



# AUSTRALIAN SUPERFINE WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION INC

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## ASWGA New England Region Report

### March 2008

#### **RAIN ,GRASS, MORE RAIN, LOTS OF GRASS, FLOODS.....**

Since the end of October the turnaround in the season has been phenomenal. We have changed from very bare to (dare we say it ) too much grass. There has been minor to moderate flooding as well.

Sheep are in good condition but not excellent at present. Pastures have become long and rank, losing protein as well. Thistles are huge this year but the Barbers Pole worm is still the biggest challenge.

Our annual Xmas party was held at Whyworry wines where Daryl & Robyn Carter hosted forty members.

The New England merino field days took place on the second weekend of January. ASWGA studs together with others put on a fabulous display. Buses were provided to transport many of the good size crowd to breeders properties around the district. Some studs displayed at the Walcha showground and these were viewed on their return to Walcha. The Elders merino fleece competition held at the showground added extra discussions to a busy weekend.

Wool sale time is very enjoyable now as prices are very good. High prices received this season include 91,000c/kg to Paul & Fiona Kliendeinst for a 12.0 micron shedded bale. Tim Robertson

& Bill McClenaghan obtained 44,000 c/ kg for a 13.0 micron bale of paddock grown wool.

Ram & sheep sales are very buoyant which is not surprising given the great season and strong wool market. Most studs have ram sale averages up by 25 to 50 %. Surplus sheep sales are also very strong with cast for age ewes making up to \$70 and most vendors averaging about \$50

The Ermenegildo Zegna dinner should see many New England members attending as it is four years since last being held in Sydney. Our regions wool was not as badly affected by drought last year as other superfine areas were.

Woolexpo is on again this year in Armidale May 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. ASWGA is organising a seminar & forum to be held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> from 3.00pm. Speakers include Paul Swan from AWI; Sheep Production expert Bruce Farquharson & Brendan van Rensburg from AWTW who will speak on staple strength. The forum panel also sees wool buyer Don Belgre, Criag Brennan representing Newcastle Wool brokers & NSW Farmers boss Jock Laurie. WE plan to have an AWI representative as well as the head of Wool Producers. I urge members to come and listen & then be involved in the open forum as important issues will emerge.