

media release

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New tool encourages sheep producers to be more calculating

A new cost of production calculator aims to help sheep producers identify and zero in on potential weak spots in their enterprise.

The latest tool to come out of the 'Making More From Sheep' program, the calculator aims to better equip sheep and lamb producers to spot areas in their enterprise where improvements can be made to drive on-farm efficiencies.

With cost of production (CoP) a key factor affecting the profitability of a sheep enterprise, Richard Apps, Meat & Livestock Australia's (MLA) Adoption Manager (Sheep), said the benefits of calculating CoP gives producers a valuable picture of their flock's performance and a solid starting point to initiate improvements.

"The higher the CoP gets, the more at risk your business is likely to be; it indicates that there are opportunities to reduce CoP and improve production efficiencies," Mr Apps said.

Once a producer has calculated their cost of production, a base has then been established that can be compared to industry standards across other sheep enterprises.

The calculator has been designed as a 'do-it-yourself tool' and can be operated either through a paper-based version or an online electronic adaptation.

"This is the first calculator that takes into account the costs associated with both lamb and wool production, making it possible for producers to assess their whole sheep business with a single tool," Mr Apps said.

The CoP calculator is free to farmers or consultants wanting to add it to the business 'tool box'.

While it has been designed to be used by producers individually, a series of 'Managing Your Profit Drivers' workshops with the CoP calculator as the focus are being run by private agricultural consultants Holmes Sackett in eastern Australia and J.R. Hall & Co. in Western Australia.

The workshops aim to assist producers extract useful interpretations from the calculations and identify opportunities where producers can improve their enterprises.

To register your interest in attending one of the workshops, or for more information, call:

- Holmes Sackett on (02) 6931 7110 if you live in eastern Australia
- R. Hall & Co. on (08) 9736 1055 if you live in Western Australia
- Or, catch up with MLA at Sheepvention in Hamilton, Victoria on 3-4 August

The Making More From Sheep program is a joint initiative between MLA and Australian Wool Innovation. See www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au for more information.

Ends

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