

# SHEEP GENETICS



PO BOX U254

UNE ARMIDALE, NSW, 2351

Phone: (02) 6773 2948

Fax: (02) 6773 2707

Email: [info@sheepgenetics.org.au](mailto:info@sheepgenetics.org.au)

Web: [www.sheepgenetics.org.au](http://www.sheepgenetics.org.au)

Dear MERINOSELECT member,

Following the June 7<sup>th</sup> MERINOSELECT analysis, a number of updates have been included in the analysis. While these changes mean that we are improving the reliability of the breeding values, you may see some movement in ASBVs as a consequence.

This letter outlines how these changes may impact your ASBVs.

## **1. Updated filters for reproduction breeding values (NLW)**

The reproduction model has been updated to account for dams that have been bred in one flock, but rear lambs at another site/flock. This update improves the precision of these breeding values, but may cause some re-ranking for sires in NLW ASBVs and as a consequence, re-ranking in indexes.

The model used to calculate NLW accuracy has also been updated. Dams that have had multiple lambing opportunities will receive an increase in accuracy. However this will not impact the NLW ASBV.

## **2. Updated Embryo Transfer (ET) model**

MERINOSELECT is now better equipped to account for maternal effects from recipient dams used in ET programs. If you record the identity of recipient dams in an ET program, the maternal effects will now be attributed to that animal. Similarly, foster dams that have been correctly identified will also be attributed the maternal growth component from its foster lamb.

## **3. Improved management group structure**

The way management groups are created for the OVIS analysis has been changed. This update means that groups provide better structure for flocks in MERINOSELECT in later measurements. For help on management grouping please do not hesitate to contact me on the details below.

# SHEEP GENETICS



PO BOX U254

UNE ARMIDALE, NSW, 2351

Phone: (02) 6773 2948

Fax: (02) 6773 2707

Email: [info@sheepgenetics.org.au](mailto:info@sheepgenetics.org.au)

Web: [www.sheepgenetics.org.au](http://www.sheepgenetics.org.au)

## 4. Removal of some historical data

Some older (pre 2001) data from flocks has now been removed from the analysis. This information had previously been used to improve linkage between flocks. As more information has been added to MERINOSELECT, it is no longer required. This has resulted in some ASBV and index changes for older sires, but should only have a minimal impact on sires and animals currently being used.

All these changes have been made to improve the quality of the MERINOSELECT analysis. If you would like more information on these changes please contact Sam Gill or myself.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Stephen', is written over a horizontal line.

Luke Stephen  
Project Officer MERINOSELECT  
Ph 02 6773 3191  
Mob 0411 680 529  
Email: [lstephen@sheepgenetics.org.au](mailto:lstephen@sheepgenetics.org.au)