



The Western Australian Farmers Federation Inc.

Ground floor
28 Thorogood Street
Burswood, Western Australia, 6100

TEL (08) 9486 2100
FAX (08) 9361 3544
EMAIL reception@wafarmers.org.au

wafarmers.org.au

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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AN INTRODUCTION

For more than a century, WAFarmers has been representing the interests of the agricultural sector in Western Australia. It is the largest agricultural lobby group in the state, and as such, has a very powerful and influential voice.

The strength of the WAFarmers brand means the organisation can successfully lobby government for positive change, form alliances with businesses and organisations and, most importantly, communicate with the rural and metropolitan public on important issues.

The WAFarmers 2013 Annual Report details much of the important work and achievements accomplished by WAFarmers in the past 12 months. The publication is an opportunity for members to see what

their support enables WAFarmers to achieve on their behalf. For non-members, the information included in this report is intended to educate about the on-going work, challenges and successes of the organisation. It is hoped this report will encourage non-members to consider joining or supporting WAFarmers as it continues to fight for the agricultural community.

As a not-for-profit organisation, WAFarmers relies on the support of current and new members to be able to continue working for positive change.

Thank you for your support.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dale Park Portfolio Holder



It's a pleasant change to be able to say that most of the state has had an above average year both in terms of weather and finance. That actually makes it a bit harder for those who have not been so fortunate this year. My thoughts are with those in the eastern and north eastern parts of the Wheatbelt who have not enjoyed such a great season – I hope that turns around for next year.

WAFarmers is at a real crossroads at this point in time. To keep going in the same direction and doing the same things is no longer an option. WAFarmers has to become less reliant on membership subscriptions and start doing more in terms of member services, including entering into sponsorship arrangements with agriculture industry enterprises. We would like to ask our members to recognise the invaluable support of these important sponsors by considering them when looking for a product or service.

When I asked the General Section Council to determine WAFarmers' election priorities for the State election earlier this year, the overwhelming number one choice was supporting and growing the live export trade. As the year ends, two tales within the commodity have emerged.

Indonesia has realised self-sufficiency is going to be achieved with the help of Australia and the export cattle market has responded accordingly. I see this market expanding into the size it was several years ago.

On the other hand, the export sheep market is still in the doldrums after incidents in Bahrain. At the time of writing this report I am hopeful the Iranian



market might be opened up after more than 40 years. They were our biggest live sheep market and if we can get Bahrain back into the market, the sheep trade could be looking as good as the cattle market.

The real hardy perennial is Tier 3 rail. The closure of the Quairading line alerts us to the possibility that all Tier 3 lines could end up in this same state. We welcome the opportunity for the Economic Regulation Authority to examine the access arrangements between CBH and Brookfield. This will give us an independent opinion on the fairness of the charges on all rail lines. We will be working with the Wheatbelt Railway Retention Alliance to keep all viable lines open. I am confident we have the best argument and the best commercial solution will be the winner in the end.

The Farm Finance Forums held by WAFarmers in the Wheatbelt in October were a great success with several other areas asking us to hold one in their region. Non-members outnumbered WAFarmers' members at the forums, with a lot of encouragement from attendees to have similar events in the

future. We will be holding three more forums early in 2014. We hope this will be a forerunner to similar events on other subjects of importance to farmers.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the staff I have worked with at WAFarmers in the past year. We have experienced many challenges and successes this year, and the staff continues to work tirelessly for the good of the agricultural industry.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge and thank Andy McMillan for his 15 years of dedicated service and wish him well in his new endeavours.

“It's a pleasant change to be able to say that most of the state has had an above average year.”

CEO'S REPORT

Trevor Lovelle Acting CEO

The ancient saying that the only constant in life is change has certainly applied to WAFarmers' experiences in 2013. We saw change on the federal political landscape, change within the state political sphere and a remarkable change within the 2013 growing season for the majority of broadacre farmers.

While WAFarmers continued to show leadership across the agricultural sector on matters including foreign investment in agriculture, the Tier 3 rail network and live exports, the organisation also commenced a process of internal change during the year, recognising the challenges of the future require a more focused and strategic approach.

The WAFarmers board endorsed the RECHARGE.RECONNECT initiative, which is a planned program for continuous improvement incorporating strategic planning and organisational development. The first phase of this program involved brand and business evaluation through a series of interviews with key internal and external stakeholders. The second phase is scheduled to commence in the first half of 2014 and will address organisational effectiveness and will be informed by the results of phase one. Phases three and four will address brand and culture development which will culminate in a reinvigorated organisation.

WAFarmers lobbied the State and Federal governments hard during the year for concessional loan packages. It is a matter of public record the process became mired in State/Federal wrangling until détente was reached late in the year, albeit with a reduced pool of funds, limited application window and uncertain eligibility criteria.

Detailed policy position papers were prepared ahead of both the state and federal elections. In the case of the state election, WAFarmers presented the major political parties with 10 priority issues to ensure the profitability and viability of agriculture in WA. Similarly for the federal election, policy priorities were presented to and discussed with state-based federal candidates. Details of these policy documents are covered under the Special Issues section of this Annual Report.

While government undertook measures of austerity across many ministerial portfolios, it was pleasing to note the State government's \$300 million commitment to agriculture announced in the 2013 State Budget.

WAFarmers has grappled with the issue of foreign investment in agriculture for some time. The General Section Council is deliberating on the organisation's policy although several key principles have been established. These principles recognise the free movement of capital should be embraced to make Australian agriculture more productive and competitive and establishing the national interest should underpin all foreign investment decisions.

The organisation lobbied strongly against the outrageous increase in firearms licensing fees which, in our view, unfairly burdened the farming community with paying for the inefficiencies of a State government agency. We made a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation supporting a motion for disallowance, although unfortunately the motion was lost and the government prevailed.

Amendments late in the year to the Environmental Protection Act 1986 will relieve some of the regulatory burdens placed on farmers. We believe these are a good first step to much-needed changes and came after a long period of lobbying by WAFarmers. It is pleasing to see government recognise the positive contribution farmers make to natural resource management through sound on-farm management practices.

Easing the regulatory burden on farmers will remain a priority for WAFarmers. We should be under no illusion the task ahead for WAFarmers is challenging. The need to remain relevant in the increasingly competitive industry representative space has never been greater. In this regard I urge our loyal members to maintain faith and be assured your organisation will leave no stone unturned in confirming WAFarmers as the pre-eminent member-based farming organisation in WA.

GRAINS

Kim Simpson President
Danielle Whitfield Executive Officer

The grains sector is the fourth largest resource industry in Western Australia, generating more than \$4.7 billion or 59 per cent of the state's gross value of agricultural production.

The WAFarmers Grains Council's aim is for grain producers to be recognised as the key stakeholders of the grains industry and for their views to be heard on both a state and national level.

The Western Australian grains industry is in the unique position of exporting more than 80 per cent of its grain, making an efficient and fair logistics system from farmgate to port a primary focus.

The Council is also focused on ensuring supply chain costs are kept to a minimum and grain producers have access to the necessary tools to ensure their profitability and viability into the future.

The WAFarmers Grains Council has the largest membership base of any grains lobby group in Western Australia by far and its members contribute significantly to the WA grains industry. In a 2011 post-harvest survey conducted by CBH Group, it was found that 27 per cent of the co-operative's members were WAFarmers members, while five per cent were members of the next biggest rural lobby group in WA, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association (PGA).

In addition, in comparison with the overall survey population, WAFarmers members accounted for 32 per cent of grain delivered to CBH in 2011, while PGA members accounted for six per cent.

The Council works to benefit all grain producers and hopes to increase the number of members it represents in the future. The Council regularly



represents growers on a wide range of industry issues and liaises regularly with the Department of Agriculture and Food and a wide range of industry and government bodies.

NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

The Council is extremely proud of the role it has played in the formation of the National Farmers' Federation Grains Policy Council (NFFGPC). The Council's long-running insistence that a national grains body needs to utilise the expertise already existing in State Farm Organisations in a cost-effective manner has come to fruition and will prove to be of benefit to the growers of Australia. The NFFGPC now includes representatives from WAFarmers, NSW Farmers, AgForce Queensland, the Victorian Farmers Federation, Grain Producers SA, the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, the National Farmers' Federation, GrainGrowers and Grain Producers Australia (GPA).

GRAINS

Kim Simpson President
Danielle Whitfield Executive Officer



STORAGE, HANDLING AND LOGISTICS

For Western Australian grain producers to remain profitable well into the future, costs need to be kept to an absolute minimum. The Council has no doubt the benefits afforded to WA growers by virtue of the co-operative nature of storage, handling and logistics as provided through CBH Group have ensured efficiencies and minimised costs in this export-driven state. The Council acknowledges the efforts of CBH Group and congratulates the CBH board and management on the wonderful job they do in often challenging circumstances.

RECEIVAL STANDARDS

The Grains Council communicates regularly with the Grains Industry Association of WA (GIWA) and Grain Trade Australia (GTA) regarding receival standards. The Council maintains that any changes to standards should occur incrementally and only if there is strong and irrefutable evidence regarding impacts on international competitiveness. In 2013, the Council strongly opposed increases to test weights from 74 kilograms per hectolitre (kg/hl) to 76kg/hl for milling grades of wheat on the grounds producers would be penalised. The Council welcomed the co-operation of GIWA and CBH Group, who responded by making a clear distinction between receival standards and outturn standards so producers could continue to deliver milling wheat at 74kg/hl while CBH Group guaranteed outturn to customers at 76kg/hl. The Council stands firm in its assertion that profits from downstream co-mingling should not be accrued to the benefit of marketers at the expense of the quality grain producers in this state.

INDUSTRY GOOD FUNCTIONS

The need for industry good functions in the current marketing environment and who should pay for them has been an ongoing discussion in the grains industry. The Council is of the view that industry good functions need to be reviewed and should, wherever possible and appropriate, be the responsibility of, and funded by, the sector of industry most applicable to the function – that being the trade or production sector. For example, if the trade is looking for more transparent grains stocks information, then they should fund and make available this information through a body which is relevant to them, in this case GTA. Growers should not be called upon to provide further information in this area. The Council has communicated this view to the Wheat Industry Advisory Taskforce.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Council has continued to take a keen interest in research and development by building on its positive relationship with the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC). The Council maintains GRDC must maximise efficiency and minimise duplication of services to ensure results for growers and reasserts the need for increased research in the areas of frost and drought tolerance. In addition to liaising with GRDC, the Council works closely with the representative organisation, GPA, and was part of the push for an independent review into GRDC to help best ascertain the body's future direction.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

As chemicals come increasingly under the spotlight, the Council continues to fight to retain the maximum amount of chemicals on the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority's (APVMA) register. With the rising incidence of chemical resistance in Australia, growers need access to the widest variety of chemicals possible to enable them to employ integrated weed management strategies. To this end the Council liaises directly with the APVMA as well as contributing to discussions facilitated by GPA on this issue.

RISK MITIGATION

The Council has long recognised the need for producers to have access to affordable and appropriate risk mitigation strategies in response to adverse seasons and will continue to lobby State and Federal governments to provide support for growers in this area. 2013 has seen a move by Latevo International to offer the only Multi-Peril Crop Insurance in Australia. It is hoped the product will allow growers to move risk off their balance sheets,



reducing risk for financial institutions and enabling growers to attract much-needed additional working capital. The Council believes the renewed interest in providing this type of insurance product has been made possible by the potential opportunities profiled in the pilot risk mitigation scheme in 2011, an initiative of the WAFarmers Seasonal Risk Mitigation Committee.

BIOSECURITY

The Council continues to comment on and contribute to the workings of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (BAM) Act 2007 with skeleton weed back on the agenda in 2013. The Council acknowledges the vital importance of protecting WA's \$2.7 billion grains industry and is committed to helping develop new initiatives to boost WA quarantine, surveillance and emergency response capabilities. As such, the Council represents members on the GrainGuard committee.

DAIRY

Phil Depiazzi President

Stephanie Tarlinton Executive Officer

2013 has been a year of change for the WAFarmers Dairy Council. In early February, Stephanie Tarlinton was appointed as the new dairy executive officer and is the first to be based in a regional office, working from a farm near Cowaramup. Having a regionally-based staff member has been warmly welcomed by the Dairy Council. Ms Tarlinton's dairy farming background and university studies in agricultural business management have been of significant advantage to the work the dairy council has undertaken this year. Ms Tarlinton brings a passion for dairy farming to her work with WAFarmers and has made a valuable contribution since taking on the role.

On farm, the year developed a very wet and extended winter followed by a slow start to the spring warmth for the majority of farmers, providing mixed results for the conservation of fodder. The 2012-13 production year saw a very slight drop in the state's milk production from 338 to 337 million litres.

Early in the year, the Dairy Council undertook a strategic planning workshop and identified three key areas for development – continuing to provide representation and value for members, ensuring there is a sustainable supply chain in the WA dairy industry which provides value to producers, improves processing efficiency and increases control of milk supply and fostering strong industry connections to ensure sustainability. The Dairy Council has been focused on achieving these key areas in the work undertaken during the year.

On June 21, the annual WAFarmers Dairy Conference and Gala Dinner and Awards night was held in Busselton. The conference was held in conjunction with the Western Dairy Business Breakfast and was attended by dairy farmers and industry representatives. The conference had an impressive list of speakers including WA Minister for Agriculture and Food Ken Baston, who officially opened the conference, and Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) chief executive officer Natalie Collard, who provided a comprehensive update on the work and achievements ADF has secured for farmers. Freshlogic director

Steve Spencer also gave a thought-provoking presentation on the findings of the Horizon 2020 Project. The Annual General Meeting for the Dairy Council saw Phil Depiazzi re-elected as president, Michael Partridge retained as senior vice president and Paul Ieraci elected to the position of vice president.

At the awards ceremony, a large number of the state's dairy farmers received the prestigious Milk Quality Award, recognising the achievement of being in the top five per cent of producers nationally for bulk milk cell count. The Milk Bottle Award was presented to Western Dairy executive officer Esther Price, recognising her significant contribution to the WA dairy industry over many years.



The Dairy Council has had a strong focus on maintaining pressure on the retail industry to return value to the industry. The executive has continued to engage with Coles, including meeting with Wesfarmers Managing Director Richard Goyder and Coles General Manager of Corporate Affairs Robert Hadler on numerous occasions to discuss the impact discounted milk prices are having on the industry and explore possible solutions.

The Dairy Council held the inaugural South West Spring Dinner, with Dairy Australia biotechnology manager Paula Fitzgerald as guest speaker, during the year. Ms Fitzgerald provided an insightful update on the use of GM technologies for the dairy industry and explored the topics of consumer engagement, animal activism and the future of the agricultural community communicating with those outside food production industries.

The Brunswick Dairy Showcase was once again held by the Dairy Council, treating more than 15,000 people to local produce from large and small processors. The event was supported by Dairy Australia's new marketing and promotional campaign, Legendairy. WAFarmers staff interacted with the general public and discussed the importance of supporting local farming families who supply a safe and high quality product.

NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

In September, Ms Collard and ADF policy officer Rachel Jones visited WA to meet with the Dairy Council and explore opportunities for maximising the value of the current industry. The visit also allowed Ms Collard to update the Dairy Council on the work being undertaken on policy at a national level.

The Section is pleased to announce its application to the ADF Project Fund for an ADF tour of WA's dairy industry was successful. This is a significant win for the organisation and will see a two-part project commence in 2014. The tour will allow the ADF executive to gain an insight into the opportunities and



challenges which exist in WA, meet farmers, discuss the valuable work ADF is undertaking and allow information to be shared directly with WAFarmers members on current issues.

The second part of the project will allow Ms Tarlinton to visit members on farm and hear from them directly, while establishing a strong working relationship. The Dairy Council has been focused on building strong representation at a national level on issues which impact the dairy farmers of WA. ADF has partnered with WAFarmers to investigate and develop potential value-adding opportunities for export markets.

MEAT

Jeff Murray President

Genevieve Morrow Executive Officer

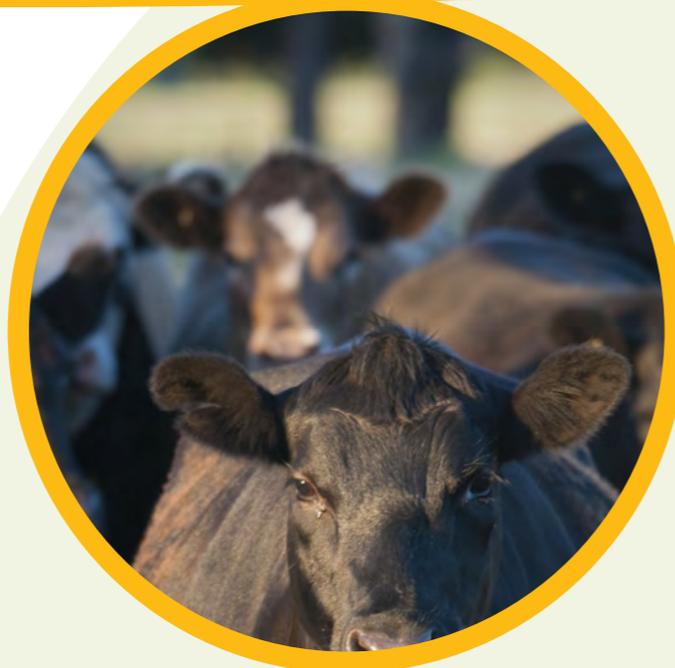
2013 was again a challenging year for livestock producers with market prices still significantly depressed and returns to the farmgate not as strong as many would hope. A late spring turnaround brought good rains to many areas and the Murchison and Pilbara had a good season. A council meeting at the beginning of 2013 determined the priorities of the Meat Council should focus around three main issues – live export, improving the integrity and transparency of the supply chain and educating the general public on producers' engagement with animal welfare.

The Section is looking forward to working with the new state and federal ministers for agriculture, Ken Baston and Barnaby Joyce, to improve live export and the profitability of the livestock sector.

LIVE EXPORT

Market access and expansion are imperative for the WA livestock sector. Live export underpins the commodity floor price and weak live export and domestic oversupply has resulted in weak sale prices. A reduction of up to 50 per cent in the sale price of sheep has now become standard. WAFarmers recognises the importance of profitability and how live export impacts this, therefore the Meat Council has been working towards these ends.

Early in the year, WAFarmers hosted a cross-industry meeting to discuss the bottlenecks of the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) and the overly burdensome auditing requirements. Later in the year, the Stud Merino Breeders Association of WA hosted a meeting in which further information sharing from exporters allowed producers to become even more engaged with the plans for change around ESCAS. Cooperation between the sectors of the supply chain has improved and WAFarmers was invited by exporters to attend several productive and informative workshops and sessions.



WAFarmers has been consistently lobbying Cattle Council of Australia and Sheepmeat Council of Australia to improve outcomes in live export. As 2013 draws to a close, there is some improved optimism for live export – a supportive Federal government, vastly improved public relations helping to educate the general public and a developing Quality Assurance system which maintains the highest levels of accountability for animal welfare but decreases red tape and allows the system to be more adaptable to individual markets.

Northern producers had a win this year with an increase in the Indonesian quota for cattle. China had a huge increase in imports from Australia across all red meats and there are promising signs for the opening of markets in Iran and Bahrain. Strong export markets are essential but WAFarmers is also working towards solid farmgate returns.

The primary production and export sectors are coming under closer scrutiny in terms of animal welfare practices. WAFarmers has participated in the feedback process for the Animal Health and Welfare Standards and Guidelines for sheep and cattle. At the time of writing, the Australian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee had been disbanded and questions remain over the standards and guidelines. WAFarmers has been working with peak industry councils to contribute to this process, which has the aim of harmonising the animal welfare regulations in all states and territories. The Meat Council's position is to strongly support practical animal welfare and rejects any claims from detractors that profitable livestock production and animal welfare cannot be simultaneous goals of industry.

BIOSECURITY

On May 1, the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act (BAM Act) was reformed to harmonise several existing regulations. Small producer-oriented committees that determine where collected levies are distributed have WAFarmers representatives on them with the exception of the current Cattle Industry Committee.

Producer levies allocated to the BAM committees were distributed to the National Livestock Identification System help desk and Bovine Johne's Disease monitoring for cattle, among other things, and to a program to control virulent footrot for sheep.



Through Sheepmeat Council, WAFarmers has supported the new Sheep Health Statement that enables producers to assess the health history of the sheep they are buying via a health check list provided by the vendor. It is not compulsory in WA but is a useful tool that will assist in managing Ovine Johne's Disease and other diseases. Real-time Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) training has been educating members and others in the supply chain on the signs, symptoms and logistics of a FMD outbreak. Also on the biosecurity front, WAFarmers welcomes the development of an extension officer from the Livestock Biosecurity Network being housed at head office.

PROCESSING

WAMMCO had a good year with dividends being paid to co-operative members and works being planned to improve the facility. There is no visible progression on the proposed meat precinct from the State government and abattoirs with service kill capacity are only available at Borello's in Gin Gin and Dardanup Butchering Company.

MEAT

Jeff Murray President

Genevieve Morrow Executive Officer

NATIONAL STRATEGIES

Cattle Council of Australia has undertaken a major structural and constitutional change. A Senate Inquiry has been announced to review levy disbursement and the research and development function of Meat and Livestock Australia. WAFarmers is also very proud to say that WA livestock consultant Blythe Calnan won the 2014 Cattle Council Rising Champion Initiative in a very competitive field, making it two in a row for live export and Western Australia – congratulations to Ms Calnan from the WAFarmers Meat Council.

NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

WAFarmers had representatives at several levels at Cattle Council of Australia (CCA) this year. Geoff Pearson has taken over from Lang Coppin as the board representative. Annabelle Coppin continues to represent at the sub-committee level for Animal Health, Welfare and Biosecurity, and David Slade is a member of the Industry Systems and Food Safety Sub-committee. Much of the focus for CCA has been on restructuring the organisation based on a strategic review – Beef 2015 and beyond – which consulted producers and industry stakeholders. It found producers wanted more engagement with CCA and as such the restructure was put into place.

As state farm organisations such as WAFarmers have been the lifeblood both financially and in terms of membership for CCA, WAFarmers is keen to see the relationship remain strong and productive. A new constitution was ratified by members in December 2013 marking the beginning of a new era. There have been strong assurances from CEO Jed Matz that live export will be within

the top three priorities of CCA moving into 2014, as will be support for the refinement of ESCAS, which will provide some assurance to members who have told WAFarmers loud and clear live export is among the most important issues WAFarmers can pursue. CCA has been liaising with the RSPCA, Coles and other organisations to encourage mutual understanding on the issues impacting the beef industry and the broader community. CCA has also been working with government representatives to finalise the Free Trade Agreement with Korea and this having recently been finalised will be really significant for beef producers in the next decade and beyond.



SHEEPMEEAT COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Sheepmeat Council of Australia (SCA) has been working with a variety of industry bodies and state farm organisations to ensure strong outcomes for producers.

Meat Council President Jeff Murray has endeavoured to represent WA producers and their interests as best as possible to SCA. There are important nation-wide issues impacting all sheep producers that are considered at the national level. Market access is one of the most important activities for SCA and two years in a row Australia has achieved record levels of exports. Asian markets are growing and the Section looks to this region as well as traditional markets such as the US for increasing demand. Tri-lamb, an agreement between producers of NZ, the US and Australia, celebrated its tenth anniversary this year and it is an important partnership which seeks to increase consumption of lamb in the US and share industry knowledge and marketing initiatives. There have been substantial inroads made on the Korean Free Trade Agreement that had been stalled and this is of particular significance for Australian sheep producers as it makes them more competitive in the marketplace.

Ovine Johne's Disease and live export are two other areas of particular interest to SCA. Live export underpins markets across the country and is of specific concern to WA producers. The release and promotion of Sheep Health Statements encouraging producer engagement in a risk management approach to biosecurity has been an important part of 2013. SCA has a strong commitment to animal welfare via its involvement with ESCAS implementation and education and through the development of an industry-first animal husbandry guide, working in conjunction with MLA. The Sheep Cooperative Research Centre has been very successful in achieving its goals and has made improvements for producers in the areas of genomics, meat science and on-farm sheep management.



“WAFarmers has been consistently lobbying Cattle Council and Sheepmeat Council to improve outcomes in live export.”

WOOL

Ed Rogister President

Lucy Radzikowska Executive Officer

NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

This was WAFarmers second year back with wool industry peak lobby group WoolProducers Australia. WAFarmers has a strong presence at the national level on issues such as the Ovine Johne's disease national program, a wild dog management plan, shearer and wool handler training and animal welfare standards and guidelines. Concerns in relation to wool levy expenditure through Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), wool logistics and selling through the Australian Wool Exchange, wool testing through the Australian Wool Testing Authority and animal health and welfare issues through Animal Health Australia are also dealt with at the national level. It is important for WA woolgrowers' voice to be considered when decisions affecting the bottom line are made in the eastern states. The challenge for the Wool Section is to secure funds to continue its membership to WoolProducers Australia in future years. In 2013, members were asked to make a donation by way of proceeds from one bale of wool crutchings to ensure the organisation can continue with national representation to the peak body.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING

WAFarmers made a strong submission to the AWI Strategic Plan 2013/14 - 2015/16 comprising 75 recommendations for the AWI board's consideration. It is pleasing to note some recommendations have been implemented. The Section will continue to lobby for others including corporate governance, stakeholder consultation and on-farm research and development. The Federal Minister for Agriculture has provided a written assurance to WAFarmers that the Department will keep a watchful eye to ensure AWI complies with its Statutory Funding Agreement with the Federal government.

This year provided an opportunity for individuals to nominate for the AWI board by gaining 100 shareholder signatures. WAFarmers successfully assisted Upper Great Southern Zone President John Hassell in gaining

the necessary support from shareholders. The Wool Section opposed the reduction of the number of AWI board members from 10 to seven to ensure the maximum number of shareholder-nominated candidates had the opportunity to be elected to the board. The Section was disappointed Mr Hassell was not elected and the resolution reducing the number of board members passed.

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

WAFarmers has been part of a process to develop animal welfare standards and guidelines for sheep. WAFarmers would like to see proposed national standards converted into voluntary guidelines and believes they should be the supporting Codes of Practice to animal welfare legislation in each state. The proposed standards and guidelines pose the possibility of inconsistencies between jurisdictions in their implementation and there is real concern as to whether producers will be prosecuted against the standards and guidelines without being in contravention of the Animal Welfare Act 2002.

WAFarmers has been involved in the decision making process since 1998 on Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) and has been part of the implementation process for a number of programs since then on a state level through the Department of Agriculture and Food OJD Advisory Committee and the national stage through WoolProducers Australia, Sheepmeat Council and Animal Health Australia. 2013 saw yet another change to the program, which the Section believes delivers a better result for sheep farmers in Western Australia. WAFarmers is an active participant on this issue to ensure sheep trade restrictions are minimal and sheep producers are not disadvantaged as a result of a new national program. The OJD National Management Plan 2013 - 18, which commenced on July 1, implemented a new risk management approach.

BIOSECURITY

WAFarmers supported the proposal to extend the Sheep and Goats Industry Funding Scheme to include the whole of WA, giving all producers the opportunity to participate in the scheme and enable implementation of statewide and pastoral-based biosecurity programs.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Successful in assisting a grower candidate to nominate for the AWI board
- Successful in lobbying for a State Farm Organisation Executive Officer Forum to be conducted to facilitate a better relationship between organisations
- Successful in having the newly-formed Livestock Biosecurity Network's officer housed at WAFarmers head office to ensure the livestock industry is prepared for and understands its key role in biosecurity, surveillance, detection, reporting exotic disease incursions or detecting endemic disease in their region
- Wool Section President Ed Rogister and Wool Council member John Moyes successful in being appointed by the Minister for Agriculture and Food to the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Sheep and Goat Industry Management Committee which manages control of footrot in WA
- General and Wool Executive member Tony Gooch appointed by the Minister for Agriculture and Food to the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee to inform and advise the Minister on animal welfare matters in WA
- Wool Executive member Max Watts successful in becoming an independent director to WoolProducers Australia



SUBMISSIONS

- Australian Wool Innovation Strategic Plan 2013/14 - 2015/16
- Australian Wool Exchange - importation of wool pack levy
- Draft Code of Practice for the operation of breeding and rearing businesses
- Australian Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep
- Australian Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep - consultative process
- National Wild Dog Action Plan
- National Ovine Johne's Disease Management Plan
- Australian Wool Exchange National Wool Declaration
- Sheep and Goats Industry Funding Scheme - extension to pastoral areas

BEEKEEPERS

Stephen Fewster President
Lucy Radzikowska Executive Officer

Honey production during 2013 was promising. Six-thousand-eight-hundred packages of bees, at a value of \$407,959, went to Canada and some beekeepers had a shot at pollinating almonds. It is a shame the almond plantation scheme will not go ahead in WA, because it would have provided long-term financial benefits for both parties.

One of the main risks which may affect the bee industry in WA is the State government determining whether untreated honey should be imported into WA from the eastern states and overseas. WAFarmers has opposed this move which poses a risk to the biosecurity of the state's bee industry. Currently, honey can only enter the state if it has been heat treated under specific conditions.

WAFarmers has made a submission to Plant Health Australia (PHA) signalling opposition to a standalone American Foul Brood (AFB) national program, but supporting a broader biosecurity national plan which will encompass AFB and address other pests and diseases within the industry. The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC), which WAFarmers is a member of, has set up a working group to look at a variety of funding models to cover a biosecurity component. WAFarmers has provided in-principle support to an increase in the honey levy to fund a biosecurity strategy and establishing a committee for an industry-led bee biosecurity strategy.

This year saw genetic stock imported into WA for the first time since the late 1970s in the form of semen. Although WAFarmers agreed to the protocol of importation, the Section thought it was not yet required. Western Australia is lucky to have one of the longest-running bee breeding programs in the world, meaning while there is access to very good stock, the situation can always improve. Import protocols are being drawn up to make sure any future imports are done in the best way possible.

The relationship between the Section and the Department of Agriculture and Food WA continues to be strained. Neither an Emergency Response Plan nor a Code of Conduct has been finalised. It is also of some concern that while both the State and Federal governments say upkeep of biosecurity is very important, jobs and programs are being cut. Plant Health Australia has released an Industry Biosecurity Plan for the honey bee industry outlining the threat, identification, pest risk assessment and categorisation of diseases. It includes risk mitigation, contingency and response plans. With the national plan completed, there should be little standing in the way of finalising the state response plan.

During 2013, the Department of Environment and Conservation was split into the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Environment Regulation from July 1. There is a good working relationship between industry and both departments on matters of fast-tracking new site applications and district assessment forms, the use of clearing permits, the beekeepers handbook, proposed mining activities and the introduction of penalties and modified penalties in the CALM Apiary Regulations, as well as a proposal to review apiary fees and charges. The Victorian government has put in place a policy encouraging apiculture on public land as part of its 2010 election promise to beekeepers which is something the Section would like implemented in WA.

During the year, members of the Section were involved in a strategic planning session to identify issues facing WA's beekeeping industry. All of the information was collated and presented to the Beekeepers Executive who had the task of prioritising the issues and developing plans for the good of the industry.

The Section has continued to work for positive outcomes for the industry on a number of fronts, including:

- Lobbying for research into the effects of pesticides on bee health
- Ensuring biosecurity and quarantine protocols are adequate to keep pests and diseases out of the state and country
- Ensuring beekeepers are adequately prepared in the event industry is affected by a pest or disease
- Ensuring research priorities are addressed at a state and national level
- Ensuring beekeepers have access to public land and are considered in all forest management plans

Another goal of the Section has been to develop an introductory beekeeping course module to enable members of the public to develop basic beekeeping skills. WAFarmers has been successful in developing the first nationally-accredited Basic Introduction to Beekeepers Skill Set. The Section has been on the forefront of bee industry training initiatives in the past few years. WAFarmers has identified a training provider to deliver the course in WA in early 2014.

WAFarmers supported Honey Week in WA for the second year running. The event resulted in executive member Leilani Leyland being named a runner up of the 2013 RIRDC Rural Women's Award for promoting Honey Week in the media and educating consumers about the values of Australian honey and the beekeeping industry.



MAIN SUBMISSIONS:

- General Conditions for using Apiary Authorities on Crown Land WA
- Enhancing and funding biosecurity and disease management for apiarists
- Agrifood Skills Australia – Basic Skill Set
- Importation of Untreated Honey from Interstate and Overseas
- Draft Revision of Policy 41 Beekeeping on Crown Land and Guidelines for Beekeeping on Crown Land
- American Foul Brood National Program

TRANSPORT

Bill Cowan Portfolio Holder
Chris Wyhoon Executive Officer



WAFarmers continues to work hard on a range of transport issues, aiming to keep as much grain on rail as possible, protect rural roads and contain transport costs and levels of bureaucracy impeding industry profitability.

The issue of grain on rail, particularly the Tier 3 network, has continued to be the central focus of the transport portfolio.

Following a State government decision in June 2012 to go ahead with the closure of the Tier 3 lines, WAFarmers and affiliate body the Wheatbelt Railway Retention Alliance (WRRRA) have continued to drive home to all regional and metropolitan communities the message of maintaining grain on rail for safety, efficiency and economic purposes.

CBH's rate estimates show a seven per cent decrease in rail rates and a five to eight per cent increase in road rates, which WAFarmers believes will only improve with more investment in grain rail infrastructure.

In October 2013, Brookfield shut down the York-Quairading and Trayning-Merredin lines on the eve of one of the heaviest anticipated harvests in recent years.

WAFarmers and the WRRRA are committed to maximising the amount of grain carted on rail.

WAFarmers met with the Public Transport Authority, CBH and Brookfield, believing all stakeholders, particularly the PTA, should be more transparent about who is responsible for rail maintenance and handover obligations.

WAFarmers supports CBH's proposal to take certain Tier 3 lines from Brookfield and maintain and operate those lines.

The Agricultural Vehicle Advisory Group (AVAG), otherwise known as the Towed Agricultural Vehicle Advisory Group, met in March 2013 for the first time in two years. It has met regularly since due to the lobbying of WAFarmers, which values the work completed by the group in 2008-2010.

Originally formed at the request of WAFarmers, AVAG, with the support of WAFarmers, managed to achieve several outcomes for industry, such as changes to the Towed Agricultural Implement Regulations.

WAFarmers continues to make progress with legislation involving agricultural vehicles through AVAG. Recently, WAFarmers attention to detail resulted in some of the confusion around licencing farm quads being rectified.

WAFarmers is currently working with training providers to help design a short-course in agricultural vehicle pilot operation given indications that the current exemption on accreditation will be extinguished to standardise the training to a full-accreditation process.

This training provision will be customised to offer members a series of workshops covering not only agricultural vehicles, but pilot training, handling of dangerous goods, and on-farm Occupational Health & Safety.

WAFarmers is also working with the Department of Transport, via AVAG, to develop an e-portal system where a shortened version of the accreditation exam would be available online.

WAFarmers also successfully helped lobby the State government to permanently include the Harvest Mass Management Scheme (HMMS) into compliance and enforcement legislation. The HMMS allows grain producers to manage the natural variation in grain density weight in terms of overloading risk. While the penalty structure is slightly different, the fundamental allowances ensure those who attempt to use the scheme correctly will benefit from the maximum seven per cent allowance.

INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION

Phil Brunner Secretary

The WAFarmers Industrial Association has continued to assist members with workplace relations matters in 2013. However, with significant changes to legislation over the past seven years together with a diminution in the number and frequency of industry and award-based disputes, the role of the Association has focused mainly on the provision of advice.

The legislative changes, based on the Constitutional corporations power, has also meant the central role of the Association in relation to industry and award matters is perhaps less influential than in previous times.

These have been serious issues debated within the Executive over a number of years. The focus of the debate has been whether there is a continuing role for the Association. This has been exacerbated by a lack of interest by members to stand for positions on the Executive, culminating in a situation where only one member nominated for a position on the Executive for the 2013 year.

Given these factors, an in principle decision was made by members at the Annual General Meeting of the Association, held in July, to implement a winding up of the Association. In this process, it was suggested by members that discussions be held with WAFarmers to determine whether it would be beneficial for WAFarmers to usurp the role of the Association. This process is ongoing.



Due to all the above factors, the Association has not had an active role within the National Farmers' Federation Industrial Committee this year. Fortunately, the Committee has only effectively dealt with the National Wage Case this year, thus the lack of involvement has not been detrimental.

For the time being, the Association will continue its role of assisting and representing members' interests with workplace relations matters.



AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION

David Leake Portfolio Holder

BIOSECURITY AND AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT ACT 2007 (WA)

The new Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act (BAM Act) came into effect on May 1, 2013, replacing 16 older Acts to enhance protection of the state's agriculture and food sector and the environment. The Act modernises the law and removes inconsistencies between previous legislation, which should lead to greater co-operation between government, landholders, industry and the community.

Under the Act, Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) have been formed across the rangelands to combat pests and diseases threatening the profitability and viability of businesses. It is understood RBGs can raise their own funds, which are matched by the State government to support biosecurity activities.

The BAM Act Industry Funding Schemes Appointments Committee is required under the Act's regulations to make recommendations for appointments to the three Industry Management Committees and three Review Panels which are established for the operation of the three Industry Funding Schemes – Grains, Seed and Hay, Cattle, and Sheep and Goats. WAFarmers retained its position on the Appointments Committee for Industry Funding Schemes under the BAM Act.

COTTON BUSH

The spread of cotton bush remains a large problem for many areas of the South West Land Division.

The Minister for Agriculture has reiterated that landholders, including the Crown, have a legislated requirement to contain cotton bush, although it is virtually impossible to contain once seed release has begun. It is understood



the large number and extent of properties affected by cotton bush now exceeds the Department of Agriculture and Food's (DAFWA) capacity to enforce compliance.

DAFWA is considering other management options including the development of local community-based weed management mechanisms. The recently-introduced BAM Act allows for the establishment of RBGs which could be established where there is strong community interest in control programs. RBGs can source Federal funds for the management of declared invasive species, and the Minister has indicated matching state funds will also be provided.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Tony Gooch Portfolio Holder
Chris Wyhoon Executive Officer

The WAFarmers Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) portfolio has continued to work on extremely important issues on behalf of members this year.

While just 2.7 per cent of Australian workers are in the agriculture industry, 17 per cent of all workplace fatalities occur within the sector. Almost three quarters of deaths on Australian farms involve vehicles routinely used on farming properties such as tractors, aircraft, utes and quad bikes.

As a key member of the Farmsafe WA Alliance, WAFarmers takes the OHS portfolio extremely seriously given the importance of safe farming practices to farming families. WAFarmers has helped lift the profile of farm safety, which is a commonly forgotten aspect of efficient farm employment and healthy farming families.

WAFarmers has played an important role in the management of Farmsafe WA through its membership to the executive and has helped drive the organisation's vision. Recently, former WAFarmers President Mike Norton took over as chairman of Farmsafe WA to help implement the growth strategy of the organisation.

As a member of the Agricultural Industry Safety Group (AISG), WAFarmers represents farmers on myriad safety issues and is assisting with the development of policies which will improve safety procedures affecting the farming community without adding complicated levels of bureaucracy. Undoubtedly the biggest issue for AISG and WAFarmers continues to be quad bikes, which are the leading cause of farm-related deaths in Australia.

There have been 160 quad bike fatalities in Australia since 2001, including 25 in 2013, with more than half occurring on farms. Of those, more than 60 per cent of fatalities were from roll overs, where the victim was either crushed or trapped underneath their quad bike on land or in water. Tragically, 50 per cent of those killed on farms were children. The cost of non-fatal and non-life

threatening injuries on farms due to quad bikes runs into millions of dollars in lost productivity.

WAFarmers helped form a working group within AISG to develop a WA Code of Practice for quad bike use on farms, modelled largely on the Victorian code. One of the competing views from motorcycle manufacturers and resellers against moves to install rollover protection devices is that the stability and centre of gravity of the vehicles can be negatively impacted. Research and reviews by the Institute for Farm Safety shows risk of injuries and death are much lower with a crash protection device installed. WAFarmers expects devices lowering the likelihood of injury will be readily available and promoted as best practice in 2014.

The organisation will continue to lobby for Standards Australia to allow suitable helmets from other countries to be tested for inclusion in the local market.

WAFarmers is looking to ensure further accredited training on OHS issues, including dangerous goods and piloting farm machinery, is available in 2014.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Contributing to the development of a WA Code of Practice for the safe operation of quad bikes.
- As a significant member of Farmsafe WA, helping to educate growers on the importance of farm safety.

AGCONNECTWA

Andrew Whitelaw President
Danielle Whitfield Executive Officer

2013 was a very exciting year for the future of WAFarmers with the evolution of the Young Farmers section into AgConnectWA.

This change was brought about by the recognition that in addition to young farmers, there are myriad young people in rural, regional and metropolitan areas with a passion for agriculture and progressing rural communities.

As the name suggests, AgConnectWA is about connecting people with a passion for agriculture in Western Australia under the age of 35. The AgConnectWA committee now consists of seven members from a variety of backgrounds including farming, agribusiness, natural resource management, town planning, law and mining.

The rebranding occurred at the extremely successful Agriculture – The Green Collar Industry conference held at the Ocean Beach Hotel in Cottesloe in April. The conference aimed to be informative and interactive to ensure attendees not only learned new things but also had the opportunity to make new friends.

Building on the friendships established at the conference, the committee was proud to host its inaugural AgTiki tour in the Swan Valley in September. The tour, which made several stops in the Swan Valley at wineries, breweries and agricultural produce havens, will be the first of many agricultural-flavoured experiences to be made available to AgConnectWA members.

While there is a definite focus on fun and friendship, AgConnectWA is also focused on representing and providing support to young people throughout the agricultural industry. To this end,



AgConnectWA represented Western Australia at the Youth Agricultural Central event hosted by the national body for young farmers, the Future Farmers Network, in Canberra. The objective was to provide feedback to the group on the government's position on investment in agriculture's next generation.

AgConnectWA takes a keen interest in education for young people and sponsored and attended a careers night hosted by Ag Institute Australia (AIA). This event put AgConnectWA in touch with students from Curtin, Murdoch, the University of Western Australia and metropolitan high schools and allowed the Section to educate students about the wonderful world of agriculture.

The Section also supported students at the WA College of Agriculture – Denmark and Farmsafe WA's Alcohol and Drug Education and Awareness campaign throughout the year.

In 2013, the Section was also fortunate enough to participate in an Art4Agriculture workshop in Sydney and hopes to play a part in bringing this program to WA. Art4Agriculture is a network of young people who are passionate about sharing the pivotal role Australian farmers play in feeding the world. Art4Agriculture programs are tailored to both enhance the image of farmers and farming and



encourage young people to consider agriculture-related careers. The related school programs are education and awareness focused and use creative arts and multimedia to engage urban and rural students with the challenges of feeding, clothing and housing the world with a declining natural resource base.

Perhaps one of the best achievements of AgConnectWA in the past year was being selected to participate in the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal's Consumers Caring for our Farmers' Future project. This program involves AgConnectWA profiling local produce such as lamb, beef, eggs, chicken and bread on a website so consumers can learn more about where their food comes from by scanning Quick Response (QR) Codes in supermarkets.

AgConnectWA looks forward to increased involvement from young people with a passion for agriculture and our upcoming events and projects in 2014.



LEADING LADIES

Lauren Celenza President

In the first year of Leading Ladies, the committee has worked on developing our mission and setting the wheels of our ambitious plan in motion.

There are many shocking statistics out there about how little people, particularly children, know about where their food comes from, and the common answer of 'the supermarket' is enough to make any farmer cringe.

What Leading Ladies wants to do is link WA farmers with consumers and educate the next generation on where their food comes from while encouraging local, clean and ethical food choices. With obesity on the rise in WA, kids need to be able to make educated decisions on their nutrition. Our focus is on ensuring they have the tools to make those decisions. Leading Ladies highlights the need to support local producers, otherwise farmers will go out of business, limiting consumer choice and damaging communities and the economy.



This passionate group of ladies has been taking a number of steps towards this goal. Leading Ladies held its first major event in September – a panel discussion featuring four inspirational women with backgrounds in agriculture, nutrition and education to share ideas for moving forward with our goals. The Cocktail Dinner and Panel Discussion was a huge success, with motivating speakers and great interaction and feedback from the crowd. We have also started planning to build a resource base for teachers, raise awareness on food origins through schools and further events and have plans to involve school-aged kids in teaching the wider community about food.

Leading Ladies has already had a highly enthusiastic response to our push towards local produce in the city, with people in general increasingly reacting positively to the topic.

Our first tangible task was to help Lockridge Senior High School with the battle to save its farm school, which has been educating children about food and farming since the 1980s. This school has amazing programs for students of all ages. The farm, with sheep, cattle, poultry and fish, is a perfect example of what is needed – a snapshot of the good practices WA food producers use. We were overjoyed when the State government granted the school enough land to continue its farming programs.



The Leading Ladies committee – Senior Vice President Lauren Duckworth, Vice President Nicole Rose, Secretary Marg Agnew and committee members Sarah Houston and Karryn Dorrell – are to be commended for their hard work in helping to establish Leading Ladies.

MISSION

Leading Ladies aims to unite women throughout Western Australia and educate our future generations' understanding and appreciation of where their food comes from. Our objectives are:

- Foster closer relationships between urban and rural communities
- Advocate local food choices
- Cultivate robust conversations about food



MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Megan MacNeill Marketing & Events Manager
Leslee Hall Marketing & Communications Officer
Jess Morris Membership Officer

The Marketing and Communications team continued to pursue a number of key objectives in 2013, including increasing WAFarmers' profile in the media, delivering timely and interesting publications to members, engaging with the public through the online sphere, reaching out to existing and potential members, organising events and working with sponsors – both new and old – to ensure valuable partnerships are retained.

Once again, the team has been a fluid one this year, which has resulted in an enormous amount of energy and fresh ideas injected into the work carried out. Allie McNeice vacated the role of Marketing and Communications Manager in July, to be replaced by Keith Pendleton. In October, Mr Pendleton decided to pursue other interests and existing Membership and Events Officer Megan MacNeill was promoted to the role. Jess Morris joined the team as Membership Officer in December. Former Marketing and Communications Officer Steven Glover left the organisation in June, to be replaced by Leslee Hall in July.

SPONSORSHIP

During the year, WAFarmers continued a fruitful relationship with a number of sponsors who are crucial to the success of the organisation. Sponsors during the year included Prime Super, Ravensdown, Telstra, 4Farmers, Beaton Firearms, Best Western, Beaurepaires, Connolly & Associates, Farm Weekly, Midalia Steel, Wide Span Sheds, RadioWest's Rural Focus, Solargain, Lark Lawyers, Motorplan, DrumMUSTER, RSM Bird Cameron and Latevo International.



WAFarmers extends its thanks to these organisations for their ongoing support and encourages members to approach WAFarmers' sponsors when considering a product or service.

COMMUNICATIONS

This year, WAFarmers has continued to have a mutually beneficial relationship with the rural press. The organisation is often a point of call for journalists, particularly on wide-reaching issues. It has been a continual battle to gain access to the mainstream media, but the team continues to engage with the mainstream media to promote agriculture as best as possible. A six-weekly opinion piece by Dale Park has appeared in The West Australian this year, which allows WAFarmers to set the agenda on agricultural issues in the media or articulate detailed comments on existing issues – a very valuable platform for the organisation.

From the media perspective, the year was dominated by two election campaigns – state and federal. Both were approached in a thoroughly organised fashion, with policy documents and strategies guiding actions through the campaigns. Both campaigns were well received in the media and achieved the goal of bringing agriculture to the attention of politicians and voters.

MARKETING

Another main focus of the team this year has been on WAFarmers online presence. The WAFarmers website has undergone a revamp. This is a critical tool for

members, non-members and sponsors – a space where suitable content can be delivered in an accessible way.

In the online space, WAFarmers' presence in social media has been a specific target this year – it is a space where discussion can be encouraged on a platform familiar to a growing population. Our Facebook and Twitter profiles have continued to attract a steadily growing audience, with continuous engagement on a wide range of topics. Social media offers WAFarmers an opportunity to communicate with people from around Australia and circulate the WAFarmers brand widely and positively.

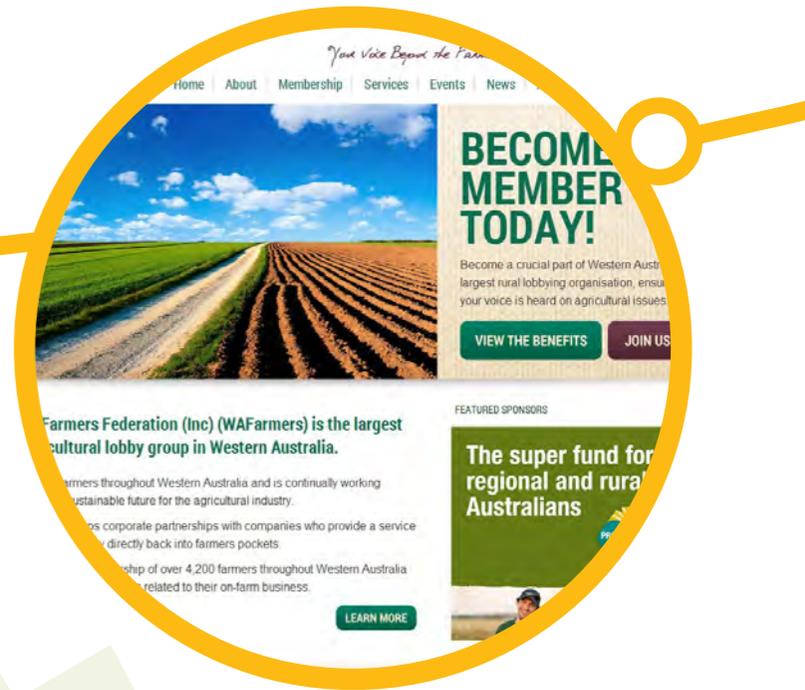
MEMBERSHIP

During her first year in the newly-created role of Membership and Community Development Officer, Ms MacNeill successfully signed up more than 150 new members. She actively attended networking opportunities, membership drives and farm visits to connect with potential members.

This year there was also a change in the way memberships are structured. Rather than being based on turnover, memberships are now based on the benefits members would like to receive from WAFarmers, a change welcomed by a majority of members.

EVENTS

WAFarmers both hosted and attended a number of events during the year. The main event was the annual conference at the Vines Resort, which included excellent presentations from speakers including Julian Cribb and Catherine Marriott. AgConnectWA held their annual conference in April and a gourmet food and wine tour of the Swan Valley in September, both sponsored by Westpac Agribusiness. Early in the year, the inaugural members day at



the WACA ground was held, which was an opportunity for WAFarmers staff to mingle with members while watching a game of cricket. Leading Ladies held their first major event, a panel discussion with inspiring speakers at Crown in September. In October, WAFarmers held the highly successful Farm Finance Forums throughout the Wheatbelt to deliver practical financial advice to farmers. All of these events were highly successful and are pre-cursors to future similar events which will deliver greater value and information to members.

WAFarmers representatives attended a number of events during the year to share information about the work the organisation does. This included several field days, such as Wagin Woolorama, Dowerin, Mingenew and Newdegate Field Days and the Brunswick Dairy Showcase. Representatives also attended the WANTFA and Midland Group Field Walks.

ECONOMICS & FARM BUSINESS

Tony York Portfolio Holder
Chris Wyhoon Executive Officer

2013 was a difficult yet interesting and successful year for the Economics and Farm Business portfolio – a year with quite a contrast between the despair of a farm financial crisis and one of the best seasonal turnarounds in recent years.

The year started off with the reality of the farm debt situation, following on from the Rural Debt Roundtable in Brisbane in late 2012. After meeting with the banks and key WAFarmers members, it was clear the availability of farm finance was going to lead the headlines.

In February, WAFarmers openly endorsed all of the recommendations from the Rural Debt Roundtable Working Group and managed, via the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) policy process, to have those resolutions highlighted at the special Farm Finance Forum being conducted by the then Federal government.

In April, Executive Officer Chris Wyhoon addressed farmers at the Merredin Debt Crisis Meeting – a gathering of more than a thousand concerned producers. Mr Wyhoon discussed concerns such as falling equity from devaluing farmland prices, the increasing threat of foreclosure and the relatively large number of farm families refused adequate levels of carry-on finance.

Just prior to the Merredin Debt Crisis Meeting, WAFarmers released its ground-breaking work on debt reconstruction, identifying and dispelling long-held beliefs that WA did not have a suitable legislative vehicle to provide assistance in the form of concessional loans.

From there, WAFarmers met with the State government and presented the Seasonal Finance Assistance Scheme (SFAS) which would provide up to a total of \$100 million for 500 eligible producers seeking sufficient seasonal finance to put a crop in.



Modelled on the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority's (QRAA) assistance scheme, the proposed SFAS would use a third-party independent viability assessment team, currently contracted to QRAA and other government organisations. The Rural Business Development Corporation (RBDC) would administer the scheme, providing a check on the program to allay concerns around the use of taxpayers' money.

Although the State government chose an alternative pathway to provide numerous \$25,000 hardship grants, the proposal allowed the State government to review how it could provide future assistance.

Simultaneously, WAFarmers suggested the Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) WA be enlarged to cater for the many farming families that would not qualify for the loans and provide business planning support to successful loan applicants to ensure all options and risk analysis could be considered going forward.

Gaining more equitable proportionate funding for RFCS was a priority for WAFarmers to support business planning and debt negotiation support services for financially-stressed farming families, and was rewarded with six more positions, three each from the State and Federal governments in late 2013.

Since 2012, WAFarmers has been lobbying for a mandatory nationally-harmonised farm debt mediation process. Such a process would allow for earlier interactions between banks and customers, resulting in opportunities for both parties to work through a process that would ensure a continuation of viable farm businesses. In mid-2013, WAFarmers, through the NFF policy process, provided strong leadership and guidance on correct policy settings that would later feed into the Federal government's Debt Mediation Working Group. Later, the State government submitted draft legislation to establish a farm debt mediation process partly modelled on NSW and Victorian legislation, which WAFarmers hopes will deliver practical ways of preparing farming families to deal with farm debt before all sustainable re-adjustment options are exhausted.

In late 2013, WAFarmers took the bold step of conducting the hugely successful Farm Finance Forums throughout the Wheatbelt in response to a demonstrated need to improve understanding of banking needs, risk management and help farmers prepare their finances earlier.



The forums were extremely well attended with more than 160 farming businesses present. The feedback was extremely positive, reflecting the sentiment and value farm businesses saw in receiving practical and insightful tools to help them. There will be another round of forums in other areas of the Wheatbelt in February 2014.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Lobbied the State government to admit the legitimacy of the Rural Business Development Corporation's ability to undertake a farm business loan scheme
- Helped lobby for increased numbers of Rural Financial Counsellors for Western Australia
- Lobbied for a nationally-harmonised mandatory farm debt mediation scheme, which is now under parliamentary review

PROPERTY RIGHTS & SPECIAL ISSUES

Trevor Lovelle Director of Policy

WAFarmers strongly urged the State government to deliver a meaningful financial assistance package that could be the difference between farmers exiting the industry or remaining on the land.

The initial proposal required the government to commit \$100 million for the purpose of providing carry-on finance packages of up to \$200,000 for eligible farmers on strict commercial terms to be repaid within three years. The scheme was based on the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority model and was to be administered by the WA Rural Business Development Corporation.

The proposal was rejected by the State government despite WAFarmers providing strict eligibility criteria and a recommendation the assessment of loan applications, which included an enterprise viability test, should be handled by a third party to ensure objectivity and impartiality.

The State government then announced its version of an assistance package which was widely considered to have missed the mark in respect of addressing the key issue of carry-on finance for eligible farmers. Furthermore, the WAFarmers scheme would have cost the State government less since loans were required to be repaid, while the government's package was essentially a handout.

In the meantime, the then Federal government announced the Farm Finance scheme which comprised access to concessional loans, funding for additional rural financial counsellors, a debt mediation initiative and enhancements to Farm Management Deposit Schemes. WAFarmers welcomed the Farm Finance package in principle.

WAFarmers understands the Federal government has committed to underwriting the concessional loan package in WA and the state's role is to deliver the funds to eligible farmers through the Rural Business Development Corporation.



WAFarmers wrote to Premier Colin Barnett expressing concerns partnering arrangements between Federal and State governments such as the proposed Farm Finance scheme can be compromised by unnecessary administrative process. WAFarmers urged the Premier to make good on his commitment to cut through government red tape.

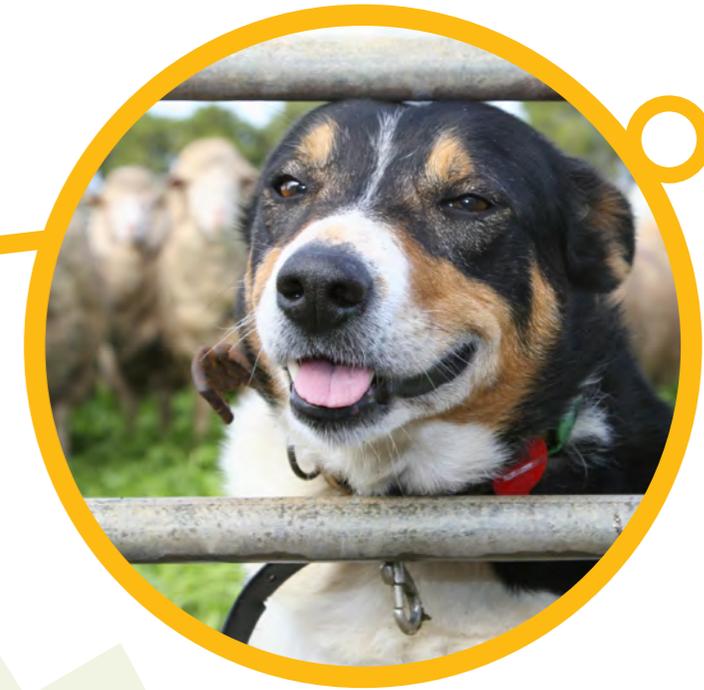
STATE ELECTION 2013

WAFarmers developed a policy agenda comprising key issues that would deliver reforms in the rural sector necessary to achieve sustainable and profitable outcomes for WA's farming community.

In summary, these key issues included:

1. A long term plan for the state's agricultural industries
2. Reform of the state's land clearing laws
3. On-going use of all current Tier 3 rail lines
4. Increased funding for rural roads
5. The introduction of an agricultural impact assessment process for the evaluation of potential mining or industrial development in farming areas
6. Development and implementation of a State Salinity Strategy
7. Expansion of the State Rural Water Program to include farm businesses connected to the Integrated Water Supply Scheme
8. The continued use of Genetically Modified crops
9. Expanding the live animal export trade from WA
10. Improving community services in rural WA

It was pleasing to receive the Premier's acknowledgment of the WAFarmers policy document prior to the state election, his acknowledgement after the election of the hardship being faced by many farmers and his determination to make WA agriculture a priority issue for the new government.



STATE BUDGET 2013

WAFarmers welcomed the State government's \$300 million commitment to agriculture announced in the 2013 State Budget and looks forward to contributing to consultative processes to ensure the funds are allocated efficiently.

PROPERTY RIGHTS & SPECIAL ISSUES

Trevor Lovelle Director of Policy

FEDERAL ELECTION 2013

Recognising the value of collaboration for seeking change in the federal jurisdiction, WAFarmers developed an agenda of state-based issues for advancement under the National Farmers' Federation policy framework.

Similar to the state election policy statement, WAFarmers policy agenda for the federal election comprised key issues that will also deliver reforms in the rural sector necessary to achieve sustainable and profitable outcomes.

In summary, these key issues included:

1. Committing to expanding the live animal export trade
2. Establishing policy settings providing Australia's agricultural sector with a competitive advantage
3. Maintaining the Fuel Tax Credit Scheme for off-road diesel used in agriculture
4. Developing a strategic plan to establish Australia as the international leader in agricultural Research, Development and Extension
5. Developing a balanced foreign investment policy for agriculture recognising the importance of international flows of capital

WAFarmers was delighted to note the Coalition's pre-election commitment to Australian agriculture and the newly-elected Prime Minister's determination to ensure agriculture remains a priority for the new government.

FEDERAL BUDGET 2013

The Federal Budget provided very little change for the rural sector and relied broadly on the redistribution of previously announced projects. For example, funds announced for farm household support to be disbursed under the recently announced drought policy assistance package have been diverted from an existing environmental management program.

Considering the government's rhetoric about taking advantage of the Asian century, it is difficult to find evidence of any long-term strategic thinking supported by increased funding for Research, Development and Extension in the budget.

FIREARMS LICENCE FEES

Following a report by the Auditor General which found numerous weaknesses in the WA Police Firearms Management System, firearm license fees for individuals in WA have been increased by as much as 134 per cent. Other fee increases for individual firearm licenses are similarly well in excess of accepted CPI increases.

Cost increases of the proposed magnitude for any individual operating lawfully in an industry sector are excessive, let alone the effect these increases will have on the primary industry sector, which is already facing significant cost pressures.

WAFarmers met with Legislative Council members and subsequently made a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, calling on government to limit the planned fee increases for individual firearms licenses to an acceptable level, ideally reflecting the CPI.

REVIEW OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES ACT

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services' (DFES) review of emergency services legislation is intended to create an Emergency Services Act and will require the amalgamation of the Fire Brigades Act 1942, the Bush Fires Act 1954 and the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998.

WAFarmers made a submission to this review arguing some existing powers established under the Bush Fires Act 1954 should be included in the proposed new legislation and there should be regard for the needs and wants of the rural community.

WAFarmers was subsequently appointed to the Legislation Review Expert Panel as part of the consultative process undertaken by DFES.

REVIEW OF PLUMBING REGULATION

WAFarmers' submission to the Review of Plumbing Regulation in WA recommended the review also consider the impact of regulation on access to trade services in regional areas. The submission also noted regional areas should not be disadvantaged by additional regulatory compliance for critical service providers.

IMPLEMENTATION OF LABOUR MARKET TESTING

WAFarmers' submission on the implementation of labour market testing in the standard temporary (skilled) (subclass 457) visa program recommended the outdated ANZCO codes should be revised to better reflect modern agriculture employment.

The submission noted the proposed labour market testing regime is unlikely to provide any benefit in a constrained labour market.

WATER

The State government is considering amalgamating the Department of Water with the new Department of Environment Regulation. WAFarmers does not support this as the rationale for change has not been clearly established. In a submission, WAFarmers raised doubt about the common ground between regulatory and environmental aspects of water in relation to management by one department, noting there is no call for similar action for resources handled by other discrete agencies such as minerals and petroleum.

The former Minister for Water, Terry Redman, launched a position paper entitled Reforming Water Resource Management. The paper reflects a fresh approach from the government at both ministerial and agency levels on water resource management highlighted by broader community consultation. Under the proposed legislation and policy framework, WAFarmers is a member of the department's Water Resources Reform Stakeholder Reference Group.

“WAFarmers was delighted to note the Coalition's pre-election commitment to Australian agriculture.”

LAND MANAGEMENT & CLIMATE

Dale Park Portfolio Holder

CONSULTATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

WAFarmers made a submission to the Federal Department of the Environment proposal to establish a preserved ecological community within the Esperance sandplain. The Proteaceae-dominated kwongan shrublands of the south east coastal province has been nominated for protection under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

The submission did not focus on the scientific merit of establishing a preserved ecological community, but on the impact on existing farming enterprises and considerations that should be made during the assessment process.

In summary, WAFarmers noted farmers were already burdened by excessive regulatory requirements and additional compliance costs existed where there were duplications across State and Federal jurisdictions.

Farmers in WA already comply with the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA), while this proposal seeks similar outcomes under Federal legislation.

The submission noted increasing calls for improved conservation and biodiversity management rarely acknowledged current sound on-farm management practices.

WAFarmers called on the Federal government and its agencies to recognise and value on-farm biodiversity activity and to take the positive contributions farmers make to natural resource management through these activities into account when assessing the proposal.

CLEARING OF NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATIONS

WAFarmers continued to press government on its pre-election commitment to review clearing of native vegetation regulations under the Environmental

Protection Act 1986 (WA) and specifically called for amendments to certain regulations.

- Regulation 5, Section 51C (1) – Prescribed clearing

The clause was designed to prevent the clearing of riparian areas adjacent to rivers and streams, but makes it illegal to graze or maintain any damp country growing reeds, rushes, melaleuca or similar.

The 10 year rule enables the clearing of regrowth less than 10 years old, which WAFarmers believes should be replaced with a regulation enabling any regrowth on land used for primary production to be removed. The principle is that if land has been cleared once, it should be legal to keep it cleared.

- Regulation 6 – Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)

WAFarmers has sought to have the Notice provision repealed, which declares all wetlands identified on maps prepared by a private consulting firm as ESAs which cannot be cleared - including grazing and the removal of regrowth.

The clause could remain in the Act providing the Notice is repealed and ESAs were evaluated under two separate policies - the Environmental Protection (South West Agricultural Zone Wetlands) Policy 1998 and the Swan Coastal Plains Lakes Policy 1992.

- Regulation 9 – This regulation appears to indicate Regulation 6 and the definition of an ESA in Regulation 3 will be replaced by a Notice and therefore it should be repealed.

It was anticipated that announcements would be made about the native vegetation clearing regulations before the end of 2013.

TRADE, BIOTECHNOLOGY & RELATED ISSUES

Tony York Portfolio Holder

PUBLIC ATTITUDES TO BIOTECHNOLOGY

The Federal Department of Industry has been conducting studies into public attitudes towards biotechnology since 1999. The latest study was conducted during 2012 and looked at attitudes towards a range of biotechnologies including genetically modified (GM) foods and crops.

Some of the key findings of this survey included:

- Males, younger people and those living in capital cities were more likely to support GM foods.
- Australian concerns about GM foods were comparable to concerns about pesticides and preservatives in foods.
- People were more supportive of GM foods which had health outcomes or were cheaper. Lasting longer or tasting better was considered a minor benefit.
- Support for GM foods and crops has remained fairly constant over the past few years, with about 60 per cent of the population willing to eat most GM foods, and about 25 per cent not willing. These preferences changed depending on the type of food being modified and whether there were benefits to the consumer.

WAFarmers' GM policy has, for a number of years, supported the technology through the appropriate use of GM crops governed by industry-agreed protocols relating to storage, transport and buffer zones. The main aspects of the policy are:

- WAFarmers supports the lifting of the current State government moratorium on the commercial release of GM canola.
- WAFarmers supports future research and development into GM crops and pastures.
- WAFarmers supports Federal and State government GM material tolerance levels of 0.9 per cent in crops and 0.5 per cent in seeds.

- WAFarmers supports the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator and its charter to protect the health and safety of Australians and the Australian environment.
- WAFarmers supports further development of protocols for the commercialisation of GM grains in the WA grains industry on issues including intellectual property rights, contamination, segregation, licensing, protection of individual growers and legal liability issues.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT POLICY

WAFarmers gave evidence to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee inquiry into the Foreign Investment Review Board national interest test.

The evidence provided reinforced the previously tabled 2012 WAFarmers submission which supported the establishment of a foreign investment register for agricultural land to inform the development of a robust national foreign investment policy.

WAFarmers General Section Executive is deliberating on WAFarmers' foreign investment policy. Australia's current foreign investment policy does not include any distinct rules for investment in agriculture, although foreign governments are required to obtain approval before making any direct investment in Australia, regardless of the value of the investment.

There is clear and undeniable evidence that free trade in goods and services provides substantial benefit to the national economy. Conversely, there are sectors of the community that consider foreign investment to be a burden on the economy.

Australia's stable political environment, macro-economic robustness, established rule of law, social structure and resource attributes may be attractive to foreign investors but they are certainly not unique to Australia. Change to any of these attributes could result in consideration of alternate destinations for foreign investors.

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the year ended 30 November, 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Financial Report has been viewed purely on a financial basis and the Federation had another tough year with a net loss of \$283,060.

The expenditures have been well managed under continuing austerity measures, however total expenses increased by 3 per cent to \$1,795,696 with wages increasing only 3 per cent to \$869,937, which represents 48 per cent of total expenses, consistent with last year.

Membership income remained steady this year and sponsorship increased 13 per cent to \$302,260, however a lack of Contract Service Fees, which earned \$33,744 in 2012, a drop in Wheat Pool Income of \$87,255 and a drop in interest of \$27,738 significantly affected the bottom line.

The balance sheet has been weakened by the depletion of reserves by the year's trading loss of \$283,060.

Summary of Income and Expenditure

- Total income decreased by \$125,300 (8.3 per cent)
- Sponsorship increased by \$34,500 (12.9 per cent)
- Total expenses increased by \$54,800 (3.1 per cent)

INCOME AND EXPENSES

Member subscriptions remained steady this year but were \$121,000 shy of budget.

Total expenses grew by 3.1 per cent mainly in the areas of payroll expenses, which increased by \$23,000 (3 per cent), and computer rental and service expenses, which increased by \$11,659 (31 per cent). A new expense for website and database development cost \$26,000 during 2013.

Administration expenses increased by \$65,505 or 4.8 per cent.

The board has been extremely diligent on its measurement and considerations on all financial matters and continues to provide outstanding value for its members.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEET

- Members' funds decreased by 43 per cent on the \$283,060 operating deficit, taking the capital of the business, or net asset position, to \$368,729.
- It is important to note the Federation does not carry any debt or borrowings and is therefore conservatively leveraged.
- The total liabilities of the Federation are \$114,446 which represents a \$74,643 (39 per cent) decrease which is mainly due to a reduction of \$57,500 in income received in advance.

CASH POSITION

The cash position worsened from \$664,044 to \$417,965 on the back of the profit result.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	2013 ACTUAL \$	2013 BUDGET \$	2012 ACTUAL \$
COMMUNICATIONS			
Beyond the Farmgate	3,331	11,000	7,894
Farm Weekly	7,095	6,600	7,360
News Research	14,299	12,000	9,283
Sub Total	24,725	29,600	24,537
MARKETING & PROMOTION			
Membership Promotion	20,337	35,000	32,012
Marketing Promotion	2,874	3,000	6,620
Sponsorship/Awards	945	2,500	1,166
Field Days & Shows	8,926	16,500	12,999
Website Development	14,631	11,500	45
Database Upgrade	11,342	9,750	0
Wheatpool Marketing	970	8,000	2,068
Sub Total	60,025	86,250	54,910
PERSONNEL			
Salaries & Wages	747,544	716,682	675,257
Superannuation	70,801	78,884	67,771
Zone Co-Ordinators Wages	43,502	71,500	75,771
Zone Co-Ordinators Expenses	1,534	5,000	4,794
Payroll Tax	0	12,000	4,837
Fringe Benefits Tax	45	3,000	4,720
Recruitment & Training	2,536	11,000	8,893
Staff Travel	10,439	9,500	8,732
Sub Total	876,401	907,566	850,775
OFFICE SERVICES			
Rent & Variables	209,115	198,000	207,608
Car Parking Additional	1,245	1,000	800
Electricity	19,913	20,000	19,873
Office Operating Expenses	109,109	110,800	97,804
Repairs & Maintenance	824	1,000	120
General Expenses	12,453	12,000	11,911
Minor Assets	714	1,000	565
Periodicals & Publications	6,990	6,000	5,735
Sub Total	360,363	349,800	344,416
FINANCIAL SERVICES			
Bank Fees	2,521	3,000	2,415
Insurance	21,369	20,000	20,498
Audit Fees	10,640	10,000	10,057
Accounting Fees	16,105	17,000	15,265
Legal Expenses	22,576	36,000	34,834
WAFFIA Expense	30,498	0	0
Depreciation	11,981	12,500	13,994
Sub Total	115,690	98,500	97,063
TOTAL ADMIN. EXPENSES	1,437,204	1,471,716	1,371,701

	2013 ACTUAL \$	2013 BUDGET \$	2012 ACTUAL \$
INCOME			
Members subscriptions	1,065,704	1,187,270	1,052,699
Zone Membership Drive	0	0	13,890
Allied Industries/Associate Members	8,864	10,000	8,906
Affiliation Fees	0	4,000	4,000
Contract services	54,917	153,503	175,916
Commission	5,727	15,000	15,813
Sponsorship Income	295,513	370,000	267,709
Interest-Main A/C & Term Deposits	16,525	40,000	44,263
Commodity Sections Income	16,947	0	0
National Representation Income	10,277	38,143	17,786
Zone Investments Income	1,265	0	3,463
Rental Income	8,191	6,000	10,123
Sundry Income	2,187	3,000	5,339
Datamars Income	6,346	8,000	7,793
Advocacy - Grain Growers	12,000	0	0
Farm Ready Project Grant	0	0	8,824
TOTAL INCOME	1,504,462	1,834,916	1,636,524
LESS EXPENDITURE			
Affiliation Fees			
National Farmers Federation	40,000	40,000	40,139
Cattle Council of Australia	19,600	23,520	23,520
Sheepmeat Council of Australia	15,000	15,000	13,057
Grains Expense Account	3,111	8,000	2,152
WoolProducers Australia	16,367	16,366	6,820
Australian Honey Bee	0	2,300	0
Australian Dairy Farmers	17,547	19,101	19,101
Sub Total	111,625	124,287	104,789
General Section Executive Expenses	4,611	1,800	2,854
Board Expenses	4,123	10,000	7,981
President's Allowance inc Super	63,283	63,220	60,277
President's Expenses	13,586	16,000	23,463
Annual Conference	65,219	90,000	100,590
General Council	12,229	3,000	7,105
Commodity expenses	48,903	34,870	19,488
Commodity Pres/Portfolio Allowance	20,750	21,000	20,500
Farm Ready Project Expenses	0	0	14,372
Datamars Expense	5,058	7,000	6,380
Zone Levies	931	2,000	0
Sub Total	238,693	248,890	263,010
OTHER EXPENSES	350,318	373,177	367,799
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	1,437,204	1,471,716	1,371,699
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,787,522	1,844,893	1,739,498
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-283,060	-9,977	-102,974

BALANCE SHEET

	2,013	2,012
	NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER
Bank - Operating Account	285,338	304,463
Westpac Bank-Term Deposits	0	150,000
Term Deposits - Elders Rural	0	78,219
Petty Cash	250	250
Accounts Receivable	15,046	111,934
Zone Bank Accounts	132,377	131,112
Prepayments	15,714	19,096
Sundry Debtors	7,032	7,278
Total Current Assets	455,757	802,350
Non-Current Assets		
Furniture & Fittings	12,817	14,209
Lease Hold Improvements	6,516	14,387
Plant & Machinery	1,352	1,649
Telephone System	711	954
Computer Hardware	1,527	1,400
Computer - Software	2,154	3,590
Investment -Westralian Farmers	997	997
Investment - Trust Fund WAFF	10	10
Investment - Farmwide	1,334	1,334
Total Non-Current Assets	27,418	38,530
Total Assets	483,175	840,881
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	0	0
Payroll Liabilities-Group Tax/Super	2	8,990
Provision for Holiday Pay	52,854	68,638
Staff Contributions-Xmas Function	-925	-169
Accruals	17,384	13,594
Subs in Advance	0	73,817
WAFFIA-Subs Control	0	0
Income Received in Advance	16,297	0
Sundry Creditors	0	0
GST Collected	7,085	8,376
GST Paid	-15,962	-13,939
Total Current Liabilities	76,735	159,307
Non-Current Liabilities		
Prov for Employee Long Service Leave	37,710	29,782
National Affiliation Fees	0	0
Total Non Current Liabilities	37,710	29,782
Total Liabilities	114,445	189,089
NET ASSETS	368,731	859,615
EQUITY		
Retained Surplus	651,792	754,766
Current Surplus	-283,061	-102,974
TOTAL EQUITY	368,731	651,792

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

WAFarmers representatives sit on a number of government and industry committees. Below is a list of committees WAFarmers is currently sitting on:

HOST	COMMITTEE NAME/POSITION HELD
AustChem	Board member Tony Gooch
Australia China Business Council	Agricultural Committee
Australian Dairy Farmers	Animal Health and Welfare Policy Advisory Group Board member Peter Evans Markets, Trade and Value Chain Policy Advisory Group National Council member Michael Partridge Farming Systems Policy Advisory Group
Australian Tax Office	WA Small Business Liaison Committee
Australian Wool Innovation	Industry Consultative Committee Shearer and Shedhand Training Committee WA Wool Production Forecasting Committee
Board member Geoff Pearson	Animal Health, Welfare and Biosecurity Subcommittee Council member Geoff Pearson Industry Systems and Food Safety Subcommittee
Department of Agriculture and Food WA	Bee Industry Consultative Committee Grain Guard Dairy Industry Consultancy Panel National Livestock Identification Service Working Group (Cattle) National Livestock Identification Service Working Group (Sheep and Goats) State Indonesian Live Export Taskforce WA Cattle Industry Consultative Group WA Ovine Johne's Disease Advisory Committee WA Sheep and Goat Industry Consultative Group WA Southern Australian Meat Research Cooperative Discussion Group WA State Animal Welfare Advisory Committee to Minister for Agriculture and Food WA
Department of Education Services	Rural and Remote Education Advisory Council
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (QLD)	National Wild Dog Management Advisory Group
Department of Finance	State Revenue Liaison Committee
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Legislation Review Expert Panel
Department of Main Roads	Agricultural Vehicle Advisory Group Heavy Vehicle Advisory Group

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

Department of Parks and Wildlife	Bee Consultative Committee
Department of Transport	Gateway Project Stakeholders Consultative Group
Economic Regulation Authority	Consumer Consultative Committee
Farmsafe WA	Executive Committee Management Committee
Food, Fibre and Timber Industries Training Council	Food, Fibre and Timber Industries Training Council Rural Production
Meat and Livestock Australia	National Live Export Taskforce
National Farmers' Federation	2050 Committee Biosecurity and Animal Management Committee Drought Pilot Working Group Economics Committee Emissions Trading Taskforce Mining and Coal Seam Gas Taskforce Native Title Taskforce Sustainability Committee Trade Committee Water Committee Workplace Relations Committee
Sheepmeat Council of Australia	Council Vice President Jeff Murray
State Government of Western Australia	Industry Funding Scheme Cattle – WA Cattle Industry Management Committee Industry Funding Scheme Sheep and Goats – WA Sheep and Goats Industry Management Committee
Western Australia Livestock Exporters Association	Three delegates
Western Australian Police	WA Firearms Consultative Working Group
Western Dairy (Joint WAFarmers Project)	Animal Welfare Engagement Project Committee
WoolProducers Australia	Board member Ed Rogister
Worksafe	WA Agricultural Industry Safety Group
Other	WA Long Haul Cartage Working Group

WAFARMERS' SUPPORTERS

WAFarmers would like to thank all its generous sponsors for their support during 2013 and looks forward to continuing to work closely with them well into the future. WAFarmers would also like to take this opportunity to encourage members to consider the following sponsors when purchasing products and services, as the work WAFarmers does to represent the

agricultural community would not be possible without the financial support given by these organisations. It is also important to remember these organisations have chosen to support WAFarmers, which in essence supports all Western Australian farmers.

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WAFARMERS SUPPORTERS

