

Program

Master of Ceremonies: Alex Ball

Pre-Lambex events - Wednesday August 10

Timing	Event	
9.00am - 4.00pm	Field Tours	A selection of four tours on offer, departing Albury 8.30am
9.00am - 4.00pm	White Suffolk Association's Young Guns semi-finalists presentations and professional development session	Meeting Room 1, Lauren Jackson Centre
Welcome to Lambex		
4.00pm	Registration Desk opens	
6.00pm	Cocktail welcome function	
6.30pm	Welcome to LambEx and official opening	Rodney Watt LambEx 2016 Chair
6.45pm	LambEx and planning for the next generation in agriculture.	Scott Hansen Director General , NSW DPI
8.00pm	Function close	

Lambex Day 1

Thursday August 11

6.30am LambEx pre-event registration desk opens

7.00am	Delegates choose from two Breakfast seminars: Option 1: The Sheep CRC Breakfast Seminar <i>Details to be provided</i> Option 2: Austwest Seeds Breakfast Seminar <i>Glenn Judson</i> is the program leader for the Nutrition and Farm Systems group with Agricom where he is responsible for improving nutritive value of forages and developing grazing systems for a range of different forages. Glenn spearheads this fascinating nutrition discussion.	Sheep CRC at the PCYC Building (Adjacent) Austwest Seeds at the LJC
8.10am	Breakfast seminar delegates reconvene at the LJC to join the other Lambex delegates	
7.45am	LambEx registration desk and tradeshow open	
8.30am	Welcome	Rodney Watt LambEx 2016 Chair
Session 1 – The Lambscape		Sponsored by Meat & Livestock Australia
8.35am	Introduction to the Lambscape	Michele Allen Chair, MLA
8.40am	The choice is ours - Farmers or Peasants: Futurist <i>Paul Higgins</i> is charged with predicting what lamb looks like, 20 years on from now, by considering the combination of consumer, community, big data and producer trends. To do so with reliability, Paul draws on a unique practical skillset including a career span that has ranged from working as an abattoir manager, a farmer, a dairy veterinarian and as a director with Auspork, coupled with an academic record that has produced a masters degree in strategic foresight and an honours degree in vet science.	Paul Higgins Emergent Futures
9.15am	The American perception of Australian lamb: The US-based Sysco, turned over \$48B in food product sales last year to nearly half a million customers and this global leader is now taking a lot of Australian lamb. We have asked Sysco's <i>Chef Neil Doherty</i> to 'tell it how it is' so that we can work as an industry to better match the needs of our US customers and their particular preferences when it comes to lamb.	Chef Neil Doherty Director, Culinary Development, Sysco Corporation

9.45am	Meeting the needs of our food service customers: Andrews Meat Industries is one of Australia's most progressive foodservice suppliers, with strong and patriotic relationships connecting Australian farmers with end-users. Despite this, there are times when it is more profitable for them to purchase New Zealand lamb at a higher price than the Australian product. <i>Peter Andrews</i> says that understanding why consistency of portion size, product quality and availability is so important, will help Australian lamb producers better meet the needs of the food service industry.	Peter Andrews Andrews Meat Industries
10.15am	The international traveller: Lamb travels across the world to multi destinations, all of which have consumers with a combination of cultural, palate and budget needs. Can Australian lamb cut through to such a diverse market place? <i>Lisa Sharp</i> has worked for leading global multinational organisations (Kraft Foods, Coca Cola) and iconic Australian companies (Uncle Tobys, SPC Ardmona) in a range of consumer research, marketing and strategy roles. Lisa has extensive experience in brand expansion and lead the revamp of Australian packaged fruit marketing and was the driver behind the extended global footprint of the SPC Natures Finest brand – and is drawing on that diverse food marketing background to make inroads for Australian lamb.	Lisa Sharp Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, MLA
10.40am	Morning Tea - Sponsored by Elanco Australia	Sponsored by Elanco
Session 2 - Meat Science		Sponsored by Meat Elite
11.20am	The new world of carcass measurement is here: LambEx has talked up meat measurement systems at previous conventions, but we are now on the cusp of DEXA delivering yield measurements with twice the accuracy of VIASCAN and operating in real time, in real plants. Murdoch's University's <i>Professor Graham Gardner</i> explains this, along with progress towards IMF measurements at a commercial processing scale. But what will industry do with this powerful real-time knowledge of yield x eating quality and how might it set market signals to reward opposing forces?	Prof Graham Gardner Murdoch University
11.50am	A matter of taste: One of the most pivotal research projects that will help the Australian sheep industry understand its market place, is the quest to understand the difference in palates between in our major markets. By LambEx, Murdoch University's <i>Professor David Pethick</i> and his team will have completed a unique lamb-tasting experiment involving consumers in the US and China and comparing their tastes to those of the Aussie palate. The data will provide information on the differences or otherwise of perceptions between Australian, USA and Chinese consumers on tough and tender cuts, on new cooking methods, and combined with the willingness to pay for different quality thresholds. This fascinating consumer insight will set up the Australian lamb industry to tailor-make their lamb to the export customer's taste.	Professor David Pethick Murdoch University
12.20pm	Big lamb small cuts: Lamb needs a strong presence on the domestic market, and new ways of presenting lamb from heavier carcasses are required. To aid this process the Sheep CRC is undertaking a major piece of work in collaboration with MLA focussing on how to adapt lamb cuts to the current consumer in the face of an average carcass weight that continues to increase. This trend can be capitalised on because heavy carcasses provide greater diversity for the development of new cuts and value adding. To explore this topic in an interactive, hands on demonstration LambEx brings together a panel of experts: <i>Dr David Hopkins</i> from NSW DPI, the lead researcher on the Sheep CRC heavy lamb product development project, who joins with MLA butcher <i>Doug Piper</i> , and MLA chef, <i>Sam Burke</i> . Expect to have the taste buds tested ahead of the LambEx Luncheon.	Dr David Hopkins NSW DPI Doug Piper MLA Sam Burke MLA
12.55pm	Introduction to LambEx Luncheon	
Session 3 - Bringing the paddock to life		Sponsored by AWI
2.05pm	Session introduction	
2.10pm	The gaps between ewe and you: Sheep consultant <i>Jason Trompf</i> has a history of challenging convention when it comes to ewe management. Laying the cards on the table, Jason challenges the genetics gap between what high end commercial producers want and what seed stock producers deliver; the gap that exists between a ewe's capacity and what most ewes deliver; and the gap between the technology that is available and our industry's lethargy in utilising it.	Jason Trompf JT Consulting
2.45pm	It's Ewe Time at Yallock: Vicky and Tony Geddes' predominantly Merino enterprise and its some 7000 breeding ewes, has been transformed over the last decade. Substantial investment in genetics and perennial pastures has facilitated growth as well as increased resilience to drought. But what has the dollars invested translated to in terms of business profits? The cost of the overhaul is explored in terms of cost and return per ha; per labour unit and what it has done to the business's net position.	Vicky Geddes Holbrook, NSW

3.05pm	The true cost of best practise lamb survival: Borambil is one of the star performers of the MacQuarie-owned 70,000 Merino Paraway Pastoral Group. Borambil manager Matt Browning has 1.5 labour units to run his 11,000 Merino ewes, that have a 10-year average of >110% lambs marked to ewes joined. Matt is robust to those who say 'it's alright for him, he's a big corporate' as Matt has the data to substantiate the cost of his management and target feeding is more than repaid through his resulting weaning rates.	Matt Browning Borambil, NSW
3.25pm	A journey of change: Philip Gough's roots are in seed stock production and he has applied his understanding of genetic management to evolve his crossbred ewe flock from an average 85% lambing on ewes joined to one that is now in the mid 140s. Part of the transition was the introduction of Booroola genetics from the CSIRO flock when it dispersed, but production gains have also been made by utilising Lambplan, hybrid vigour and intensified management.	Philip Gough Salamanca Pastoral Trust Hotspur, VIC
3.45pm	Afternoon Tea	Sponsored by AWI
Session 4 - Our Future, Safe Hands		Meeting the Young Guns Facilitated by Graham Gardner Murdoch University
4.15pm	Our future, safe hands, Part I: Caris Jones was the Honors, MSc, PhD, section winner of the inaugural Young Guns LambEx competition in Adelaide in 2014. Her win helped bring her to the attention of industry and was instrumental in her becoming the MERINOSELECT Development Officer with Sheep Genetics. Caris shares her insights into making a professional career in the sheep industry and explores the application she sees for MERINOSELECT in Merino breeding enterprises, including her own family's stud breeding enterprise in WA.	Caris Jones Development Officer MERINOSELECT
4.30pm	Our future, safe hands, Part II: Finalists from the White Suffolk Association 2016 Young Guns competition are introduced to the LambEx delegates, with each providing an overview of their submission that earned them the privilege. This presentation culminates with the announcement of the 2016 winners.	Young Guns Competition finalists
5.00pm	Day 1 Close	
6.30pm	The Sheep Meats Council of Australia Pre-dinner Drinks	
7.30pm	GRANDSLAMB Dinner	

Lambex Day 2

Friday August 12

7.15am	The Gallagher recovery breakfast: During the breakfast Anthony Shepherd from Sheepmatters will look at how to spend your valuable time in capturing productive data and then using that data to help make informed decisions on animal performance.	The breakfast takes place in the exhibition area, Lauren Jackson Centre
Session 1 - Survive & Thrive		Sponsored by Heritage Seeds
8.30am	From outback Australia to Central Park New York City: A journey of challenge, struggle and triumph against the odds. Former world champion marathon runner Robert de Castella shares his inspirational story of working with young indigenous Australians and shows how with purpose, courage, self-belief and support, they inspire themselves, their families, communities and the country.	Robert De Castella AO MBE Founder and Director, Indigenous Marathan Foundation
9.15am	The unspeakable white elephant: Chris Wilson is in good company. The company of many farmers who, just like him, have battled the black dog. The difference, is that Chris is prepared to speak about elements of depression that most sufferers keep to themselves. Here is a sheep farmer who has been literally to hell and back and is prepared to share his story. This sharing is intended to encourage others to share as well and in doing so help address a silent scar on the lambscape.	Chris Wilson Wantabadgery, NSW
9.40am	Young people just wont listen. Or will they? Former RIRDC National Rural Woman of the Year Pip Job has a passion for involving the next generation in farm business decisions from an early age. It's not always easy as too often there are accusations around not listening. Pip highlights how things can fall apart when the cross-generation communication function fails and how connected generations within a business are so much more resilient.	Pip Job Geurie, NSW
10.05am	Morning Tea Break	Sponsored by Heritage Seeds

Session 2 - Brighter Horizons		Sponsored by AgriWebb
10.45am	The odds of boom or bust spring: Agricultural climate specialist <i>Graeme Anderson</i> shines light on the latest in seasonal forecasting and explains why it could be more useful for livestock producers than croppers. He'll explain the limits to trusting seasonal forecasts, and their use in planning spring scenarios. Boom versus bust springs impact the level of profit, so his underlying message is to design a farm system with decision triggers that is robust to more variable seasons.	Graeme Anderson Agriculture Victoria
11.10am	Planning for the worse and hoping for the best: <i>Mark Wootton</i> is designing his farm system with an eye on 2030 climate projections for South West Victoria. Drawing on data from "The More Lambs More Often" program, Mark draws on a range of forecasting tools and grazing and breeding management strategies to put his operation at Jigsaw Farms on the front foot in an ever increasing variable Climate. Mark will also release the University Of Melbourne study of his farms that demonstrates that producers can still double their food and fibre production and yet become carbon neutral. The talk will show that grazing operations can be a valuable solution to and not the cause of Climate Change.	Mark Wootton Jigsaw Farms, VIC
11.45am	Grazing cereals with demanding sheep - maximise growth, health and welfare: Grazing cereal crops play a valuable role in the whole farm system, but wheat challenges sheep with low magnesium and calcium absorption and that can result in reduced growth, health and welfare outcomes. NSW DPI's <i>Dr Gordon Refshauge</i> says producers need to know when the risks are high of this occurring and what is the best way to minimise them.	Gordon Refshauge NSW DPI
12.10pm	Setting up the ewe for the new horizon: <i>Phil Graham</i> throws out the challenge and asks do we have the right breeding directions for the economic, social and environmental climate for 15 years from now?	Phil Graham NSW DPI
12.35pm	Would Warren Buffet buy your farm business? LambEx is a forum of best practice examples when it comes to sheep management - but does the industry have the systems in place to stand up to investor scrutiny and quantify its performance in investor terms? <i>Paul Blackshaw</i> maintains that not enough of us consider our farm as a business and will discuss methods that can stand up to external interrogation and how this may also help drive profitability internally.	Paul Blackshaw Agriculture Victoria
1.00pm	Lunch	
Session 3 - A matter of trust		Sponsored by Elders Limited
2.00pm	Becoming 'brand-intimate': New Zealand Merino has forged a path of collaboration with different products that share the same values to build a global brand in the market place. NZ Merino technical marketing manager <i>Dave Maslin</i> now has what he defines as consumer intimacy with his industry's customers that has delivered, among other things, a bargaining chip for highly coveted long term contracts. The secret, he says lies in validated story telling, in matters of product quality, environment and animal welfare.	Dave Maslin NZ Merino
2.40pm	The havoc of generic: NSW 2015 farmer of the Year <i>Ed Fagan</i> is the penultimate mixed farmer, with extensive lamb, broadacre and horticulture interests. And, he has a healthy distaste for any form of generic marketing across his portfolio, hardened by last year's salmonella outbreak that created horticultural industry havoc. Ed provides the farm level example of the value in being "quality brand-associated" as a form of business insurance in today's world dominated by supermarkets and increasingly savvy consumers.	Ed Fagan Cowra, NSW
3.00pm	Pushing the boundaries for human endurance: Adventurers <i>Cas and Jonesy</i> provide a remarkable story of human resilience and survival against the odds. These life-long friends have ticked off some major world explorations that have put them in the face of grave danger and at times all-to-close to the end. This story will make you laugh and cry and remind you that keeping going when the odds are against you, is so worth doing!	Cas & Jonesy Adventurers
3.30pm	The Fairfax Agricultural Media and MerinoNSW prize draw Featuring 50 Merino ewes donated by <i>Roseville Park Merino Stud, Dubbo</i> and a sheep dog pup donated by <i>Waddy's Collies, Young</i> .	
3.45pm	Close	Rodney Watt LambEx Chair