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Shearing Safety Surveys launched to assist in shed safety

WA Shearing Industry Association (WASIA) in partnership with Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) have launched two new shearing safety surveys to assist in shed safety training.

WASIA President, Darren Spencer highlighted that shearing is a high-risk occupation. “Our goal is to use the information from the surveys to develop programs for those who work in shearing sheds and for woolgrowers,” Darren explained.

“We are developing a program to assist in improving conditions for those working in shearing sheds and improve compliance with modern workplace standards to reduce risk and injuries and to reduce insurance and worker’s compensation claims. As an industry we need to ensure we are doing everything to reduce the likelihood of injuries and accidents occurring in our shearing sheds and increase our ability to attract and keep shed staff.

“This is a great opportunity for woolgrowers and shed workers and contractors to have their say and provide input to contribute their understanding of the issues and practices of working in shearing sheds. The program is funded by AWI as they recognise the importance of developing National Shearing Shed Safety Assessment resources.”

AWI General Manager Woolgrower Services, Stephen Feighan said AWI is committed to providing practical information and tools to help growers with their on-farm decision making, improving profitability and sustainability. “We’re encouraged that the Shed Safety Assessment being designed under this project will be applicable right around Australia,” Stephen highlighted.

WASIA Program Manager Valerie Pretzel explained the organisation approached AWI for funding to re-develop the successful shearing shed safety program that was rolled out in 2006.

“It is great that AWI saw the importance of developing the tools for woolgrowers to have their shearing sheds assessed for hazard and risk identification and guide them on improvements,” Valerie shared.

The information collected via the surveys will assist in developing shearing shed best practice guidelines and shed safety assessment criteria.

The surveys are available online until 30 December 2018 and can be found from the WASIA website at wasia.com.au/services/wsh/ or on the AWI website at www.wool.com/shedsafety

About the program

The Shearing Shed Safety Assessment Program is targeted at shed owners to provide the knowledge, skills and tools to effectively manage their duty-of-care and workplace obligations.

Program Developers



Australian Wool
Innovation Limited



WA SHEARING INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION (INC)

Program Partner



The Program will also gather valuable data regarding the overall state of shearing sheds, hazards and measured improvements.

Program Developers, AWI and WASIA, have welcomed Program Partner, CGU, on board. CGU is a leading rural insurer and a top three provider of workers compensation and are supporting this program as part of their commitment to reduce workplace injuries and achieve sustainable return to work outcomes.

The Program is an industry collaboration, harnessing the support of industry with Pastoralists & Graziers WA, WA Farmers' Federation, Safe Farms WA and Shearing Contractors' Association of Australia.

Chairman of the PGA Livestock Committee Mr Chris Patmore said; "The PGA encourages all farmers to get on-board with this WASIA initiative. This survey will allow woolgrowers to have their say and help develop a program that reduces the likelihood of injuries and accidents occurring in shearing sheds. Industry needs to reduce its lost time injury rate if it wants to put downward pressure on workers compensation insurance premiums."

Maree Gooch, Executive Officer of Safe Farms WA said "Safe Farms WA is proud to be a Program Supporter. We believe this is an excellent program as it will go a long way towards ensuring that all of the wool industry is 'on the same page' and working together to improve safety, health and wellbeing".

Jo Hall, CEO of Wool Producers Australia agrees, "The program is a wonderful industry-led initiative aimed at making the wool harvesting workplace safer for all participants. Workplace, health and safety is key priority for WoolProducers Australia and the wider wool industry and the WASIA program will target one of the most exposed areas in our industry – shearing safety." Jo continues, "As a body representing woolgrowers, we realise the legal requirements and responsibilities that our constituents have in providing a safe workplace for shearers and wool handlers, this program will assist our members fulfil their legal obligations in keeping their workers and contractors safe during their employ."

WA Farmers Federation, Livestock Vice President Steve McGuire said, "WA Farmers strongly supports the implementation of the Shearing Shed Safety Assessment Program. It is the responsibility of the entire industry, from the roustabout to the wool grower, to ensure all workers have a safe working environment. I encourage all those within the industry to take part in the survey which is the first stage of the assessment program."

Ends

For further information:

Contact WASIA Program Manager, Valerie Pretzel on 0412 227 252 or email admin@wasia.com.au