Dear Breeder,

**RE: Analysis Enhancements – 1st of May 2019**

Analysis enhancements are implemented annually to maintain the Sheep Genetics evaluation as one of the leading genetic evaluations in the world. The LAMBPLAN analysis is continually being developed to improve the genetic evaluation and supply the best tools possible to producers to help improve genetic gain across the sheep industry. This letter highlights the analysis enhancements for this year. More detailed information can be found on the Sheep Genetics website at [http://www.sheepgenetics.org.au/Updates/Analysis-changes](http://www.sheepgenetics.org.au/Updates/Analysis-changes) and in the upcoming Breeders Bulletin.

The key analysis enhancements for 2019, which will affect Maternal LAMBPLAN breeders, include:

- **Genomic information for additional breeds**
  Technical advancements in the analysis now mean that genotypes from other breeds can be used, this includes Composite Maternal, Coopworth, Corriedale, Dorper, White Dorper, Hampshire Down, Southdown, Suffolk, and Texel. For most of these they will receive little to no benefit from genomic information now being used in the evaluations. This is because there are not enough animals in the reference population (animals with a genotype and a phenotype) that underpins the genomic evaluation. If you are one of these breeds that are interested in genotyping to develop a reference population, please contact Sheep Genetics for more information and advice about the density of platform to use.

- **New maternal selection index – Maternal Wool Production Plus (MWP+)**
  Sheep Genetics have developed a new maternal index, Maternal Wool Production Plus (MWP+). This index will replace the maternal Dual Purpose Dollar (DP$) index and will become the primary index for breeds like Corriedale and SAMM or breeders that have a focus on improving maternal traits whilst focusing on increasing fleece quality and quantity.

- **Updated index documentation**
  This updated documentation has been shaped into two documents, one aimed at the commercial client, and another more detailed document which is aimed at the ram breeder. Please note that this does not necessarily mean that the indexes themselves have been changed (other than those outlined above), just the way these are described to industry.

- **Reporting pedigree inconsistencies**
  Sheep Genetics will now be reporting inconsistencies between the pedigree supplied by the breeder and the pedigree inferred from genomic information. If Sheep Genetics identifies any inconsistencies in your pedigree you will now receive an additional report with your results detailing these.

- **Reproduction Research Breeding Values (RBVs)**
  Reproduction Research Breeding Values (RBVs) are now available in the Maternal Analysis for Border Leicester, Coopworth, Corriedale, and Composite Maternal for the component traits of reproduction.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the 2019 analysis enhancements and the updated index documentation.

Kind Regards,
James Taylor
LAMBPLAN Development Officer