Dear Corriedale 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 supply the best tools possible for producers to improve genetic gain within their flock and across the sheep industry. This letter highlights the analysis upgrades for this year. While 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.

Part of these changes will have a unique impact upon the Corriedale breed because of the way that the breed is analysed separately from the Maternal Analysis. While these impacts have been assessed, there are still some considerations for Corriedale breeders to be aware of.

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

- **Genomic information for additional breeds**
  
  Technical advancements in the analysis now mean that genotypes from other breeds can be used, this includes the Corriedale breed. However the Corriedale Analysis does not have single-step turned out. In the short term, to access single-step results, Corriedale breeders will need to refer to the maternal analysis, however due to the lack of reference population the benefits from genotyping will be limited. In the longer term, Sheep Genetics aims to work with the Corriedale breeders to develop a single maternal breed analysis.

- **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 or breeders that have a focus on improving maternal traits whilst focusing on increasing fleece quality and quantity. MWP+ will be available on the Corriedale web search page however it will also appear on the Maternal web search page where Corriedales will be ranked amongst other breeds on this index.

- **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.

- **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 as well as some additional RBVs. One of the considerations to point out is that the Reproduction RBVs will be made available in the Maternal Analysis only. The implication of this is that these breeding values will be reported across all maternal breeds and not separately in the Corriedale Analysis.

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