



AUSTRALIAN SUPERFINE WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION INC

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ASWGA Hamilton Regional Report

March 2009

Since our last report in November 2008, we have experienced strange weather conditions. In the second week of December, we had a large rain event through Victoria, where we received over 3 inches of rain in general. For the following six weeks no rain at all fell, followed by an extreme heat wave, which resulted in above average temperatures, and 5 days above 40 degrees in a row, reaching a maximum of 45 degrees. Extreme fire danger throughout Victoria resulted in some devastating bush fires, one in our region, but thankfully no members were affected. Following the heat wave, we had no rain recorded in February with quite windy conditions and a lot of raised dust, which will result in a lower yield in the wool clip in some areas.

In the second week of March we had a week of thunderstorms around Hamilton. These resulted in very good falls in some areas of up to 100mm, whilst nothing in other areas recorded. South of the Grampians received generally good falls and an early autumn break, and good pasture response, although we are looking for good follow-up rains, which have not as yet eventuated.

We held a regional meeting on the 10th of March in Hamilton with general discussion on the proposed QA scheme for ASWGA members, the current wool market and the whole world financial situation and we all hope that this improves sooner rather than later. Also we spoke about the future of mulesing as a essential practice for many

superfine members in our region, due to summer rainfall and high humidity, both forming a deadly combination for flystrike in merino sheep. We also hope to host a dinner in our region in the coming year if we can attract enough interest and a guest speaker.



On the 9th of February Sierra Park held their on-property ram sale which resulted in 30 pure Saxon rams being sold for an average of \$700, selling to a top price of \$1800. Congratulations to the Crawford family on the way they presented their rams and another successful sale.

Generally the Hamilton region has experienced an average summer/autumn period and most members will produce a good wool clip, with good bulk and tensile strength with hopefully not too much effect on yield and we hope for an improved market.