

# GOATS CONFERENCE UPDATE - DECEMBER 2008



## ANNUAL REPORTS

Enclosed with this mail-out are the reports that will be presented for discussion and adoption at the Annual Meeting of Mohair NZ and Federated Farmers Goats to be held in Melbourne on 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009. Note that the financial report is indicative only. Our financial year ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December so with Conference 2009 being earlier than normal we have had to do a little "Crystal ball gazing".

## BOARD REPRESENTATION

We have received one nomination (that of Gary Boyle) for the Producer Director position on the Board. That means that there is no need for an election this year.

## NOTICES OF MOTION

We have received no notices of motion for discussion at next year's conference. However, we are still pursuing options on this year's resolution to produce an information package for goat farming. We had hoped to be further ahead in the planning than we are, but "funding" is proving a problem, we do not believe that it is worth producing a cheap product. The committee has been chasing up a number of options. Hopefully we may have some better news for you by Conference, but regardless we will be discussing where we are at and the way forward from there

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

As advised in the newsletter accompanying the registration papers, we have a comparatively simple programme this year. Local (within greater Melbourne) farm visit on the afternoon of the first day (17<sup>th</sup>). PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE REPORTED TO THE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DESK IN THE HOTEL BY NOON ON 17TH SO THAT WE CAN GIVE YOU DETAILS OF WHERE TO BOARD THE 'BUS, WHICH WILL LEAVE AT 12.30PM. The Federated Farmers Goats/Mohair NZ AGM and business will be held on the morning of 18<sup>th</sup> and then another session with Dr Bruce McGregor is scheduled for the afternoon of 18<sup>th</sup>.

For those of you who missed Bruce's presentation this year, in Rotorua, he knows everything there is to know about goats and marketing. Those who attended Rotorua Conference will be aware that he has an excellent presentation style. He has published 300 research, technical and advisory articles on these subjects. He has had a long interest in nutritional management of Australian goats. At the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on

Goats, Beijing, he received one of four Gold Awards for his scientific paper on goat nutrition. He is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the international scientific research journal Small Ruminant Research. He is a past president of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Society of Animal Production.

On 19<sup>th</sup> those of you heading off to the Australasian goat expo will leave the hotel shortly after breakfast. It is free time for those staying behind but we are planning the option of an informal visit to

Registrations officially closed on 15<sup>th</sup> December. This date was to enable us to make necessary transport bookings. However, if you are talking with anyone who thinks they have "missed out" **we will still accept registrations** until such time as they reach capacity of the transport booked.

## PROXY FORMS

Don't forget that if you cannot make it personally to Melbourne for the Conference you can still have your say on an issue through appointing a proxy. Please get the completed forms back to me by 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009 to ensure I have them before I head across the ditch.

## A SPECIAL NOTICE FROM MEAT AND WOOL NEW ZEALAND

Further to Ian's comments (GAG Report) on what you miss out on if you are not registered and the forms that accompanied our previous newsletter, we have received the following notice from Meat & Wool NZ.

**Meat & Wool New Zealand will hold a referendum of sheep, goat and cattle farmers in August 2009** to obtain a mandate for industry good activities, funded by a compulsory levy on sheep, beef, goats and wool.

Anyone owning sheep, cattle or goats is eligible to vote.

***If your details have changed or you believe you may not be on our database, please enrol by visiting our website [www.meatandwoolnz.com](http://www.meatandwoolnz.com) and downloading the registration form on the home page. Alternatively you can call our election hotline on 0800 109 150.***

REMEMBER TO HAVE YOUR SAY, YOU NEED TO VOTE.

Bob Douglas  
Industry Manager

