

The latest news from the Barossa Improved Grazing Group

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# The BIGG Bulletin

June 2022

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## BIGG Annual Conference!!

### Landscapes Across 2022

### The Land. The Livestock. The People

A Barossa Improved Grazing Group Conference

Conference program now released!!

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER
<b>8.45</b>	<b><i>Registrations open</i></b>	
9.00	Welcome	Jane Evans, BIGG
9.05	Livestock Markets – Industry Update & Market Direction	Brenton Geary, JBS
9.30	Beneficial Insects for Pastures and Soils	Michael Nash, What Bugs You

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10.10	Best feed management for drought resistance	Prof. Matthew Denton Adelaide University
<b>10.30</b>	<b>MORNING TEA</b>	<b><i>A selection of pastries and treats from Lambert Estate</i></b>
10.50	On-farm water security cost benefit report	Brian Hughes, PIRSA
11.10	Herd of Hope	Megan McGloughlin, Herd of Hope
11.30	Building Community Connection in the Barossa	James Wagner, Barossa Council
11.45	Producer Panel, pastures in the local area	
12.05	BIGG update	Georgie Keynes, BIGG
12.15	Sponsors Speed Dating	A whip around the rural businesses and support services that sponsor BIGG
12.45	CLOSE	
12.50	LUNCH	<i>A selection of wood fired breads with delicious fillings!</i>

Tickets Available Here!



**DATE:** Thursday 7th July 2022

**TIME:** 8.45am for a 9:00 start - 1.00pm followed by lunch

**COST:**

- Financial BIGG Members: FREE (JOIN UP FOR [BIGG MEMBERSHIP](#))
- Non- Members \$75

Further details: Jane Evans: [jane.evans@biggroup.org.au](mailto:jane.evans@biggroup.org.au)

## Focus Farm Field Day Report!





A successful focus farm field day was held on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June of Keyneton Station as part of the Red Meat and Wool growth Program. Over 40 producers and a group of university of Adelaide Ag science students heard about the technology that was being used at the Keynes's property to improve their livestock production and ease of management.

Mark Ferguson from Next Gen Agri also spoke on commercial genetic selection and the use of ASBV's. Mark's presentation is available [here](#). Andrew Mitchell from Chelwood Farms near Mintaro added to this by discussing how he as a commercial producer had utilised flock profiling to improve their genetic selection.

Producers were able to head to the sheep yards to look at a demonstration of the newly purchased Combi Clamp and the Auto draft was demonstrated by James Ellis from Datamars.

Deb Scammell gave an update on the MLA producer demonstration site she is running for BIGG, which included an update on the ewe health in containment project which has shown positive results in ewes blood sampled this year. The two sites used largely silage-based rations or full feed pellet which gave a more balanced ration and has appeared to reduce the risk of metabolic disease in ewes coming out of containment. In conclusion, Forbes Brien from University of Adelaide gave an update on his pregnancy scanning project which has shown a large improvement in profitability associated with scanning ewes with the average over different lambing times and different sheep enterprises coming out at \$5.75/ewe scanned.

You can access the full presentation on the BIGG website:

- [Sheep Breeding](#)– Mark Ferguson\_Next Gen Ag
- [Flock Profiling for Commercial Sheep Farms](#)– Andrew Mitchell\_Mintaro
- [Containment Feeding Ewes, what can go wrong](#)– Deb Scammell, Talking Livestock



## Spirit of Excellence Awards Open

# Spirit of Excellence

in Agriculture Awards 2022

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### Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship

Valued at \$10,000  
Sponsored by the Department of Environment and Water (DEW)

### Rural Youth Bursary

Valued at \$5000  
Sponsored by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA)

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Agricultural Bureau of South Australia Inc.  
PATHWAY TO IMPROVEMENT

Government of South Australia





Georgie and Toby at Keyneton Station utilised the Pasture Paramedic tool to determine the productivity of their perennial pasture to determine the requirement for pasture renovation or rejuvenation. The 9ha paddock contained a perennial pasture containing Phalaris and cocksfoot which was sown over 15 years ago. This pasture is utilised for a twin lambing paddock in June and then rotationally grazed with large mobs of ewes through spring and summer.

The pasture paramedic tool was utilised in late spring. The critical assessment factors of grasses and clovers and weeds were measured with results demonstrating that there was a reasonable number of perennial grasses (30-50%), low number of clovers (5-20%) and category B weeds (some grazing value- including winter grass and silver grass). The score of the pasture, using the pasture paramedic scoring system, averaged 5 which suggests the pasture needs resowing or over sowing.

Georgie and Toby used this information to make a plan to improve the pasture production by over sowing the pasture, whilst maintaining the perennial grass component. They plan to sow fodder oats, annual ryegrasses and a mix of annual clovers in autumn 2022 over the perennial grasses. Using a range of early and late varieties will help to fill the feed gap for a longer period of time, with the early forage oats for winter feed, and later season ryegrasses and clovers to

They plan to use the pasture paramedic tool again in spring to determine the effectiveness of this plan and are hoping they can let the annual varieties seed for grazing opportunities in 2023.

*This project was supported through the AgKnowledge Grant through funding from the Murraylands and Riverlands Landscape SA Board.*



Government of South Australia  
Murraylands and Riverland  
Landscape Board



Australian Government



Future  
Drought  
Fund

## BIGG Pasture Plate Meter





BIGG have recently purchased a plate meter, which is available for all BIGG financial members to borrow!

This can be used for pasture measurements and feed budgeting, and is a simple and easy process to use!

Contact [Georgie](#) if you would like to borrow!

## **Farmer Johns**

### **Worm Testing**

With recent rain events it is worth thinking about doing some worm tests. Results of these tests are the only sure way to determine effective worm management strategies and the products that should be used for the most effective control of internal parasites.

Early season tests did indicate very low EPG's (eggs per gram) results across the board. However, a change in conditions may also change their relevance.

A test is done very easily by holding the mob in a corner of the yards or paddock for 5-10mins. Once the flock is released 10 fresh dung samples can easily be collected. Sampling early in the week provides an adequate timeframe to have results returned by Thursday or Friday.

We can assist with the interpretation and product recommendation based on these results. Call any of our stores for further information and to arrange a time for sample collection.

### **Lamb Marking and Vaccination**

It's on the go for the early drop lambs and not too far away for many others.

Over-the-counter conversations have suggested a big improvement in lambing percentages this season compared to last year. Unfortunately, the wet and cold conditions over the last couple weeks did result in some lamb losses.

An important reminder about vaccinating lambs. Best practice is to administer the first dose at lamb marking - we recommend a Glanvac 3 B12 as a minimum – and the second dose 4-6 weeks afterwards, generally at weaning, Zoetis new product, GlanEry 7in1 B12 is a combination of Glanvac 6 B12 with Eryvac added for the prevention of arthritis. Previously this was

We expect supplies of their new GlanEry 4in1 B12 will be available for spring drop lambs. Please contact our store staff if you require further information and to order all your lamb marking products, vaccine, rings, pliers, Tri-Solfen pain relief, marking cradles, new yards and panels, Arrow Sheep handlers, first aid kits, ammunition etc!

Call in the the Nuri store or contact via 8562 1311 for more information!



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### **Basic Trailers**



Check out our BIGG Sponsors- Basic Trailers!

## From the Inbox

- Suicide Prevention Training- Angaston- 1st July- [See Full Flyer](#)
- Farm HR: Creating Employers of Choice: Freeling 28th July/ Clare 25th July or online [Flyer](#)
- Enhancing Barossa Mental Health Survey- [Click to join the survey](#)
- MeatUp Forum- Naracoorte- 28th June 2022- save the date

**Thanks to our Sponsors!!**

**Agricultural Bureau**  
of South Australia Inc.  
**PATHWAY TO IMPROVEMENT**



Angaston

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