock) will discuss the need for continued feeding of sheep despite the recent rain. In particular, what does the late rain mean to you for pasture growth and availability? Do you have adequate green feed to meet your ewes requirements?

Feed budgeting and feeding sheep - the what, where, when, and how

Soil Health and Grazing Workshop Recap





The Barossa Improved Grazing Group were excited to host internationally renowned soil ecologist Dr Christine Jones during her recent tour of South Australia. Christine presented to over 45 people at the Soil Health and Grazing Workshop held on the 1st of June at Stockwell.

Her presentation encouraged participants, who included graziers, croppers and vignerons to restore their soil by improving soil function using the liquid carbon pathway which centers around photosynthesis and the relationship with plant roots and microbes.

Christine encouraged farmers to sow multi species varieties, which create a mix of soil microbes that provide beneficial relationships. The plants also have different leaf shapes and maturity dates, which in turn creates further photosynthesis. The workshop allowed farmers to visit two different properties who have been trialing polyculture varieties.

Ian and Fiona Koch have been using polycultures for over eight years. They utilize mixes for break crops within their cropping program, combining different varieties such as beans, balansa clover, barley and radish. They have also started trialling mixes such as canola and beans within their 'cash crops'. Although this increases the seed cleaning costs, Ian and Fiona see the improvements to the soil and reduced chemical and fertilizer input to far outweigh this additional requirement.

The workshop also visited Tracy and Owen Bonython's farm at Ebenezer, they have just planted their first mixed species annual pasture and hope to use it for their goats. Christine challenged the group to only graze half of the green leaf on the plants, which will in turn create 60% more total production in a growing season. Hopefully, once it rains, Tracy and Owen will be able to trial this within their pasture.

BIGG Woodchop!



Get involved and help out BIGG at the upcoming BIGG woodchop on the 26th June!

Everyone is welcome to join in the fun of the day, which will be held at Vic Patrick's in Eden Valley!

For more information please contact BIGG's [Chris George](#).

From the Inbox

- Mid North High Rainfall Technology Group- Cibo Labs, Individual Lambing Pens, Combi Clamp and Sheep Yard Design- Wednesday 16th June- Marrabel [See Flyer](#)
- SA Livestock Advisor Update- 29th July, Hahndorf- [Early Bird Tickets](#) end this week!
- Resources for managing ewe health [Sheep Connect SA](#)
- Check out the Landscapes Weather Network for all weather information- [visit](#)

Your BIGG Contacts

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[Georgie Keynes](#): 0409 287 261**Technical Facilitators:**[Brett Nietschke](#): 0432 804 389[Deb Scammell](#): 0407 790 622[Janie Evans](#): 0412 500 752

Thanks to our BIGG Sponsors!

Gold Sponsor:

Agricultural Bureau
of South Australia Inc.
PATHWAY TO IMPROVEMENT

**Angaston****Silver Sponsor:**


Coopers Farm Supplies
Mount Torrens | Mount Pleasant

Bronze Sponsor:


emmetts
STAYING POWER

Commercial Sponsors:**SEELANDER QUARRIES****RayWhite**
RURAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA**taractech** technologies**vpe** valley power equipment

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)

 Facebook

 Website

 YouTube

 Email

Disclaimer: No warranty is made that this material is free from computer virus or any other defect or error. It is your responsibility to check this email and any attachments and links for viruses. Any loss/damage incurred by using this material is not the sender's responsibility. The sender's entire liability will be limited to resupplying the material.

Copyright © 2021 Barossa Improved Grazing Group, All rights reserved.