



Department of
Agriculture and Food



Sheep and Goat
Industry Funding Scheme

Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme

Annual report 2015/2016



Contact details

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From the Chairperson

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2015/16 Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme (IFS) Annual Report to the scheme contributors, stakeholders and to the Minister for Agriculture and Food.

The past year has seen the Footrot Control Program continue to play a critical role in controlling the disease in the Western Australian flocks. The Committee would like to see our industry free from virulent footrot, but acknowledge that this outcome will be well into the future. Improvements in science, technologies and innovations may be key to helping the industry achieve this goal. Consequently, the IFS is investing in important research to identify the effectiveness of a serogroup-specific footrot vaccine in Western Australian conditions.

The footrot vaccine research trial is progressing; however, 'red tape' has resulted in frustrating delays. During the year, these delays have been overcome and the research trial is now progressing nicely.

The IFS account balance has been steadily increasing over the past few years. The Committee previously agreed that the IFS account should maintain a level of financial reserves that would enable its programs to continue for two years without producer contributions.

Increasing numbers of sheep/goat sales over the past few years has seen the IFS account balance grow beyond the required level of reserves. To address this, we were able to recommend to the Minister a reduced contribution rate, which began on 1 July 2016. Our recommendation was strongly influenced by industry views that the IFS account must not be used to build a 'war chest' — that is, the money collected from sheep and goat producers must be invested in on-ground works that provide benefit to our industry rather than 'sitting in the bank'. Feedback from the industry indicates that reducing the contribution rate was a positive move.

As the retiring Chairperson, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the IFS Management Committee members for their contribution. I am confident that we have built a Scheme that makes a positive impact on the biosecurity of our industry, and that this will continue to be the case into the future. I would also like to acknowledge the work undertaken by DAFWA, and their dedication to the productivity, profitability and sustainability of the industry.

I look forward to following the progress of the Scheme and its programs.

Yours sincerely

Jeff Murray

Chairperson (2015/16)

Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme Management Committee



Image: Herd of goats

Purpose of the Sheep and Goat Industry Management Committee (Vision)

- Facilitate a strong biosecurity ethos amongst industry
- Administer funding for programs that address key biosecurity issues in the sheep and goat industry
- Ensure priorities are addressed to industry expectations

Role of the Sheep and Goat Industry Management Committee (Mission)

- Champion biosecurity within the Western Australian sheep and goat industry
- Understand industry priorities
- Ensure that the Industry Funding Scheme and the associated processes are clearly understood by industry
- Provide good governance of the Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme

1. Overview of the Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme

In June 2010, the Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme (IFS) was introduced to address biosecurity threats relevant to the Western Australian sheep and goat industry. The Scheme was established under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* to enable sheep and goat producers to identify the pest and disease priorities at a whole-of-industry level, and then to raise funds for programs that address these priorities.

Funds are raised through a producer contribution on each chargeable sale. A 'chargeable sale' means a sale by the owner of sheep or goats (live or carcasses) that are located on a property within the Schemes' area of operation or moved from the property for the purpose of offering them for sale/slaughter.

Producers do not have to participate in the Scheme — there is a mechanism that allows them to opt out. Opting out does not remove the legal requirement to deal with the pests and diseases to which the Scheme relates, but does disqualify the producer from any benefits provided by the Scheme such as assistance and compensation.

The Sheep and Goat IFS is overseen by a seven-member Industry Management Committee. The Minister for Agriculture and Food appointed the Committee members after inviting industry nominations and receiving advice from an industry-based Appointments Committee. As required by regulation, the majority of the Industry Management Committee are full participants of the Sheep and Goat IFS.

The Industry Management Committee is responsible for approving the biosecurity-related programs funded through the Scheme and providing advice to the Minister on the Scheme's area of operation and the contribution rate.

The State Government, through its Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA), provide the necessary support to ensure proper governance and the effective operation of the Scheme and Committee. This includes secretariat, communications, policy and technical support, as well as financial management. Furthermore, the normal regulatory inspection and compliance activities undertaken by DAFWA closely complement the priorities of the Committee.

2015/2016 Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme

During 2015/16:

- Contributions of 12 cents per head/carcass applied to the sale of all sheep and goats produced in Western Australia (WA)
- Contributions totalling \$864 492 were received
- Contributions were used to fund a program to control virulent footrot at a total cost of \$550 586
- Contributions were also used to undertake research at a cost of \$7718; and \$5000 was used to co-fund a series of sheep health workshops
- Committee costs totalled \$20 892
- Ten producers opted out of the Scheme, with a total of \$4352 refunded to these producers in the 2016/17 financial year.



Image: Sheep in yards

2. Industry Management Committee

Mr Jeff Murray (Chairperson)* runs a mixed farming operation in Beverley, as part of an extensive family farm. He is a member of the Sheep Industry Liaison Committee and Chair of the Sheep National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) Committee in WA. He is also President of the Sheepmeat Council of Australia and past-president of the Meat Section of WAFarmers.

Mr Jorgen Jensen is the manager of Yoweragabbie Station near Mount Magnet, with a lifelong connection to the southern rangelands pastoral industry. He is involved with various community and biosecurity committees, and is keen to see the industries and communities of the southern rangelands reach their potential.

Mr Stephen Meerwald* is an experienced agribusiness entrepreneur and manager with specialist knowledge of the Australian meat and livestock industry. He has been involved in the live export and processing sectors for many years, and operated and managed a large-scale export business. Steve has a deep understanding of all sectors of livestock supply chains, from producer through to domestic and international markets.

Mr John Moyes is a livestock primary producer based in Bridgetown. He has owned and operated a mixed livestock farm, as well as fruit-growing, for many years. John is currently a representative of the Lower South West zone of WAFarmers on the WAFarmers Livestock Council, and has represented the Lower South West Zone on this Council for twenty years.

Mr Ed Register has 30 years' experience in mixed farming — sheep, angora goats and grains. He is the current Chair of the WAFarmers Wool Committee that sits within the Livestock Council, and a Director of Wool Producers Australia. Ed has biosecurity experience as a past member of both the Ovine Johne's Disease Management Team and Footrot Advisory Panel.

Mr David Slade* and family operate a mixed farming enterprise north-west of Mount Barker. The business is focussed on meat production with 6000-7000 ewes producing prime lambs using Greeline composite genetics from New Zealand. The property also runs around 800 Sussex cows for beef production, finishes animals through both cattle and sheep feedlots and includes a 2500ha cropping program of cereals and canola. David has a strong interest in on-farm and national biosecurity, and is member of Cattle Council of Australia Industry Systems and Food Safety Sub-Committee. He has also been involved in the national Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Foresight workshops and undertaken real time FMD training in Nepal. David is Senior Vice President of the WAFarmers Livestock Section and Albany Zone Livestock Representative, and is also a member of the Cooperative Bulk Handling (CBH) Grower Advisory Council.

Mr Charles Wass farms wheat and sheep on 3500 hectares in Boyup Brook and West Coorow, including 4000 breeding ewes (commercial and stud flocks). As a qualified accountant and Certified Practising Accountant, he has extensive experience working with farm businesses. Through this and his practical, on-farm experience, Charles has a strong understanding of managing invasive pests and diseases.

*member until 30 June 2016

Name	Position	Expiry of term
Jeff Murray	Chairperson	30 June 2016
David Slade	Deputy Chairperson	30 June 2016
Jorgen Jensen	Member	30 June 2016
Stephen Meerwald	Member	30 June 2016
John Moyes	Member	30 June 2016
Ed Rogister	Member	30 June 2016
Charles Wass	Member	30 June 2018

The terms of six members of the Industry Management Committee expired on 30 June 2016. Nominations were sought from the industry and assessed by an Appointments Committee comprised of industry representatives. The Appointments Committee made recommendations to the Minister for Agriculture and Food on the Committee membership and terms of appointment, with the new appointments/reappointments commencing 1 July 2016.

The current Industry Management Committee members are listed at Appendix 1.



Image: Wool

3. Committee activities

Since the introduction of the IFS in 2010, the Industry Management Committee has governed the collection, management and use of industry funds to deliver a biosecurity funding scheme that benefits the Western Australian sheep and goat industry.

During the 2015/16 year, the Committee held four ordinary meetings and one teleconference. The focus of these meetings was to receive briefings and make decisions around the collection and remittance of producer contributions, progress of the IFS-funded programs and the general governance of the Scheme.

The following information details the Committee activities against the goals and strategies identified in the strategic plan (see Appendix 2).

Goal: Industry is supportive of the Scheme

Develop and implement an industry consultation process

Industry consultation: As per the Committee's 'Industry Consultation Plan', the release of the annual report was used as a platform for gathering industry views on the operation of the scheme and performance of the Committee. Although industry stakeholders were encouraged to provide feedback, this was not actively pursued resulting in minimal feedback to the Committee.

Implement transparent and agreed communication protocols

Industry communications: During 2015/16, the Committee participated in various events and other activities to increase producer awareness and understanding of the scheme. The communication activities that took place during the year included:

- Participated in and/or presented at various producer/industry group meetings.
- Information stands at major field days.
- Media releases resulting in articles in the rural press.
- Articles in regional *AgMemo* and other newsletters.

These activities followed the agreed communication protocols documented in the 'Communication Plan'.

Ensure up-to-date information is readily available to industry

IFS webpages: The Sheep and Goat IFS has up-to-date information available through its webpages on the DAFWA website, which were maintained and promoted throughout the year. The [IFS webpages](#) include links to key documents including the Committee's strategic plan and annual reports.

Goal: Industry funds are used appropriately to delivery biosecurity outcomes

Use good governance processes in administering the IFS

2015/16 approved programs: Over the course of the 2015/16 financial year the Committee actively monitored the progress of the IFS-funded programs, including quarterly updates on the work undertaken, issues and successes. More detailed information on the 2015/16 programs is provided in Section 5 of this report.

Remittance of IFS contributions: The Committee monitored the remittance of IFS contributions to ensure compliance with the regulations and maximise the funds available to address biosecurity issues of concern to the industry. Where discrepancies occurred during the year, the Committee requested these entities be followed-up by DAFWA.

IFS expenditure: The Committee monitored the expenditure of IFS funds over the course of the year. This included quarterly financial reports from DAFWA on the financial position of the Scheme, as well as expense reports relating to the IFS programs. This oversight helped the Committee ensure that funds were being expended appropriately.

Continuous improvement of IFS-funded programs: With DAFWA, the Committee reviewed the activities of the Footrot Control Program. The key performance indicators were updated; the value of surveillance activities at small abattoirs was investigated; and new options to minimise the risk of disease spread were explored.

Industry Management Committee governance processes: The Committee reviewed its governance processes at its November 2015 meeting. As a Ministerially-appointed committee, the Committee is conscious of the imperative for good governance systems and practices.

Identify industry's appetite for funding programs

State Barrier Fence: In March 2015, the Committee were advised that funding from the Sheep and Goat IFS may be sought to contribute to the costs of maintaining the State Barrier Fence. In August 2015, the Committee agreed that the IFSs were a suitable mechanism for industry to contribute to the maintenance of the fence. This is not to say that the IFS will be used for this purpose — if/when such an application is made, the Committee will consult with the industry before making any decisions.

Wild dog control: On a similar note, the IFS has been identified by various sectors as a potential source of funds to help address wild dogs in general. The Committee will investigate this further during 2016/17.

Ensure priority pests and diseases for funding are identified based on risk

Benefit-cost analysis: The results of the IFS-funded benefit-cost analysis for virulent footrot were presented to the Committee in August 2015, to help inform Committee decisions on the investment of industry funds toward controlling the disease. The results of this analysis identified a benefit-cost ratio of at least 5 to 1 — that is, for every \$1 the industry invests there is a \$5 return.

Goal: Biosecurity is an industry standard that is part of normal farm business

Implement a promotional campaign to highlight producer responsibilities for biosecurity

Industry communications: As part of the Committee's broad industry communications during 2015/16, messaging that highlighted producer responsibilities in biosecurity was included along with promoting the scheme and its programs.

Sheep health workshops: The Committee approved co-funding of \$5000 for five Sheep Health workshops. As the name suggests, the focus of these workshops was on sheep health — consequently, promoting biosecurity was an integral part. The workshops promoted the Footrot Control Program and extended key messages on footrot management to WA sheep producers across the agricultural areas, with workshops held in Denmark, Tambellup, Boyup Brook, Badgingarra and Frankland.

Sheep NLIS: The Committee were kept informed on the Royalties for Regions funded project that provides support to sheep and goat producers via the Sheep National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) Helpdesk.

Sheep health statements: Sheep Health Statements help prospective buyers make decisions on the suitability of the sheep for their enterprise, as noted on the National Sheep Health Statement documentation. In Western Australia, the use of Sheep Health Statements is voluntary. The Committee had feedback from various avenues that the use of Sheep Health Statements should be mandatory in Western Australia — with the belief that such a change will result in positive biosecurity outcomes. The Committee sent correspondence to key industry bodies to gauge industry views. Responses indicated little support for mandatory Sheep Health Statements.



Image: Sheep grazing in a paddock

Recommendations to the Minister

2016/17 IFS: In May 2016, the Committee confirmed the continuation of the Footrot Control Program into 2016/17. To fund this program (and the continuing vaccine research), a contribution rate of 10 cents per head/carcass was recommended to the Minister for Agriculture and Food — to be applied to the first sale of all sheep and goats produced in WA.

The Sheep and Goat IFS account balance has been steadily increasing over the past few years. The Committee previously agreed that the IFS account should maintain a level of financial reserves that would enable its programs to continue for two years without producer contributions. With the increasing number of sheep/goat sales over the past few years, the IFS account balance now exceeds this level. Consequently, the reduced contribution rate was recommended to reduce the account balance whilst also ensuring a footrot control program that meets producer needs and expectations.

It is the view of the WA sheep and goat industry that the IFS account should not be used to build-up large financial reserves; rather, the money should be invested into biosecurity programs that help maintain the viability and sustainability of the industry.

The Minister endorsed the contribution rate, area of operation and pest to be targeted by the Scheme, as published in the *Western Australian Government Gazette* (24 May 2016).

Other activities

Review of the IFS regulations: In accordance with the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, the regulations governing the Sheep and Goat IFS were reviewed during 2015/16. The focus of the review was on the operation and effectiveness of the regulations. The Committee participated in the review by providing views on how the regulations are performing and how they could be improved.



Image: Boer goats

4. Effectiveness of the Scheme

A total of \$864 492 in contributions to the Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme were received during 2015/16.

The number of producers opting out of the Scheme increased slightly, with ten producers opting out in 2015/16 (Fig. 1). Nevertheless, more than 99% of Western Australian sheep/goat producers participate in the Scheme. This is seen as indicative of the value of the Scheme to the industry.

Four of the producers that opted out in 2015/16 applied for a refund of their contributions. These refunds amounted to \$4352.

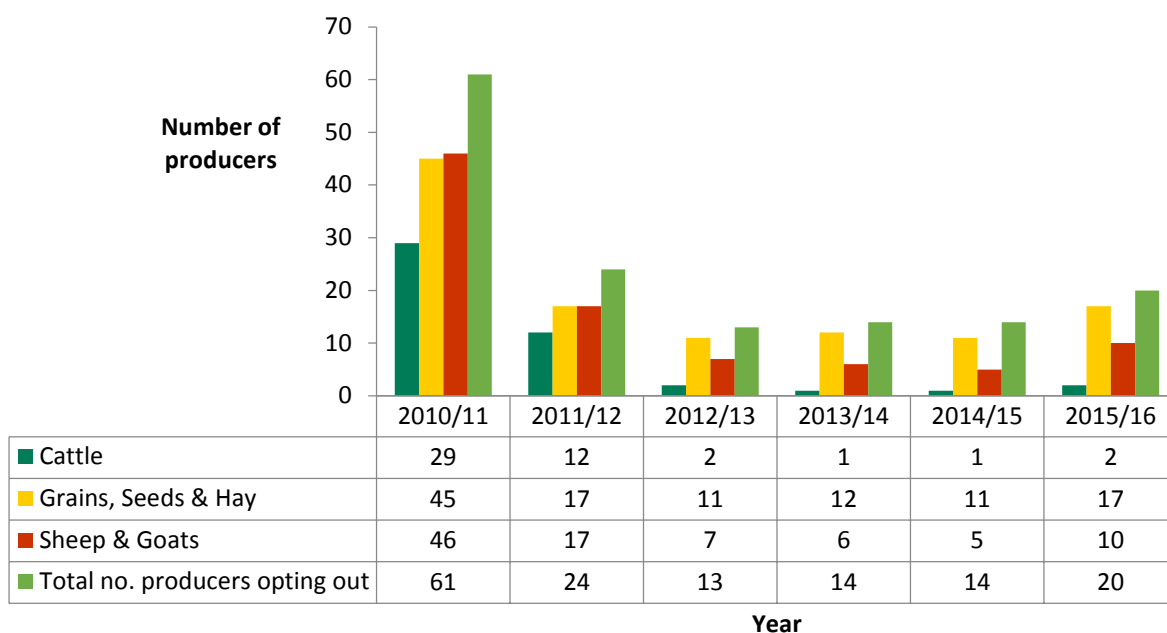


Figure 1. Number of producers opting out of Industry Funding Schemes since 2010

Note: numbers are not mutually exclusive – some producers opt out of more than one Scheme.

An analysis of the collection rate for Sheep and Goat IFS contributions during 2015/16 indicates a satisfactory collection of contributions. The analysis used data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia and the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority to estimate the number of ‘chargeable sales’ that took place during the year. It must be stressed that there are limitations to the analysis — for example, data is not available for private sales; and there was scant information on goat saleyard sales.

For 2015/16, the estimated number of sheep/goat sales on which IFS contributions were payable was 6 477 766; however, contributions were paid on 7 204 100 sheep/goats during the year (that is, 111%).

Owing to the difficulties in accurately estimating the number of chargeable sales, the Committee regularly monitors the contributions being paid to the IFS to ensure the regular and correct remittance of contributions from agents and processors.

The Committee would like to stress that the owners of stock sold to persons other than agents or processors (for example, to exporters or to other producers) are required to pay the IFS contributions direct to the Scheme, in accordance with the regulations.



Image: Sheep in saleyards

5. 2015/16 Biosecurity programs

Footrot control program

Virulent footrot (*Dichelobacter nodosus*) is a potentially crippling infection of the feet of sheep and goats. Virulent footrot has been targeted through government or industry-funded programs since the late 1940s when more than 15% of flocks were infected. It is estimated that about 1% of Western Australian sheep flocks are infected with virulent footrot.

Many of the remaining virulent strains of *D. nodosus* are mild in their clinical presentation and effect on production. As such, producers are often not aware that their animals are infected, or mistake the symptoms for benign footrot.

The Virulent Footrot Control Program, funded through the Sheep and Goat IFS, maintains the gains made through previous programs and justifies the regulation of interstate border controls to prevent the introduction of infected sheep and goats into WA. The aim of the program is to detect and control the spread of virulent footrot into and between Western Australian sheep flocks.

At 30 June 2016, there were 37 farming businesses in quarantine for virulent footrot (Figure 2). During the year, 14 quarantine notices were issued, and 6 properties were released from quarantine. The distribution of quarantined properties across the State is shown in Figure 3.

The program undertook inspections for virulent footrot at selected abattoirs between October 2015 and 1 April 2016. A total of 357 337 sheep from 2158 lines were inspected during this time. Six new cases of virulent footrot were detected through the abattoir surveillance.

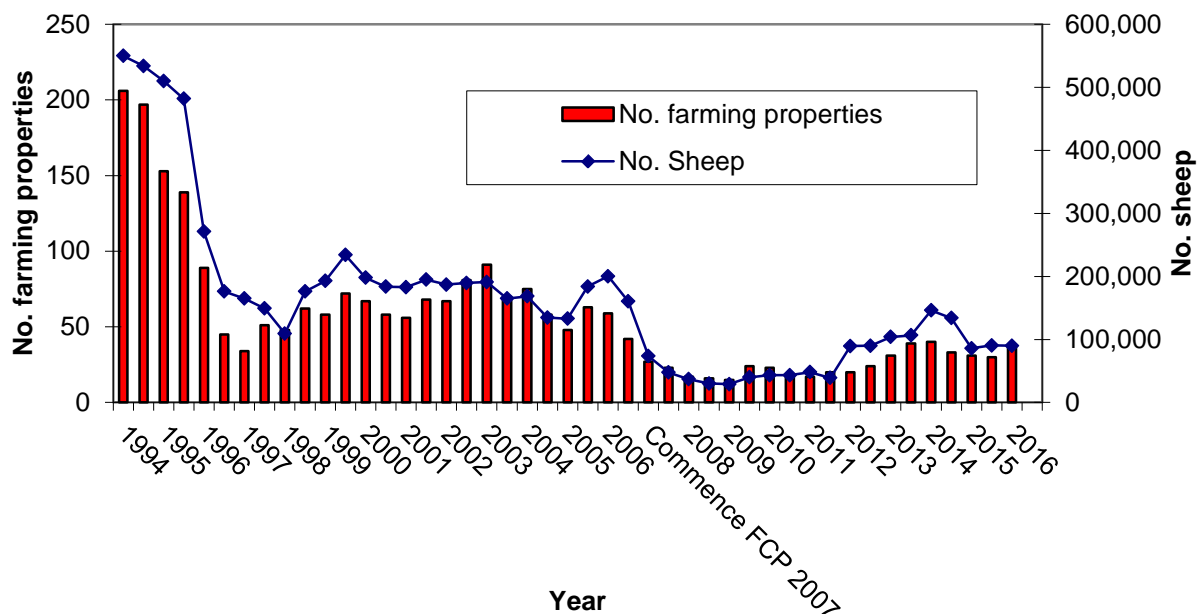


Figure 2. Number of trading businesses and sheep in quarantine for virulent footrot in Western Australia

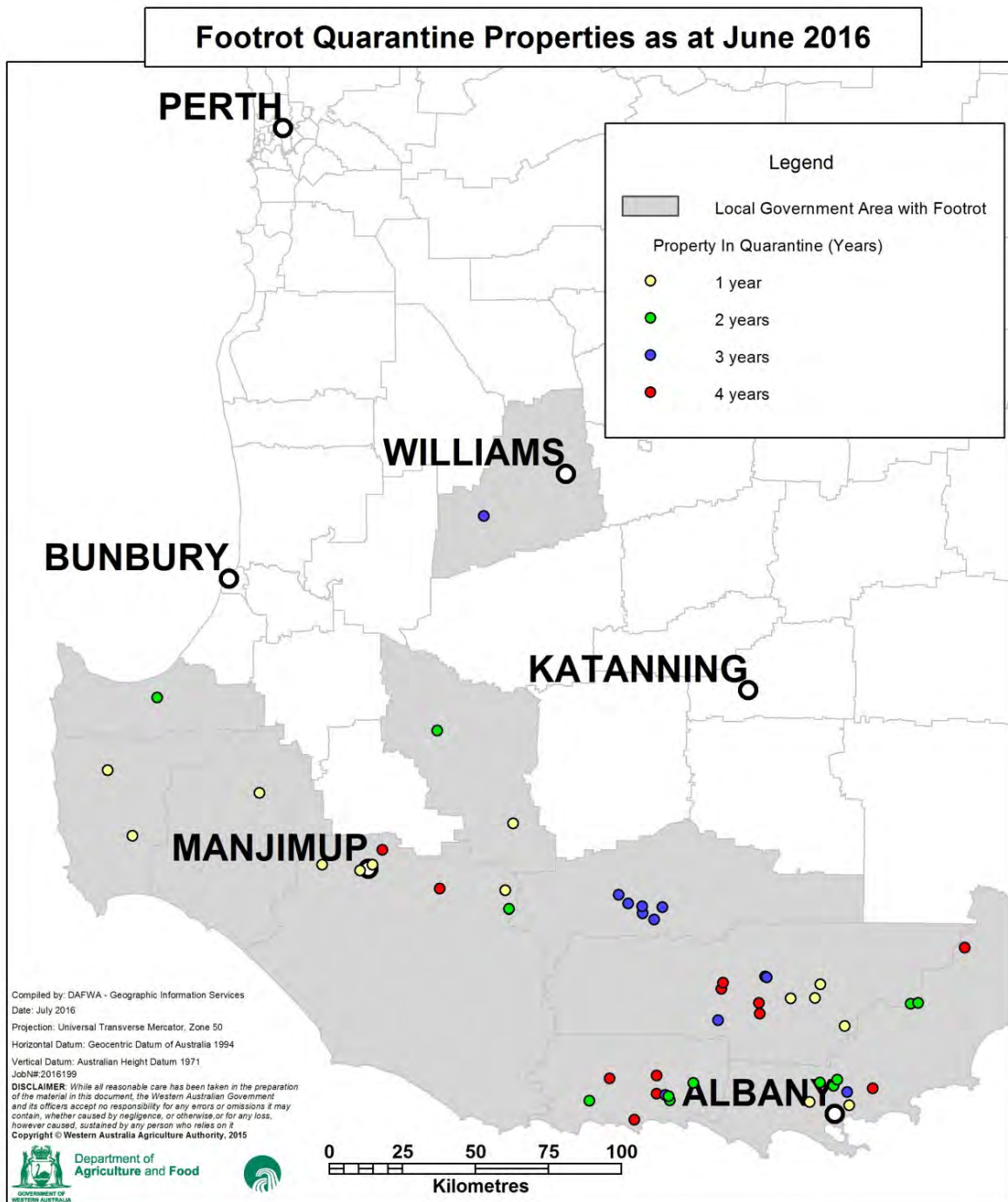


Figure 3. Distribution of properties and years in quarantine for virulent footrot. Note: red dots indicate properties in quarantine for at least four years

A total of 37 flocks/consignments were inspected on-farm as part of the footrot surveillance activities. An additional 36 property inspections were carried out as part of the on-farm eradication or control programs. Further inspections and training took place by livestock biosecurity officers on quarantined properties to ensure farmers (or farm staff) are inspecting and culling to the protocols.

In 2015/16, 1812 sheep and 19 goats in 138 consignments were imported into the State. These animals were inspected at the border and underwent two post-entry inspections.

Across the whole program, a total of 478 samples were analysed in the laboratory. Of these, 105 samples tested positive for virulent footrot.

The costs of the 2015/16 Footrot Control Program are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Costs of the 2015/16 footrot control program

Expenses	\$
Employee expenses	426 506
Internal charges (laboratory, vehicle hire)	80 327
Travel expenses	35 510
Consumables	4 043
Services and contracts	2 790
Other (repairs, insurance, fees)	838
Communications	572
Total expenses	550 586

Sheep Health workshops

The Committee received a proposal from the sheep health workshops working group (chaired by WAFarmers) for IFS co-funding for five Sheep Health Workshops. The aim of the workshops, as communicated to the Committee, was to ‘drive progress at farm level on sheep disease awareness, management and control’.

Given the proposed locations of the workshops, the flexible process being adopted, the comprehensive promotion that was planned and the breadth of industry partners (as well as participation from the Department of Agriculture and Food WA), the Committee agreed the workshops had the potential to be an important vehicle for engaging sheep producers on the management of virulent footrot. Communication and engagement with the sheep industry is an essential part of the activities required to successfully control virulent footrot.

Funding of \$1000 per workshop was approved by the Committee, with the expectation that each workshop would include a session that specifically addressed virulent footrot and its management.

IFS-funded workshops were held in Denmark, Tambellup, Boyup Brook, Badgingarra and Frankland during 2015/16. The participants were able to ask questions about a number of key endemic diseases causing problems for their businesses, including virulent footrot. The program also encouraged sheep producers to use good biosecurity practices, such as knowing the health status of animals before they are introduced to the flock.

General feedback from workshop participants was positive, with requests for more workshops to be held. The footrot session of the workshops was well-received, particularly in the southern areas. Comments were made that the footrot sessions were important and informative, especially given the current wet year that has brought the issue to the fore for many producers.

According to the evaluation reports, the workshop activities and presentations improved understanding of the topic for the large majority of workshop participants. The Committee were pleased that the workshops successfully engaged sheep producers and promoted the 'footrot message'.

Real time PCR research

The current method for differentiating benign and virulent footrot is the gelatin gel (GG) test. In 2014, scientists from Switzerland published a paper detailing a real time polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) that differentiated benign and virulent strains of the footrot bacterium. qPCR presents several advantages over the current GG test — importantly, it is quicker and cheaper.

In 2014/15, the new footrot qPCR was tested using DNA extracted from the broths used for the GG tests. This allowed a direct comparison between the qPCR and the GG test. 218 broths from 46 farms were tested. The qPCR detected 48.2% as virulent, compared to 42% by GG test; and 52.3% as benign compared to 55.9%.

The research was progressed during 2015/16 to validate the published qPCR to detect benign or virulent footrot direct from hoof swabs, and compare results to the traditional culture and GG methods. The cost of this research was \$2718 during 2015/16. The results of this work are pending.



Image: DAFWA staff preparing qPCR samples

Footrot vaccine research

A serogroup-specific footrot vaccine was developed by researchers at the University of Sydney. There are 10 serogroups of the *D. nodosus* bacteria, which can be further divided into 18 serotypes. The previous FootVax vaccine was prepared with all 10 serogroups; however, due to antigenic competition (i.e. too many serogroups in the vaccine, which confused the sheep's immune system), the vaccine was not as effective as expected. The new vaccine is prepared specifically for each farm. It contains, at most, two serogroups. It is administered in a step-wise process until all serogroups on that farm have been vaccinated against.

The vaccine may be used to control, and perhaps eradicate, footrot at the property level, and is a potential tool for assisting footrot control as part of the control program. However, the value of the vaccine under WA conditions had not been tested. The aim of this research is to determine the potential role of the Footrot R-pilus vaccine for both eradication and control of virulent footrot in WA. Approval for the research was obtained from the Animal Ethics Committee.

Most of the laboratory analysis on 146 *D. nodosus* isolates has been completed, following a serogroup survey of eight eligible flocks in November 2014; however, 37 isolates appeared to be previously unidentified serogroup/s. Consequently, further work is required to identify the serogroup/s of these virulent footrot isolates. DNA fingerprinting of the isolates is underway.

After difficulties in obtaining the vaccine, the first vaccination was given in March 2016 and the second dose in April 2016. Inspections of the flock will take place during 2016/17.

\$5000 was provided from the IFS account toward the vaccine research during the 2015/16 financial year.



Image: Sheep and lamb



Image: Sheep in yards

6. 2015/16 Financial details

The IFS finances are administered by the Director General of DAFWA through an agency special purpose account called the Sheep and Goat Industry Declared Pest Control and Compensation Account (the IFS Account). DAFWA manage these funds on behalf of the Committee, and prepares financial reports including the end of financial year statements.

- The balance of the IFS Account was \$1 970 537 at the 30 June 2016.
- The total cost of the 2015/16 Footrot Control Program was \$550 586¹; the footrot vaccine research totalled \$5000; \$2718 was spent on qPCR research; and \$5000 was provided to co-fund a series of sheep health workshops.
- Industry contributions to the IFS totalling \$864 492 were received by DAFWA in 2015/16; however, \$1468 of this was reimbursed to producers that had opted out of the Scheme in the previous financial year.
- Interest applied to the funds during 2015/16 amounted to \$42 499.
- The activities of the Committee resulted in expenditure of \$20 892.
- The IMC have agreed to hold two-year's worth of program funding 'in the bank' (approximately \$1 million).

Table 2 contains the financial details for 2015/16 for the Sheep and Goat IFS.

¹ Some of the costs of the 2015/16 Footrot Control Program were deducted from the Account during the 2016/17 financial year.

Table 2. Sheep and Goat IFS finances for the 2015/16 financial year

Expenses	\$
Programs:	
Footrot control program	550 586
Footrot vaccine research	5 000
qPCR research	2 718
Sheep health workshops	5 000
Other expenses:	
Travel expenses	10 311
Board member fees	8 513
Advertising	1 054
Meeting expenses	939
Other	75
Opt out refunds (2014/15)	1 468
Total expenses	585 664

Income	
Contributions	864 492
Interest revenue	42 499
Total income	906 991

NET COST OF SERVICE	-321 327
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Balance sheet	
EQUITY at 30 June 2015	1 970 537

7. Direction for 2016/17

In partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Food WA, the Sheep and Goat Committee will continue to manage and monitor the programs it has in place to address virulent footrot.

The Committee will also explore the potential role of the IFS in wild dog management in WA. Wild dogs are an important biosecurity issue affecting the WA sheep and goat industries, resulting in reduced sheep/goat numbers, productivity losses, increased costs of production and, potentially, disease spread.

Given the appointment of three new members, the Committee will review its Strategic Plan and governance procedures in early 2016/17. As a Ministerially-appointed committee, the Committee is conscious of the imperative for good governance systems and practices.

With the review of the operation and effectiveness of the Sheep and Goat IFS regulations completed, the Committee will consider the review recommendations and make changes to current operations — as appropriate. The Committee also anticipates close involvement in the process for regulatory change that may arise from the review.

The Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme is an industry-controlled scheme. As such, the Committee always welcomes industry feedback and input to the Scheme, its programs and sheep and goat issues in general. The Committee can be contacted at any time through the Executive Officer. The Committee is particularly keen to hear the industry's views on the risks and opportunities within the biosecurity arena, and members are available to participate in industry forums, meetings and field days to discuss the Scheme and answer any questions from industry.



Image: Sheep with ear tag

Appendix 1. Membership of the Sheep and Goat Industry Management Committee from 1 July 2016

Name	Position	Expiry of term
Ed Rogister	Chairperson	30 June 2019
Danielle England	Deputy Chairperson	30 June 2019
Guy Bowen	Member	30 June 2019
Jorgen Jensen	Member	30 June 2019
Steven McGuire	Member	30 June 2019
John Moyes	Member	30 June 2019
Charles Wass	Member	30 June 2018

Appendix 2. Sheep and Goat IFS Committee strategic plan

Strategic Plan

November 2014

Purpose of the Committee (Vision)

- Facilitate a strong biosecurity ethos amongst industry
- Administer funding for programs that address key biosecurity issues in the sheep and goat industry
- Ensure priorities are addressed to industry expectations

Role of the Committee (Mission)

- Champion biosecurity within the WA sheep and goat industry
- Understand industry priorities
- Ensure the IFS and the associated processes are clearly understood by industry
- Provide good governance of the Sheep and Goat IFS

Goals and strategies of the Committee

Goal: Industry is supportive of the Scheme

- Develop and implement an industry consultation process
- Implement transparent and agreed communication protocols
- Ensure up-to-date information is readily available to the industry

Goal: Industry funds are used appropriately to deliver biosecurity outcomes

- Use good governance processes in administering the IFS
- Identify industry's appetite for funding of programs
- Ensure priority pests and diseases for funding are identified based on risk

Goal: Biosecurity is an industry standard that is part of normal farm business

- Implement a promotional campaign to highlight producer responsibilities for biosecurity

Criteria for making decisions to invest

- Program will provide clear benefits for the WA sheep and goat industry
- Program addresses a priority (based on identified risk)
- There will be a measureable return on investment
- There is industry consensus and support for the program
- Expert technical advice is available
- Proponents can demonstrate their capability to undertake the work