

EID technology for sheep more affordable

ADVANCES in electronic identification (EID) systems are making precision management of sheep even more simple and affordable.

Nathan Scott, consultant with Mike Stevens & Associates based in Victoria, said producers don't have to spend a fortune to achieve the benefits of EID for their sheep operation.

"New hardware options have become available in recent months from a number of companies which mean complex EID tasks can be undertaken with a bare minimum of equipment. Almost anything can be achieved with a handheld reader and a manual weighing crate," Mr Scott said.

"The key to design-

ing your system is knowing what information you want from EID and only spending the money you need to achieve these outcomes.

"We now have a number of handheld readers that are capable of having data uploaded to them before you head into the yards.

"This makes it possible to identify individual animals for drafting based on data using only the stick reader."

Independent advice on equipment and a well-planned approach to an EID system is now available to producers, through the course 'Using EID for Sheep Management and Breeding' being rolled out in NSW and Victoria in the coming months.

The course, developed by the Cooperative Research Centre for Sheep Industry Innovation (Sheep CRC), is available through a number of licensed training providers. It is gaining momentum in NSW, with 31 producers participating in four groups so far this year.

Another group of 11 is part way through the course and there are three more groups waiting to start.

Wellington stud breeder Norm Smith, Glenwood Merinos, recently completed the course through NSW TAFE as a part of his involvement with the SRS Group.

"There is a raft of EID products on the market and the course will help you understand what equipment

you need to achieve your objectives, as well as the right management software and tips on analysing and using the data on farm," he said.

"The course helps to ensure that you capture the benefits from the capital outlay."

'Using EID for Sheep Management and Breeding' is an intensive course, delivered through three face-to-face group sessions on farm, followed by a one-on-one session with the course facilitator to ensure that the outcomes are customised to your individual requirements.

Contact TAFE Western for more information: Ben Watts 0428 668 706 or BENJAMIN.WATTS14@det.nsw.edu.au.

Southern Rivers CMA

Supporting local people to live and work in ways that lead to a healthy and productive environment.



Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) supports local communities, farmers and other land managers, Landcare, government agencies, Aboriginal people, local government and industry in working together to address the many issues affecting the health of our land, water and sea in the region.

The Southern Rivers region extends from Stanwell Park in the north to the Victorian border in the south, and includes the catchments of the Shoalhaven, Snowy and Genoa Rivers to the west and three nautical miles to sea to the east.

Through Southern Rivers CMA's partnerships and programs, the NSW and Australian Governments provide funding for strategic on-ground works and activities that help protect and restore our natural resources.



For general and technical information and support please contact Southern Rivers CMA staff at the following locations:

Wollongong **4224 9700**

Nowra **4429 4444**

Braidwood **4842 2594**

or visit www.southern.cma.nsw.gov.au

Batemans Bay **4475 1000**

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