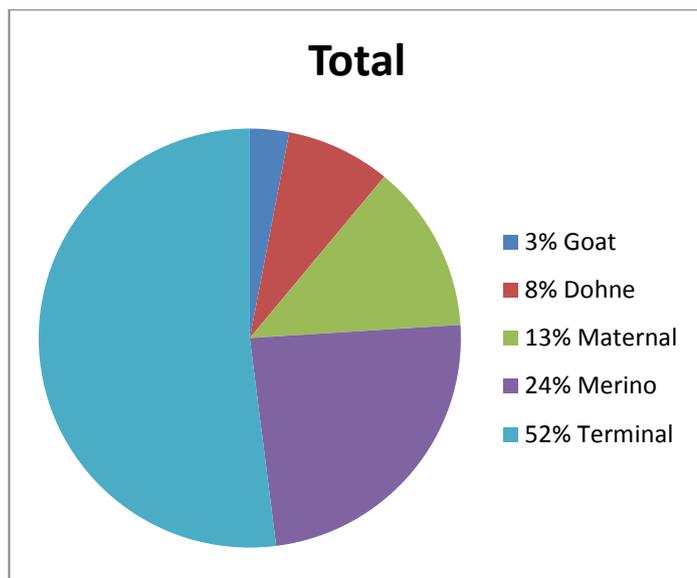


2013 Annual subscriber survey report

The annual survey was distributed electronically for the second year to all subscribers. There was a greater response this year than the previous year.

Breeder Information

2. What type of breeder are you? (92 flocks)



3. What is the size of your performance recorded stock? (92 flocks)

What is the size of your performance recorded flock?	Data				
	Count of Merino	Count of Dohne	Count of Goat	Count of Maternal	Count of Terminal
0-50 animals				1	3
100-300 animals	4	3	1	3	22
300-600 animals	4	1	1	3	11
50-100 animals				1	5
600+ animals	14	3	1	4	7
Grand Total	22	7	3	12	48
Percentage of flocks by breed	24%	8%	3%	13%	52%

4. How often you visit the Sheep Genetics website? (83 flocks)

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
no response	2%		1%
Daily	5%	4%	5%
week	39%	41%	40%
monthly	32%	41%	35%
quart	14%	11%	13%
yearly	7%		5%
never		4%	1%

If never why not: The breeder is a Dohne breeder and could not get access.

5. Using the animal search (83 flocks)

How easy is the search function to use?

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
Excellent	23%	7%	18%
good	57%	56%	57%
poor	13%	33%	19%
very poor	4%	4%	4%
never used	4%	0%	2%

How relevant are the results returned?

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
excellent	30%	30%	30%
good	52%	56%	53%
poor	5%	11%	7%
very poor	9%	4%	7%
never	4%	0%	2%

6. Sale and Semen Catalogues (83 flocks)

Have you used the web sale catalogues to advertise animals/semen?

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
No	64%	67%	65%
yes	36%	33%	35%

Was the process easy?

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
no	61%	74%	65%
yes	39%	26%	35%

7. Please provide comments/suggestions on the Sheep Genetics website, search area or sale catalogues.

I think we we provided in animal ID' search section next to TERMINAL ASBV enquiry if you could put tag and year that would be great. It is just an extra step to have to go to advanced search. Alternatively put an example of how much detail we need in the animal id search section ie: 110054 etc.Also how often do i use the website- rarely until this end of the year where I would use it every day
Provide sex on main results screen
Probably need to be shown how to work it.Have started to use it a few times but not enough time to master it.
Tried to upload but few glitches during late August/Sept. Generally good though overall. Seems to be a few glitches when searching that rules out some rams - not sure why.
Get rid of filters
The search system provides incomplete results. It is cumbersome to use, and takes forever to do any practical analysis of pedigrees.It does not show all searched animals, and this is not a result of individuals not allowing release of information.I wonder why MLA needs to produce client marketing information, when it cuts services like Elites C+ to it's paying customers.
Semen catalogues not all sires available? not sure what to do about this
It's just a very good site and easy to use.
Speed it up
sale catalogs for each stud cannot be accessed when clicked on from the site
Still find the site better for experienced breeders and feel simpler is best.Basic requirements for my breed is to merely download elites for My breed and information regarding pedigree info/sales etc for my breed only.
There seems to be an intermittent problem with uploading of data to sale catalogues and semen catalogues.
I hope to contact someone to get advice on how to use the service
There is a need to consult with the people who use it as to its relevance and ease of use. It appears that those who are involved in the design and functionality of the current website do not understand the requirements of the Sheep Genetics website. It appears the same could be said for the people who put this survey together!
You do not mention the Dohne data base in any of general public paper or electronic promotions including the start of this survey. Why not ?
maybe the search engine needs expanding to include more words, sometimes difficult to find information using the search function
Website drops out too often
Sale & Semen Catalogue Location is very nondescript for a infrequent or first time user
Found it difficult to get the sheep in the right order. As some of my tags are alpha numeric for merinos, didn't print in order. Also had trouble getting sheep in the index order but notice today the sort function on the website seems to be working except it lists in ascending order when you nearly always want the top ones at the top.
Had to get Tom to do it for me
The sheep genetics website is very user friendly and I find very comprehensive for all of the searching of information that I do. My only problem is converting my data into Pedigree Wizard - must be TBO!
I FULLY INTEND TO MAKE USE OF THIS FACILITY IN THE FUTURE.
Search area is hard to find if you don't know where you are looking
After animal id should show the sire of the animal before the BWT figures.
We used it to look at product which was good for us
I often struggle to find what I want via the menu e.g. data submission dates.
Because we lot our stud sale catalogue in carcass EBV order we cannot use the website format

8. Sheep Genetics E-communications (83 flocks)

Do you use the website as an information source?

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
no	23%	11%	19%
yes	77%	89%	81%

Would you like Sheep Genetics to use social media to keep clients up to date with news and events?

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
no	59%	67%	61%
yes	41%	33%	39%

Would you be interested in participating in online training to better understand and utilise ASBVs?

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
no	38%	39%	39%
yes	62%	61%	61%

Would you be interested in online training for Promotion and Advocacy?

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
no	54%	52%	53%
yes	46%	48%	47%

9. If you answered yes to online training and Sheep Genetics having a social media presence, what is your preferred type? E.g youtube, webinar, Facebook, Twitter

Responses	Count
Webinar	18
Facebook	10
Email	3
Twitter	2
Youtube	11
I dont use any at present but may do so if worthwhile	
Any of the above. Prefer twitter over facebook.	
I have no idear,whats the easyest I guess.	
You tube easy.Not everyone on face book or twitter	
I only use email. Email newsletters would be useful.	
Never used webinars but would be interested. Facebook with links is good too	
Youtube & Webinar Probably more important, is advice on what type of new phone/ipad etc that I should get to access the mediums.	
Not sure about these . Webinars seem OK but flooded with email info which is too much to handle. Not into social media.	
#Twitter. simple and increasing use of twitter among rural Aust.#Training would rather face to face	
I would prefer emails as I work on farm night time is my computer access time	

10. Sheep Genetics Staff (74 flocks)

Are easily contactable

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
Strongly Agree	27%	24%	26%
Agree	57%	56%	57%
Disagree	14%	12%	14%
Strongly Disagree	2%	8%	4%

Are approachable and friendly

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
Strongly Agree	51%	40%	47%
Agree	47%	56%	50%
Disagree	2%	0%	1%
Strongly Disagree	0%	4%	1%

Are helpful and patient with requests

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
Strongly Agree	45%	36%	42%
Agree	47%	52%	49%
Disagree	8%	8%	8%
Strongly Disagree	0%	4%	1%

Requests are dealt with in a timely manner

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
Strongly Agree	39%	16%	31%
Agree	49%	48%	49%
Disagree	6%	24%	12%
Strongly Disagree	6%	12%	8%

11. Sheep Genetics Reports (74 flocks)

Reports can be easily interpreted

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
Strongly Agree	33%	28%	31%
Agree	55%	60%	57%
Disagree	6%	8%	7%
Strongly Disagree	6%	4%	5%

12. Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) (74 flocks)

ASBVs assist in achieving breeding objectives

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
Strongly Agree	49%	84%	61%
Agree	41%	16%	32%
Disagree	4%	0%	3%
Strongly Disagree	6%	0%	4%

ASBVs are an effective marketing tool

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
Strongly Agree	24%	52%	34%
Agree	59%	40%	53%
Disagree	16%	8%	14%
Strongly Disagree			

ASBVs are used to assist in making joining decisions

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
Strongly Agree	47%	64%	53%
Agree	43%	36%	41%
Disagree	8%	0%	5%
Strongly Disagree	2%	0%	1%

ASBVs are routinely used by my clients to purchase animals

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
Strongly Agree	18%	32%	23%
Agree	41%	52%	45%
Disagree	37%	16%	30%
Strongly Disagree	4%	0%	3%

13. Apart from material supplied by Sheep Genetics where else do you source genetic information?

<p>Clients are a 50:50 split on using ASBV's but I think that is about how much effort we as breeders educate them as well. I think someone needs to be spending some serious time educating the agents because they have a very limited understanding of ASBV's and their fit in different production systems and the balanced approach we need to have with phenotype as well. Also found they think that selection for greater pemd = greater lean meat yield. Think there are papers that would dispute this ie: greater loin weight but no impact on overall all carcass yield because just re-distribution of lean (not that this last point is of great concern but it just highlights some of the work we need to do with them in this space). Many rams are still bought and sold by agents and i think they are keen to value add their product they can sell.</p>
crc,other breeders
Colleagues and Breed society
NZ Merino Co. Mark Ferguson
SILLincoln gene lab
actual data
Only sourceNote previous question I do not have a stud
GenOvis
Dohne web site
From the pedigrees of the animals and information from the breeder
Gene Check, an American company used to test for Scrapie resistance codons and also possible dermatosparaxis carriers.
rural press, radio
Jim Watts and his skin testing
Sire evaluation . Sheep show & ram sale
mss crc genomics
There is not enough economic reward for using ASBV's when sellingrams. Recnt proof of profit work needs to be rusted on to the sheep industry, so we do get reward.
Fellow breeders - but it still based on SGA info.
books
ADBS ABS
consultant/service provider
C R CANY FORUM HELD NEARBY
MLA, CRC
Superior Sires, Yardstick report, Stud catalogues, Personal contact
There are so many in our area who do not use or understand ASBV's.THere for it is a hard slog to use it as a positive to premote my sheep, when so many people do not understand ASBV's.
Through our breed society which links back to Sheep Genetics
advisors, web,
Boer Goat Breeders of Australia Association pedigree information.
Breed Society
Internet our sheep classer Simon Beattie other breeders newspapers

14. If you attended a Regional Forum in the past year (30 flocks responded)

How valuable was the information presented?

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
Excellent	25%	20%	23%
Good	65%	80%	70%
Poor	10%		7%
Very Poor			

How well was the information presented?

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
Excellent	20%	10%	17%
Good	70%	90%	77%
Poor	10%		7%
Very Poor			

15. If you attended The Leading Breeder Forum in the past year (25 flocks)

How valuable was the information presented?

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
Excellent	47%	20%	36%
Good	47%	80%	60%
Poor	7%		4%

How well was the information presented?

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
Excellent	40%	10%	28%
Good	53%	90%	68%
Poor	7%		4%

16. Please provide comments/suggestions regarding Sheep Genetics products and services.

Finalising the details with DNA genomics
would like to see more promotion on ASBV's to agents and producers
There needs to be a recording system for accelerated lambing with appropriate index value. Just recoding the fact that it has happened without any benefit to the results of the index is of very limited use. SGA needs to recognise that the Dorper breed has been taken up by more breeders than any other in the equivalent time frame and that the use of Dorper genetics will be a very significant component of Australia's meat sheep. Leaving Dorpers out of meat quality testing is irresponsible and short sighted in the extreme.
I am inclined to think Sheep Genetics spends too much time trying to appease lobby groups, instead of providing pure data. An example is using Lamb 20:20 as the average national overlay for all environments by default. There is no excuse for removing the C+ from the Elites. More to the point, the C+ Elites have been incomplete for 4 years, and nothing has been done about it, until the removal of C+ totally. Sheep Genetics bastardises the Index by increasing and decreasing the Index by cutoff points.
Products and service is good, It must continue.
We still have issues with appendix sheep being listed as pure and listed on elites. A Suffolk with a Texel or PD one or two generations back in its pedigree should NOT have a 19 prefix. There must be some way apart from breeder honesty that when the data is inputted and the animal pedigree does not have 19 or 89 through its pedigree it comes up with a different colour code or something to show this animal is NOT a pure sheep. It should merely require a program in the computer system that automatically detects this issue.
Sometimes wish we lived there (Australia) so we could attend LambPlan forums.
Need an easier way to identify cull animals New reporting on web accessed phone good,
computer speeds (satellite) not always fast enough or is it the program?
I AM HAVING SOME ISSUES WITH THE CHANGING BASELINE IN THE SHEDDERS ANALYSIS & THE FACT THAT sg IS NOT USING ALL LAMBING INFO. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT SHEDDERS SHOULD BE IN A SEPERATE DATABASE TO TERMINALS OR THERE NEEDS TO BE MORE LINK DATA TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL COMPARSIONS
Speakers at leading breeder need to all have a significant portion of their income coming from sheep activities. Need a booth / stand at Field Days, so ram buyers can visit the stand. Its great to catch up with SGA reps, as they do the rounds, but we need ram buyers to have access as well -this backs up the messages we are continually presenting in the marketplace and will (hopefully) provide increased rewards at sale time.
Would like to have heard more about the current CRC research into intramuscular fat, shear force etc and current industry news. Some of the topics covered were old news
Sheep Genetics needs to be bolder in promoting their products in the face of crap distributed by others purporting to be genetic information providers.
Everything is good but problems with the website lately have been annoying.
While I enjoyed the session and the crowd seemed to be fully engaged was disappointed Brian Ashton seemed to be sceptical about the value of indexes and certainly was not aware of the economic implications of a higher index. I did not think this was a good impression for the participants to take home.
PERCENTILE REPORT SHOULD BE UPGRADED EXPORT SHOULD BE ADDED TO THE REPORTS
We desperately need some training in inputting our data into the Sheep Genetics data base or else to be put in touch with someone who can translate data from excel spreadsheets.
For the general introduction: A more straight line approach to get new people interested. Show the benefits of using ASBV's.
web based tutorial & exercises on how to get more out of Pedegree wizard & web site, & ebvs etc
Pedigree Wizard does great things but is very difficult to use, especially the menu tree. It needs an upgrade to 32 bit.
unfortunately we have been unable to attend next year

Service Providers

17. Is there enough commercial service providers available to assist you with your breeding enterprise? (73 flocks)

Carcase Scanners

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
No	20%	13%	18%
Yes	80%	88%	82%

Data Handlers

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
No	10%	25%	15%
Yes	90%	75%	85%

Fleece Testing Labs

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
No	27%		18%
Yes	73%	100%	82%

WEC Labs

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
No	20%	25%	22%
Yes	80%	75%	78%

Genetic Advisers

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
No	24%	42%	30%
Yes	76%	58%	70%

Other

	LAMBPLAN %	MERINOSELECT %	TOTAL FLOCKS RESPONSE
No	39%	50%	42%
Yes	61%	50%	58%

18. If you answered no to the above question, please provide further information.

Western Australia is not well served, in terms of numbers available, with scanners.They have to travel huge distances and they then become expensive due to travel costs.
I am keen to become an accredited carcass scanner.
Data handlers and software are limited in WA
For answer 17 their probably should be a N/ A for accurate results as it is quite false to answer Y/N if you don't use the resource
I hosted a MLA better breeding workshop in 2013. I was embarrassed by the low grade understanding of ASBV's and commercial impact of the presenter. Most of the producers attending the workshop knew more than the presenter, and certainly were better at valuing individual traits for their individual property production systems.
Hard to get scanners in Tassie at the times you want them.
I didn't attend any forums last year. I have difficulty accessing a scanner when I would like to
No one can tell me which commercial programme would be best for me to submit data with
Having issues with too much variation in scan data with scanners. If the data accuracy being inputted for Lambplan is under question due to the competency of the scanner it places the whole system under question. I would imagine this varies from state to state. It certainly was an issue this year in South Australia.All questions are not relevant to me in qu. 17 so why do I get a prompt to answer all the questions. This is a small example of how attention to details is so important when it comes to using this evaluation system. It costs us so much to have our animals evaluated - needs to better look after all breeders needs.
We live in the US and only have one qualified carcass scanner who is LambPlan certified. We have W.Dorpers so not interested in fleece labs. Also no qualified WEC labs.
AS i don't use any of the bottom four service providers answering yes would give SG the impression that I am happy with the service currently, which would be totally incorrect.
WEC is time sensitive, so would be good if Ag Dept offices could do this work, as they are often closer, or have Elders or Landmark agents that can do the work. Need to be able to get sample processed in a timely manner.
Generally handle data ourselvesGenetic advisors - we can find who we want for advice.Fleece testing - not applicableOther - needed to tick a circle to move on
I don't use data handlers, have fleeces nor use advisors or other
don't seem to be many good ones.
DON,T USE THE NOS
We have no problem in collecting the individual animal information and getting the various tests done, however data handling for Sheep Genetics and the preparation of the yard sheets which combine the ASBV reports and our own visual scoring which we then use when we select the individual animals is a bit beyond our ability.
Carcass scanners very hard to get in NSW.
Its interesting that some scanners in Wa are not qualified unless they work for a particular person. Too much conflict of interest and control given to scanners in WA. They should be accredited as individuals, then work for someone and if they dont pass, so be it.An advisor is a helper of understanding of what the breeder is trying to achieve and not a person that tells you where to buy rams
No scanners in south east Queensland.
WEC labs within range of us were very expensive and not overly familiar with the process

General Comments

30. What are the best features of Sheep Genetics

Ability to have across flock genetic comparison that is available for on-line searching.
access to large amounts of pedigree information. greater understanding of the genetic strengths of a particular animal
advocacy and implementation of breeding values
aid in giving a clear direction in breeding
Animals which have the same tests can be linked to strengthen a particular traitor culled effectively .
AsbvsPedigreeInternet search
BEING ABLE TO BENCH MARK YOU SHEEP, AGAINST THE INDUSTRY
Breeding values and eating qualities info
Common language. ASBV's
Comprehensive data collection and analysisWhole of industry comparisonsExcellent benchmarking tool
Data and the support staff to ensure time appropriate delivery and assist with interpretation of data when needed.
data management
Data processing and the website is quite good if t=you take the time to learn your way around. Search can be improved. Drop out needs to be fixed
Database and support
Easy to see up to date information on EBVs
EBVs
EBV'sRemote online processingSales cataloguesElite lists
Finding top ranking sires and their pedigree
Good for larger breeds and breeders
Helping to make breeding decisions on mating and future semen purchases. Also improving production in our stud and commercial flocks.
I able us to make the best possible genetic gain in our studs
Knowing in advance what to expect a sire to produce
Lambplan
Measured genetic gain/loss i.e. progress is measured
potential to use EBVs to improve breed
Provides ASBVs that are accurate and reliable for sheep breeding
Raw data
Regular reports
searchable data base pity some people are allowed not show their data
The ability to compare our genetics with others
The ASBV reports & range of ASBVs available
the data base
The data it produces which allows the proper genetic evaluation of sheep
The image of being a high tech means of sheep breeding providing certainty in ram selection
the value of the data for sheep breeding.
useful information in a timely manner
usefull as a guide
Variety of information available to estimate breeding values
Very efficient ladies on the phoneVery constructive help in getting data inputedMost queries handled very well
Very interesting to review estimated breeding values of stock. Clever marketing has created a system that is widely used and wanted by most breeders of stud sheep.
website is very helpful
Wide cross section of Genetics where we can compare our NZ Merinos with the best in Aust.

31. Where are there opportunities for improvement?

a guide to breeding uniformity. eg rams that come from low fat sires mated to high fat dams to get somewhere in between. The end figures look ok but the progeny are too spread.
allow EID applications to be linked to SG software - will improve accuracy of information and breeder use.
Answer emails. Australians are bad at this.
Answer emails.It seems to be an Australian trait to not reply to emails
bare breached animals polled and disease control through DNA identification
Being able to use genetic breeding values also. This could also help in selecting animals at a younger age.
Better data input system for Pedigree Wizard for 64 bit computers Better scrutiny of competency of scanners Improved listings of pure animals on elites and in other download information. Ability to download elites for my breed 19 on a 64 bit computer. The needs of smaller/newer studs to be considered
Better educate producers, more independent trials
Consultation with SG clients before changing reports into areas that are not relevant to their (SG clients) businesses. SG needs to liaise with all their clients not just those who tell them what they want to hear. Lambplan needs to be truthful with what they are going to do.
customer service and improving contact with commercial growers
definitely need a carcass plus rating that is relevant to WA. should be a merino dam x terminal rank - most merinos do not carry enough fat so more fat needs to be contributed from terminal sire to enable quality prime lambs - this statement is widely discussed and agreed upon by all large prime lamb producers i know in wa that use merino dams. we need a rank that gives credit to terminals that carry more fat for the merino x prime lamb market.
do not change objectives too often, We just get commercial breeders to understand lambplan then some futuristic plan is promoted
EASIER TO USE WEB SITE FOR NONE MEMBERS TO SEARCH FOR RESULTS AND INDIVIDUAL RAM SALES
everywhere
Faster web page Temperament breeding value
Find a way to look after the smaller breeds and breeders
For the shedding breeds increased database, use all available lambing records. Better reproductive info on sheep
Genomics
Have a major problem with 7%DP index
I feel that you tube snippets of various parts of Pedigree Master/ Wizard would be beneficial to gain the most out of the program ie reporting opportunities etc
I would like to see a 12K Meat Eating ASBV index.for example Bwt 10%, Wwt 20%, Pwwt 10%, Pfat 5%, PEMD 15% PWEC 10%, Sf 10%, IMF 10%, Dressing % 5%this index should be only available for 12k tested animals. this would encourage more testing of animals.
It is possible for a dam to have progeny to more than one sire per year, particularly when ET is involved. Also it is possible to have lambs born more than one day apart. Genetics help but what goes down there throat helps the full potential be reached, this is where the system fails badly if you dont pump your stock, have droughts, or dont share much of your genetics. Also if a lamb is born dead or died why should it even get an index?
Make it easier to prepare and submit data.
Mating predictor
measure the length of sheep when scanning. under the formula used now sheep ,if you use muscle measurements for selection sheep body length will get shorter
Ongoing software development to improve user friendliness.More breeder-selected options available to enter traits specific to their operation.
Pedigree Wizard Visual traits
promotion involvement at shows etc
Promotion of ASBVs

Provide assistance in data delivery to sheep genetics Provide assistance in generating yard sheets Advice on breeding objectives Advice on fine tuning a personalised breeding index Provide a second ranking for genetics which are introduced from a non sheep genetics background. (currently they are severely handicapped because little is known about them apart from the actual progeny tests.
Ram buyers need more education.
RBV info integrated into PWiZard would be good. Hypotrychosis information in Pwiz (currently there is no home for this information) WEC - why dont we use consistency adjusted data - makes more sense? Also, shouldnt WEC in new england be differnt trait to WEC at hamilton which is different to WEC at Mt Barker due to different worm types = different egg numbers from the different worm species = more variance in New England WEC values for example as more EPG from H contortus?
Recording of muscle widths. Imformation more relevent to the animal not the parentage. Penalties for over lean sheep.
Reduce website drop out Have a quick link to the percentile band reports
Remove filters in system so all sheep in database can be searched for and found.
Report presentation and ease of use could be improved, notably for catalogue preparation. On another tack, one trait that effects me is water stain in wool so would like to know more about its h2 and correlations.
Search easier to use.
Some of the extension material could bd updated. Access to percentile bands of GBVs would be beneficial as the number of tests increases to know what areas can reliably be targeted (ie if wanting to select for increased IMF, lowered shear force what defines a top 10% ram? Very difficult to quantify this at the moment although presumably the information is available - appreciate lack of accuracy on this)
The type of data collected can be more relevant to our maternal sheep. There is scope for the software to be utilised to calculate NLW by using the data already routinely available and the data recorded at each lambing.
The uptake of genomics
To have dohne included in genomics
WEBSITE
website. sometimes slow and hard to navigate could be a lot more streamlined.
Would be nice to have a place to upload photos of sires that have semen/AI available or even when you do a search on a particular animal if there was a photo section available. Stock agent training - maybe adapt some of the current Sheep crc workshops that are available and deliver to stock agents ?

32. Is there any additional information that Sheep Genetics can provide to help you achieve your breeding objective's?

A poor mans version of TGRM. Well a derivative of anyway.
Better recording and processing/display of visual traitsEasier/cheaper access to optimum mating recommendations
better refine MWWts
Complete C+ Elites listsSearch engine which is user friendly and complete
Include crimp frequency in the 12 bit gene marker test.
Just get the basics right every time with regards to delivering highly accurate Breeding Values in a timely manner.
Maybe once a year if I could have someone look over what we do.
More one on one contact with NZ users
PERHAPS YOU CAN SUGGEST TO ME HOW TO IMPROVE THE USE OF SHEEP GENETICS FOR MY OWN FLOCK.A review of individual clients needs and or help.
Publication of trial results
Real indexes that are progressive and up to date. An accuracy figure for linkage between and across breeds when they are being reported as one.
GBV percentiles
Separate genetic trend graphs for all our different types of Merino studs
Temperament breeding value
The concept of improvement as measure by index based performance needs to be promoted relentlessly so growers get the idea that the best animal ie the one most likely to be the most economically rewarding, is the one with highest index and the potential economic advantage can be predicted from the index. Refer the article I forwarded to Luke for review on this subject (I know it needs refining)
To include comfort factor in as ebbs
visual trait ebvs
Wool production efficiency for sheepNeed a breeding value for wool production per ha not just per headCan we identify sheep that are more efficient at producing wool, just like meat breeds are working on feed conversion efficiency.ASBVs for fleece colour or rot susceptibility to pasture estrogensWould like more endexes to choose form. need on index that is not about easy care sheep. Opportunity for design own index online and use it to search database??Also indexes are complex, the explanations are good and easy to understand but not sure they completely explain these indexes. Could there be some more detail for subscribers that are more into technical info?
Would like to be able to use ebv's with more confidence as part of my breeding programs
Would like to see ASBv's on meat eating quality plus percentile bands

33. Please feel free to provide any comments/suggestions:

<p>1. Please keep going with the goat stuff - we are starting to make progress.2. Getting data back-logs entered when a new breeder wants to join is a major obstacle - any chance of subsidising or providing a data handling person to help new members over that first hump?</p>
<p>Dont need to be sent RBV updates every 2 weeks. Should just get 1 file of all animals whenever more cards are submitted. Just like LP ASBVs.</p>
<p>Hope it helps.Sheep Genetics is very important to Me.</p>
<p>I believe Sheep Genetics as a tool offers breeders the best opportunity to make the next quantum leap in sheep breeding. To be able to benchmark our sheep against the whole of the industry is an outstanding achievement by all of those involved. I am sure the task is enormous for you as service providers and I very much appreciate all of the work that you do. Like many producers however I am not that able when it comes to information technology, so some assistance would be much appreciated. So thankyou and thankyou for this opportunity to comment.</p>
<p>It is a great service, keep up the good workPlease feel free to contact me to discuss if you have any further questions</p>
<p>It is unfortunate every question has to be answered to proceed in the survey.The last 3 times I filled out the survey, it timed out, so I gave up</p>
<p>Ned advice to get started</p>
<p>New era with a new boss. Early days yet. Hope some constructive changes can be looked at.</p>
<p>not a fan of breed percentage being displayed on individual animal's main page, it should be available to search/select as an option but as some studs chose to make some sires/dams pedigrees unavailable, not everyone is on the same playing field.</p>
<p>Overall I appreciate the helpful attitude the personnel show and I think it is a world class service not to be hindered by the traditional studs and the likes of W Merriman who claims there is not much geneticists can teach stud breeders . So why is it that they generally ignore fleece weight when assessing animals?</p>
<p>Really need to improve support by staff back to breeder</p>
<p>Thankyou</p>
<p>The EBV's of animals with incomplete pedigrees are far worse than they really are, so they cannot be directly compared with fully pedigreed animals</p>
<p>There is a need for real consultation before there are significant changes to reports.</p>
<p>We are very pleased with LambPlan and the difference it has made in the profitability of our sheep.</p>