



AUSTRALIAN SUPERFINE WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION INC

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It would be difficult to find a cheerful woolgrower at present. It seems that it is a case of if it can go wrong then in all probability it will! The only unknown is to what depths this global economic downturn will reach.

After each setback a little more faith is lost & doubts begin to corrupt our thoughts. The older generation amongst us tell us that this is nothing new. That such market volatility has occurred throughout decades of trade & that everything has a cycle. No doubt this is true & hopefully in time market sentiment will improve. However, our members have to deal with the here & now. Unfortunately present circumstances will undoubtedly prove overwhelming to many specialist woolgrowers. Hard decisions will be made over the coming months & the inclusion of wool production, as a profitable enterprise will be heavily scrutinised.

In addition to the negativity within the market, here in the Region we have to deal with the problems associated with the failing season. Historically the September to November period is a time of strong pasture growth providing the grazier with a 'feed bank' for the coming year. The carrying capacity of the pasture is ultimately determined by the duration & amount of spring rainfall. In a flush season feed becomes plentiful, allowing stock numbers to be maintained or even increased. In a poor

season, which is currently the case, the opposite occurs. Pastures cannot compete with the pressure of grazing stock, so the decision has to be made to remove the stock. Commonly the first to be dispersed are the older ewes & any remaining wethers. Young sheep, in particular breeding ewes are maintained for as long as possible. Such scenarios limit production for the coming years until numbers can be rebuilt.

The quality of the current wool clip again is suffering from the affects of the on going drought. Surprisingly those flocks that had the implementation of a well manage supplementary feeding program have coped quite well, rewarding the grower with pleasing fleece weights considering the circumstances. Wool quality although has been affected with a considerably diminished amount of spinners type being produced. An increase in the volume of tender wool is also a result of the unfavourable conditions.

It was with a great sense of shock & sadness that we received the news concerning the recent death of Mr Michael Lempriere. Michael has been a member of our region for a number of years, demonstrating a genuine passion for working toward strengthening the future of our industry. Throughout his life he worked tirelessly within the wool industry having held numerous positions within various industry organisations. Our thoughts are with the Lempriere family