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The latest news from the Barossa Improved Grazing Group

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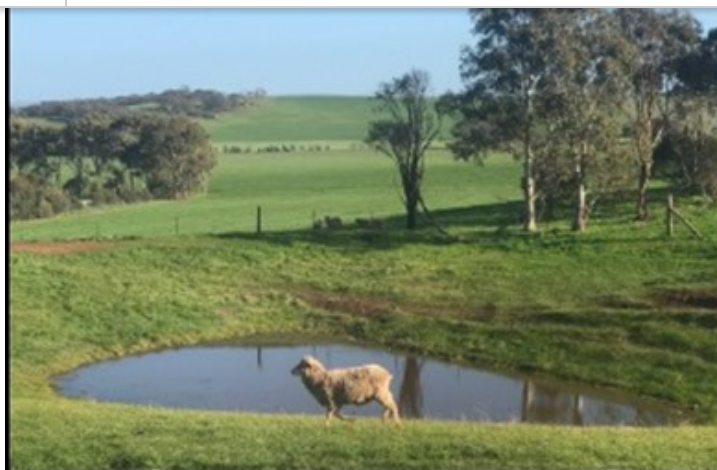
# The BIGG Bulletin

## March 2022

### In this issue.....

- Water Planning Workshop
- Producer Tech Group Fleurieu Bus Trip
- Containment Ewe Project Update
- AgriSilience Program
- Sponsors Note
- From the Inbox

### Water Planning Workshop

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**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021**  
**1.30-5.00 pm**

**Mt McKenzie Hall, 13 Yumbunga Road, Mt McKenzie**

***This BIGG workshop will outline the water options you should consider for making your property 'water secure'. It will also provide a template to determine your individual property water requirements and update you on the current status of the Barossa New Water Project (including some 'crystal balling' for graziers who might access water under this scheme)***

Time	Topic	Presenter
1.30	Welcome & introduction	Brett Nietschke, BIGG Technical Facilitator
1.40	Comparing water supply, capture, storage, distribution and monitoring options for your property	Brian Hughes, PIRSA Soils Consultant (Nuriootpa) Mary-Anne Young, Soils and Land Management Officer (Jamestown)
2.20	Determining your properties water requirements	Mary-Anne Young
3.00	Afternoon tea	
3.30	Barossa New Water Project - latest developments	Janie Evans, BIGG Technical Facilitator
3.45	Accessing water from the Barossa New Water Project - estimated costs and returns for graziers	Brian Hughes
4.15	Discussion & close	
4.30	Drinks	

**Cost:**

Free for BIGG members and non-members

**RSVP:**



National  
Landcare  
Program



## Producer Technology Group



The combined BIGG and Mid North High Rainfall Zone Bus trip to the Fleurieu occurred on the 18th March with 14 participants heading down to visit three different innovative properties in the Sellicks Hill/Myponga area.

The following points provide an overview of each property visited:

Alastair Just- composite ewes and Angus cows

- Pioneer in sheep containment having built a containment lot 15-20 years ago.
- Currently has 3700 ewes in containment. Ewes go into containment early in the year and then will stay there until 2 weeks after the break, they then go out into his hills country which still has dry feed/have not been overgrazed for lambing
- Mates in containment at 1%. Scans at 170%, marks at 150%
- Big focus on low feed costs in containment, including feeding 100% grapemarc diet at times. Currently ewes being fed a mix of grapemarc and potatoes
- Has permanent irrigation (lucerne based pasture) which he uses to grow out lambs

Samatha Martin- Family dairy farm.

- Recent focus on refencing to smaller paddocks (2ha size was up to 14ha) for rotational grazing, including building a laneway which has access to each paddock.
- Interest in mixed species and for first time last spring sowed a 11 species summer mix across 17ha of



provided both a feed cost and labour saving (in past she would have had to feed out oaten hay and silage to sustain the heifers over summer)

Nobles (Chad Baker) - Cattle and composite sheep operation. - High capital being spent across property - new fencing, new containment, centre pivots, pasture renovation, new feeders  
 - Trading operation of 10,000 lambs/yr on irrigated pastures. Has 4 pivots, 30-40ha each - sown down to a mix of annuals (Concord ryegrass/chicory/plantain/clover), but looking to instead sow to perennials in future.  
 - Rotational grazing of lambs under pivots, on a 20 day grazing rotation

This bus trip was funded by the Red Meat & Wool Livestock Technology Group. Thanks to all of the producers who opened up their gates and shared their systems with others, the learning opportunities and networking provide a huge benefit to other producers.

## Containment Ewe Project Update



Monitoring of containment ewes is continuing this year for the MLA funded PDS across three major sites. Ewes will be monitored at Keyneton Station, Ryan Foulis's and William Hurn's. They will be monitored for condition score, rations formulated, and cost of feeding assessed as well as ground cover and feed on offer monitored in the paddocks.

Along with the containment ewe project an additional project has been funded by MLA looking at the health status of ewe's in containment. Across two of the sites, we will be blood testing ewes for mineral status as they enter containment, during the containment feeding period and prior to them being let out into the paddock. We will be looking for calcium and magnesium deficiency associated with grain feeding. We will then be tracking ewe mortality across the sites and assessing this against their risk of metabolic disease as shown by their blood results.



**Agri-Silience**

Building resilient businesses that tap into their strengths and support systems to overcome farming adversity and challenges.

Do you operate a South Australian grain or livestock business?  
Do you want to learn how to manage and adapt to risk?  
Do you want to improve your business' economic, environmental and social resilience?

Get subsidised access to leading advisers who will deliver both on-farm support and group workshop learning to prepare you and your business to bounce back in the face of adverse climate and other challenges through the new Agri-Silience program, a joint project between Livestock SA and Grain Producers SA.

Participants will finish the program with a **Resilience Roadmap**, which will help you build resilience and boost productivity, profitability and sustainability over the long-term.

Local facilitators will deliver facilitated learning, expert guidance and coaching, along with the support of subject matter experts with specialist skills in strategic farm business management and planning, farm risk management and decision making, natural resource management and personal and social resilience.

You will get one-on-one support from subject matter experts to help boost your business' resilience.

Each participating business is required to contribute \$500 (ex. GST) and, where there is a genuine need, may be able to access reimbursement for travel and childcare costs from PIRSA.

**AGRI-SILIENCE WILL HELP YOU AND YOUR STAFF:**

- Improve your financial literacy and, in the process, learn new ways to build the financial viability of your business.
- Become more confident in decision-making by conducting risk assessments.
- Learn new skills and techniques to build your own personal resilience.
- Become high-performing contributors regarding decision making and operations.

**BAROSSA AND LOWER NORTH**  
Workshops to be held within the region

**Workshop one:** 7 April 2022, with further two workshop dates tbc with participants

**Facilitators:** Susie Green and Sarah Barnett

**Co-ops Collective**

Apply now: [bit.ly/Livestock-Agri-Silience](https://bit.ly/Livestock-Agri-Silience)

 Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
  Future Drought Fund
  Government of South Australia  
Department of Primary Industries and Regions
  GPSA
  Livestock SA

This project is part of the Farm Business Resilience Program and is partly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Government of South Australia. Delivered by Livestock SA and Grain Producers SA.

Apply Now

## Note from our Sponsors

### TRAC - Bronze Sponsors

At TRAC we are committed to building a complete consulting program that is customized to your business needs and delivers TOTAL RESULTS.

Covering all aspects of your business's needs, TRAC is dedicated to delivering a range of service packages that meets the specific needs of your farming business. From basic nutritional & stock health advice to detailed coaching for your farm business, all aspects of the service ensure that your business productivity and profitability targets are met.

Throughout your annual consulting program we are committed to delivering visits when it is most needed, to review the nutrition and productivity performance of each stock group and balance individual ration formulations as well as coaching of key productivity management areas specific for your dairy, beef or

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In addition to the on-farm consultations you will also receive 24/7 phone support, an array of TRAC Productivity Tools to assist in decision making processes, and an annual feed budget to develop forward planning of your pasture & forage requirements.

TRAC PERFORMANCE MINERALS or TPM as it is commonly referred is the subsidiary of TRAC which offers an all-in-one mineral supplement that optimises uptake of key nutritional components in an easy to use loose lick powdered formulation.

Where deficiencies can present challenges throughout the calving or lambing season but maximising feed utilisation is a must for finishing stock, **Flock & Bovine Boost** offers real results for a balanced nutritional package providing improved productivity.

Containing the correct balance of essential salts, macro and micro minerals and vitamins A, D & E. **Flock & Bovine Boost** have been formulated as a free choice supplement that allows the animal to consume their requirements according to their individual needs.

Specifically formulated with weather resistant qualities making it perfect for an open grazing situation, **Flock & Bovine Boost** are available in a wide variety of customisations for all classes of cattle & sheep. They have been scientifically designed to maximise performance and productivity of feedlot, partial mixed or grass based ration stock.

So, for a solution that fits your market needs and business goals, contact your local TRAC Consultant, because as your EXPERTS IN RUMINANT PRODUCTIVITY, we work with you to ensure your business' productivity and profitability.

**Mikaela Baker**

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## Tarac Technologies


### **Acti-Meal** – SARDI Sheep Feed Rations Trial

The objective of a trial conducted by SARDI was to investigate the impacts of feeding Tarac

 **Acti-Meal** made from processed grape marc, on sheep performance, permissible meat functional fatty acid claims, retail display and sensory characteristics.

Feeding Tarac  **Acti-Meal** at up to 25% of the pelletised ration for 2 months prior to processing resulted in perceived improvement by a trained sensory panel. “Mutton with prior exposure to a dry pasture followed by the Acti-Meal pelletised diet were significantly higher in ‘buttery’ flavour and oily mouth coating aftertaste.”

In addition, there were no significant differences in retail colour of loins which also tended to have a reduced tendency for oxidation after 48 hours.

Interested in giving it a go? Local Daveyston feed mill, Laucke Mills, use  **Acti-Meal** in a number of their sheep rations.

Contact Brenton Mengersen from Tarac – [Brenton.mengersen@tarac.com.au](mailto:Brenton.mengersen@tarac.com.au) - for more information or to request the full article.

*Extract from 2016 SARDI trial under the Functional Foods Focus Program: PIRSA*



## From the Inbox

- Native Grassland Project- Grassland seeding and grazing management trials- Truro 31st March, [Registrations Essential](#)



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- Containment Areas Grants- up to \$1000 for landholders in the Northern & Yorke Landscape Board Area- [see the full program details](#)
- SA Biosecurity Summit- Murray Bridge- April 7th- help develop SA's Biosecurity Blueprint- [More Information](#)

## Thanks to our Sponsors!!

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



**Angaston**

### Bronze Sponsors:



### Commercial Sponsors:



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