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The latest news from the Barossa Improved Grazing Group

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# The BIGG Bulletin

May 2022

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## Considerations for Water Security Planning

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Carlyle Holdings, Angaston are a minor site for the MLA Producer demonstration sites (PDS) containment ewe project. Fourth generation farmer Peter Mitchell commenced containment feeding to maintain ground cover and allow quicker pasture recovery in the lead up to lambing. Pete was interested in preserving the pasture over dry periods and improving the pasture growth for lambing ewes.

He is supplementary feeding ewes in containment but hoping to reduce the need for supplementary feeding in paddocks with improved pastures as ewes are lambing and lactating. The pastures are predominately unimproved; however, a portion of the property has been sown to Phalaris and other areas are being sown to annuals with plans to continually improve pastures across the property going forward. Pete would prefer to destock some areas to allow improvement and pasture recovery over the dry times.

Water has become an issue with dams going dry over the last few seasons, where rainfall has been well below average. Water requirements have been more easily managed in containment area rather than immediately running water across the whole property.

Pete decided to become a site for the containment ewe project so they could commence containment on a small mob and determine whether it was going to be successful for them on a larger scale.

Read the full article [HERE](#)

*This project is supported by the Meat and Livestock Australia's Producer Demonstration Site Project.*

## Focus Farm Field Day

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## Friday 10 June 12.00 noon - 3.15 pm

**Keyneton Station**  
**1057 Stott Hwy, Keyneton**

<u>Time</u>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
12.00 noon	Lunch	
12.30 pm	AgTech at Keyneton Station	Georgie Keynes
12.45 pm	ASBVs and commercial genetic selection	Mark Fergusson, neXtgen Agri
1.30 pm	A commercial producer's perspective: Flock profiling	Andrew Mitchell, Chelwood Farms
1.45 pm	Demonstration of Combi clamp and auto drafter	Georgie Keynes and James Ellis, Datamars
2.15 pm	Pregnancy scanning	Forbes Brien, University of Adelaide
2.30 pm	Containment feeding and ewe health	Deb Scammell, Talking Livestock
3.15 pm	Drinks	

Lunch and drinks provided, please RSVP to Deb [deb@talkinglivestock.com.au](mailto:deb@talkinglivestock.com.au) for catering purposes

Please BYO chair

More details and info please contact Deb 0407 790 622 or Georgie 0409 287 261

**Register Here**

## Barossa New Water Project Update- Key Messages May 2022

### Update on Round 2

- The Barossa New Water project has been progressing with industry engaged in the development of the Detailed Business Case through the water demand processes.
- The Government of South Australia has been collaborating with local industry sectors including viticulture and agriculture in the Barossa Valley and Eden Valley to progress this important project.
- Kellogg, Brown and Root Pty Ltd (KBR), who were engaged by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions to develop the Detailed Business Case, has been leading industry engagement.
- KBR has been engaging with existing water users and customers, current water infrastructure owners and operators to understand the nature of demand and supply, growth, and broader regional development opportunities.
- KBR undertook two rounds of demand assessment - Round 1 (October/December 2021) and Round 2 (January/March 2022).
- KBR was pleased with the volume of responses to Round 1 and Round 2 with over 200 Letters of Intent received.
- The demand-focused methodology applied by KBR demonstrates there is a genuine interest for new water from primary producers in the Barossa Valley and Eden Valley.
- Demand for new water and associated volumes are key to project viability and the annual charges presented by KBR in Round 2 were considered high by many responders.
- KBR is now working through opportunities to increase demand including through reducing estimated annual charges for the project where possible, as well as identifying other ways to increase demand.
- KBR continues to refine design and engineering and progress other key assessments.
- The Detailed Business Case is expected to be finalised in the coming months and will provide an evidence base for future investment decisions.
- A further project update will be provided once the Detailed Business Case has been completed.

## Planning On-Farm Water Supplies



BIGG's Smart Farms Water Security Project has developed these resources to help landholders determine their on-farm water requirements to support decision making.

These were presented at the on-farm security workshop in April.

**-Planning Water supplies for your farm Report** (report covers the various water supply, capture, storage, reticulation, and monitoring options to consider on-farm, plus several case studies).

<https://biggroup.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Planning-on-Farm-Water-supplies-Final.pdf>

**- Water requirement spreadsheet** (calcs stock water requirements and run off volumes)

<http://biggroup.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/BIGG-Stock-water-requirements-and-runoff-calculations.xlsx>

**- Water Infrastructure Audit spreadsheet** (property audit of water infrastructure and estimates a properties water requirements)

<http://biggroup.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/BIGG-Water-Infrastructure-Audit-202204.xlsx>

## New containment lot in the Southeast showing pasture success





Josh and Maddie Hancock from Kingston SE attended the major containment field day in March 2021 and looked at some of the other containment ewe project sites through the Barossa. He was wanting to build a new containment lot on his Southeast property to preserve pasture and allow him to supplement ewes in a concentrated area prior to the break.

He constructed 4 x new pens and a feeding lane in April 2022 just in time to put ewes immediately in. He has contained 1200 ewes this year and fed them predominately on silage and a small amount of barley. He feeds the barely every second day in the feeding lane by letting individual groups out to eat the required quantity.

The South East has had a delayed break this year compared to their average break, locking the ewes off of the pasture has allowed the pastures to get ahead of the ewes. In established pastures there is 1200kg DM/ha of feed on offer (FOO) available and no supplementation will be required over lambing.

Josh has seen a big advantage to ease of managing the ewes and feeding in one area. He has also been impressed by the pasture recovery after the break and the ability to grow enough FOO for ewes prior to lambing. Ewes will be let out over the next week for lambing in 10 days' time.

**Save the Date**  
**BIGG Annual Conference!**

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**BIGG** LANDSCAPES 2022

**The Land. The Livestock. The People**

A Barossa Improved Grazing Group Conference

- Farmer case studies- sheep and cattle producers
- Livestock Markets
- Beneficial Insects
- Building skills to look after your wellbeing
- Improving on-farm water security
- Trade displays of rural businesses

**Thursday  
7th July  
2022**

**LAMBERT WINERY, ANGASTON**

**8:45 AM- 1.00PM    TICKETS AVAILABLE 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE!!**

**Includes: presentations, trade displays, morning tea and lunch**

## Note from our Sponsors

### BioStart

#### **BioStart biological boosts lambing percentage**

Two SA sheep farmers have lifted lambing by 45% and improved carcass quality by drenching with BioStart Ruminant.

Phil Cook from 'Middle Camp,' at Cowell (Eyre Peninsula), started using Ruminant on his ewes in 2016, and 6 years later is proving that merino sheep don't have to be the poor fertility cousin.

"The ewes were sitting at a scanning rate of around 93%. When we introduced Ruminant in conjunction with Nutrimol to the ewes and rams 2 weeks prior to joining in September 2016 we started to see this scanning rate transition up and we are now annually at 138%. That was a real surprise. We then started to focus on the lamb side of things by dosing the ewes 2-3 weeks before lambing we found lamb size and health increased and that mortality dropped off dramatically"

Further across the Peninsula, Bill Herde (Pictured below) from Tuckey started his



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received 2 x 4mL doses of Ruminant and 2 x 10mL doses of Nutrimol on day 1 and then 6-8 weeks later. They received another 4mL dose of Ruminant prior to transport to Colac for processing. I got a call from the Nutrien buyer saying the processor wanted to know what I did to those sheep. He said they were calm, the skins removed very easily, they had good lungs and muscle, and there were no dark cutters even after a 15hr truck ride.”

Ruminant is a prebiotic digestion enhancer that has been kicking goals for sheep farmers in Australia for over 20 years.

For further information call Nick Smyth on 1800 359 559.



## From the Inbox

- Future Drought Fund Science to Practice Forum- SA Drought Hub Event- Tue 7th June- Thurs 9th June [More Details](#)
- Suicide Prevention Training- Angaston- 22nd June or 1st July- [See Full Flyer](#)
- Farm HR: Creating Employers of Choice: Freeling 28th July/ Clare 25th July or online [Flyer](#)
- The Power of Raindrops field day- Robertstown 3rd June- [More](#)
- Climate Smart Farming Forum- Lobethal 3rd June- [Register](#)
- MeatUp Forum- Naracoorte- 28th June 2022- save the date

## Thanks to our Sponsors!!



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of South Australia Inc.  
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