



Your opportunity to learn about current and developing on-farm labour saving technologies in the sheep industry

Background

The Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA) are offering two AgConnect members the opportunity to participate in the Lambex 2016 conference and join a post-conference tour with leading farmers, motivated and enthusiastic sheep producers from south west Western Australia.

The selected participants will join the newly formed on-farm technology pilot group of growers as well as members of the 100% Club for the tour.

The on-farm technology pilot group has been formed and supported by DAFWA to encourage the adoption of a number of labour saving technologies through a process of on-farm testing, adaptation and evaluation of technologies such as electronic identification (EID) and remote monitoring devices.

The [100%+ Club](#) represent producers from a range of sheep enterprises and locations who have been recognised for having achieved 100% or more lamb marking across their entire breeding flock (excluding ewe lambs) and irrespective of breed.

[Lambex](#) is an informative and inspirational two-day conference, trade show and gala dinner which brings together producers, processors, exporters, service providers and food service professionals to present the latest research in the Australian lamb industry. This year it is being held in Albury, NSW on the 11 – 12 August, with pre-conference tours on 10 August.

In order to add value to the opportunity our post-conference tour will be held over 13 – 17 August and consists of targeted visits to innovative, leading sheep producers in NSW and Victoria who are using a range of technology including electronic identification (EID), Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs), Genomics and Labour – saving devices. In addition the tour will include visits to The Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation associated with Charles Sturt university and the Rutherglen Research Centre in Victoria.

We are seeking suitable applicants who are involved in the management of a sheep enterprise with a future view of maintaining numbers and/or expanding. Successful applicants will be supported to share their findings via a brief written and oral presentation at an AgConnect event, an industry forum or a grower forum.

DAFWA will cover the costs of Lambex registration, accommodation, transport and evening meals. AgConnect members will need to pay 50% of their airfare costs (organised by DAFWA) and pay for their own lunches.

To apply, please address the criteria outlined below. Applications should be no more than two pages long. Applications can be submitted on the [SmartyGrants](#) website. Applications are due by Friday, 3 June.

Application criteria

1. Please outline the current size, future plans and breeding objective for your sheep enterprise.
2. Have you tried electronic identification (EID) technology in your sheep enterprise? If not, are you interesting in using this technology in the future?
3. Have you achieved a 100% lambing percentage in your breeding ewes (excluding ewe lambs) over the last 3 years? If not, what steps are you implementing to lift your lambing percentage?
4. What labour – saving technology and devices have you introduced in your sheep enterprise to increase your labour efficiency? Or what technologies interest you?
5. What is required to encourage more young farmers (18 – 35) to either run more sheep or introduce sheep if they are 100% crop focused?