

Final report

The National Goat Roadshow, events 17-19

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Abstract

Meat & Livestock Australia produces a range of resources and tools to assist goat producers to improve their profitability and productivity.

The events held during this project have delivered on project's objectives to:

- be used as feeder (recruitment) activities for the MLA EDGE and Profitable Grazing Systems (PGS) programs;
- to raise awareness for new resources and the goat industry more generally;
- to drive an improved understanding between farmed and rangeland producers how the needs and operation styles of each system differ significantly; and
- to provide a goat industry platform to engage with producers from across different production zones, goat systems, and different experience levels.

The goat roadshow webinars were designed to target existing and potential commercial goat producers from across Australia. This report covers the final three webinars in the series held across 2023 and 2024, with the topics of kid loss, fit to load and carbon sustainability.

A total of 19 events have been held, both in person (6) and online (13), with a total of 2295 producers engaged through the online events since July 2020.

In webinars 17, 18 and 19, a total of 590 people registered to attend the webinars, with 171 attending live (average 28% live attendance rate), which is consistent with industry averages. There have been a further 840+ views of the webinars on YouTube, showing a highly engaged audience.

Producer case studies have been developed with each of the final three webinar events to further extend key messages.

Executive summary

An overview of the success of the three webinars can be summarised as follows:

- Webinar #17 – 251 people registered. On the day, there were 67 unique views, a 27% live attendance rate. Attendees rated the **value** of the webinar 7.32/10 and indicated their **satisfaction** with the webinar was 7.36/10. About 50% of producers indicated they planned to make changes to their business as a result of attending.
- Webinar #18 - 122 people registered. On the day, there were 30 unique views, a 25% live attendance rate. Attendees rated the **value** of the webinar 7.33/10 and indicated their **satisfaction** with the webinar was 7.83/10. About a third of producers planned to make changes to their business as a result of attending.
- Webinar #19 - 217 people registered. On the day, there were 74 unique views, a 34% live attendance rate. Attendees rated the **value** of the webinar 6.59/10 and indicated their **satisfaction** with the webinar was 7.45/10. About 50% of producers planned to make changes to their business as a result of attending.

Post-webinar feedback indicates the content was valuable and relevant, with the webinars creating awareness of the goat industry and MLA goat resources and increasing practice change.

The Goat Roadshow webinars have provided a successful platform to promote topics of relevance and interest to a wide range of goat producers and industry professionals across Australia. If MLA decides to invest in the Goat Roadshow events in the future, the feedback from this project indicates that webinars are a useful way to engage producers.

One of the main benefits of webinars is their accessibility across a wide geographical region, which enables MLA to reach producers in remote locations and across Australia in just one event. The other benefit is the ability to record the presentations and provide these to a wider audience through the MLA website and YouTube channels. This also provides legacy content for future audiences.

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1. Background

Meat & Livestock Australia has produced a range of resources and tools to assist goat producers in improving their profitability and productivity. The National Goat Roadshow came about because there was a need to both raise awareness within the industry of these new resources and to increase usage, and to recruit producers into Category B and C extension programs for long-term business gains.

The project was set up to execute a series of events in major goat production areas in 2018-19 and 2019-20 to target both existing and potential commercial goat producers. These multi-purpose events were:

- To be used as feeder (recruitment) activities for the MLA EDGE and Profitable Grazing Systems (PGS) programs with clear attendance and enrolment targets for each event.
- Awareness raising for new resources and the goat industry more generally.
- To drive an improved understanding between farmed and rangeland producers how the needs and operation styles of each system differ significantly.
- To provide a goat industry platform to engage with producers from across different production zones, goat systems, and different experience levels.

With COVID-19 restricting face to face delivery during 2020, the workshop delivery was taken online in a webinar format from July 2020. Since then, 13 online webinars have been successfully held, engaging more than 2295 goat producers and industry participants.

This final report covers the final three webinars in this series – webinars 17, 18 and 19. Overall, these three webinars had great interest with more than 200 people registering for two of the webinars, and slightly lower number of registrations for the third. The topics of the three webinars – kid loss, fit to load and carbon sustainability – were determined through consultation with MLA and goat industry representatives and were presented in a way to be relevant to rangeland and farmed goat producers as well as industry participants.

Post-webinar feedback indicates the content was valuable and relevant.

Webinar metrics have been supplied to MLA within a month of each webinar and are included in this report. Three case studies have also been produced and provided to MLA.

2. Objectives

The objectives of these webinars, at a high level, were to engage goat producers from different production zones, goat systems and experience levels, and provide information and resources to improve understanding on key topics.

The project in its entirety was intended to reach a minimum of 480 producers. In these three webinars alone, this number has been exceeded, with a total of 590 registrations.

An overview of the success of the three webinars can be summarised as follows:

- Webinar #17 – 251 people registered. On the day, there were 67 unique views, a 27% live attendance rate. Attendees rated the **value** of the webinar 7.32/10 and indicated their **satisfaction** with the webinar was 7.36/10. About 50% of producers indicated they planned to make changes to their business as a result of attending.
- Webinar #18 - 122 people registered. On the day, there were 30 unique views, a 25% live attendance rate. Attendees rated the **value** of the webinar 7.33/10 and indicated their **satisfaction** with the webinar was 7.83/10. About a third of producers planned to make changes to their business as a result of attending.
- Webinar #19 - 217 people registered. On the day, there were 74 unique views, a 34% live attendance rate. Attendees rated the **value** of the webinar 6.59/10 and indicated their **satisfaction** with the webinar was 7.45/10. About 50% of producers planned to make changes to their business as a result of attending.

In addition, video recordings of each of the webinars have been created and uploaded to YouTube, further promoting the industry topics and resources available to goat producers and boosting reach and engagement. These recordings have been viewed more than 840 times.

Three case studies have also been written and provided to MLA for publication on their website, to further engage producers following the webinars.

3. Methodology

In conjunction with MLA, a topic for each webinar session was decided and a list of possible speakers was developed. AgCommunicators contacted each suggested speaker to find out their availability and confirm their attendance. The dates the speakers were available were provided to MLA and the final date and time were decided.

AgCommunicators sent each speaker a 'speaker brief' which provided them more information about the session, information required for promotion and what should be discussed during the presentation. Liaison with the speakers continued up to and on the day of the event.

From there, a planning document for each webinar was developed by AgCommunicators. This planning document contained social media text and tiles, the program layout, flyer text, short bios for each speaker, text for a short Goats on the Move promotional article and the pre- and post-webinar survey questions. This content was sent to MLA for approvals.

The pre-webinar survey questions were used to obtain more information about the registrants including their position in the industry, how many goats they work with and their breed, what they were looking to achieve in the industry and what they were looking to get out of the webinar session. This also provided them the opportunity to ask speakers questions prior to the session. The post-webinar survey, set up in Survey Monkey, aimed to collate information about the success of the session, what attendees thought of each speaker and what they learnt.

Once the content in the planning document was approved, the online agenda was designed by AgCommunicators. The rest of the digital assets include a Zoom event banner, FB event banner and Survey Monkey post-webinar survey tile were also developed.

AgCommunicators set up the event in Zoom, including the pre-registration questions and branding. Each speaker and the MLA facilitator were provided panellist event invitations for the session. Introduction and closing slides for the event were designed and sent to MLA for use by the facilitator.

An email was sent to registrants from the previous webinars and roadshows and a stakeholder list for promotion. This was where most of the registrations for the webinar sessions came from. Promotional material was also added into Goats on the Move and on the MLA events webpage. Social media (Facebook and Twitter) content was posted on the AgCommunicators social pages and shared by MLA.

A practice session for the webinar was scheduled in the week prior to the actual event. The practice session provided speakers with a rundown on how the event will be run on the day, allowed them to ask any questions they may have and also test their video and audio capabilities to ensure the event would run smoothly. Prior to the practice session, AgCommunicators developed a document containing pre-registration information including the number of registrants so far, their demographic and size of their operation and any questions they had for the speakers. This helped each speaker prepare their presentation in more detail leading up to the event.

A day prior to the event, the pre-registration information document was updated to provide speakers with up-to-date registration information regarding the event.

On the day, AgCommunicators, the MLA facilitator and the speakers met online 15 minutes prior to the start of the event to make sure all video and sound was working properly. AgCommunicators recorded the event once it started and managed the entry of attendees into the session. During the

session, AgCommunicators also ensured attendees questions were answered and were available to troubleshoot any technical difficulties. At the end of the session, the post-webinar survey link, along with other important resource links provided by MLA, were shared in the chat function in Zoom.

Once all the Q&A questions were answered, AgCommunicators was responsible for closing the event and collating the registration and attendee data and the zoom recording file. The recording was edited down and sent to MLA to be uploaded to YouTube. A final link of the recording was provided to AgCommunicators from MLA to send in a post-webinar email to attendees and registrants, along with access to the resources mentioned during the event and the link to the post-webinar survey.

A week after the post-webinar email was sent, the post-webinar survey data was analysed. During this time, AgCommunicators also selected and reached out to a producer involved in the webinar session who was suitable for a case study. AgCommunicators interviewed the producer, drafted the article, followed up approvals with the producer and MLA and sourced appropriate imagery for the article. The final article was then sent to MLA for publication.

The following summarises the methodology for each of the three webinars.

3.1 Webinar 17 – Wednesday 4 October 2023

Webinar title: Understanding and reducing kid loss.

Content:

Do you understand why perinatal kid loss occurs? Or how to increase your kidding percentage? This FREE Meat & Livestock Australia Goat Roadshow Webinar is designed to improve producer awareness of the factors causing kid loss and management strategies to improve outcomes. Recent research has estimated the scale of kid loss to the goat industry could be as high as \$1.45 million per year - a significant cost to the industry. As goat producers, this is a major hit to your bottom line. Hear from NSW DPI Research Scientist Dr Gordon Refshauge, and producers James Boland and Craig Stewart, who will share research insights and provide practical tips of on-farm strategies to manage weight and condition, nutritional requirements, environmental factors and disease for better outcomes.

Speakers:

1. *Vanessa Thomas – Project Manager, Sheep and Goat Productivity, MLA*
2. *Dr Gordon Refshauge – Research Scientist and Institute Director, Livestock Systems, Department of Regional NSW*
Understand how to boost your kidding percentage - Gordon will share insights from this project, outlining how producers can take advantage of the huge opportunities that exist in goat herds for high reproductivity through careful attention on-farm management.
3. *James Boland – Big Ampy Pastoral*
Case Study: Practical strategies to reduce kid loss - As a participant in MLA's Reducing Kid Loss project, Big Ampy Pastoral contributed to the 2019 data collection and project outcomes. Spurred on to balance contemporary research with traditional husbandry techniques, James continued to collect data during 2020 and will share his insights on management of maidens, nutrition in late gestation and out-of-season joining.
4. *Craig Stewart – Buena Vista, Collie, NSW / The Gourmet Goat Lady*
Case Study: Practical strategies to reduce kid loss - Award-winning NSW goat producers, Jo and Craig Stewart, who produce their own paddock-to-plate branded goatmeat under their brand The Gourmet Goat Lady, were also participants in MLA's Reducing Kid Loss project. Craig will talk about his farmed goat operation and managing reproduction.

The session began at 7pm AEDT and closed at 8:30pm. Former MLA project manager Vanessa Thomas introduced the session with an outline of the webinar agenda and then handed over to Gordon Refshauge, who spoke about his research into boosting kidding rates. This webinar featured two producer case studies – James Boland from Big Ampy Pastoral and Craig Stewart from Buena Vista. Both were participants in the Reducing Kid Loss project and spoke about their involvement and ongoing challenges in increasing kidding rates. After all presentations, Vanessa facilitated a live Q&A session. She then concluded by providing some MLA resources and tools available to goat producers.



[Agenda](#)



[Facebook event](#)



[X post](#)



[Webinar recording](#)

Case study: Craig Stewart - this case study has been provided to MLA for publication.

3.2 Webinar 18 – Tuesday 19 March 2024

Webinar title: Are your goats fit to load?

Content:

Are you planning to sell goats soon? Make sure you understand your roles and responsibilities in ensuring animals are fit to travel before you start loading. This FREE Meat & Livestock Australia Goat Roadshow Webinar is designed to provide useful and practical insights on how to ensure your goats are fit to load before transport. Hear from NSW DPI's Dr Petrea Wait, Agriculture Victoria's Dr Berwyn Squire and Integrity Systems Company's Elizabeth Bradley who will provide an overview of the Fit to Load legislation, plus on farm advice for ensuring you meet animal welfare obligations, including the importance of checking animals prior to transport, your responsibilities and how to comply with NVD and NLIS requirements.

Goat producers are invited to learn more on:

- Understanding when an animal is and isn't fit to make a journey.
- Preparing animals for transport.
- Individual roles and responsibilities in ensuring animal welfare.
- Livestock traceability - understanding LPA requirements around animal welfare, completing NVDs and updating the NLIS database.
- Practical tips and resources available.

Speakers:

1. *Dr Daniel Forwood – Project Manager, Sheep and Goat Productivity, MLA*
2. *Dr Berwyn Squire - Goat Health Veterinary Officer, Biosecurity and Agriculture Services, Agriculture Victoria*
Things you can do on-farm to ensure your animal is fit to load - animal welfare obligations on-farm.
3. *Dr Petrea Wait - Senior Program and Project Officer, Animal Welfare Unit, NSW Department of Primary Industries*
High level overview - What is fit to load? Why is it important?
4. *Elizabeth Bradley - Manager – Quality, Policy and Compliance, Integrity Systems Company*
Livestock traceability – LPA NVDs and NLIS

The session began at 7pm AEDT and closed at 8:40pm. Dr Daniel Forwood introduced the session with an overview of the webinar and facilitated the session. Berwyn spoke first and covered on-farm animal welfare obligations in ensuring animals are fit to load. Petrea then provided a legislative overview of the fit to load requirements and how producers can ensure they are meeting the standards. Elizabeth spoke about the livestock traceability requirements including LPA NVDs and recording movements in the NLIS database. After all presentations, Daniel facilitated a live Q&A session where questions from the pre-registration survey, along with questions asked during the webinar session by attendees, were asked to each speaker.



GOAT WEBINAR + Q&A
An online workshop delivered as part of the MLA Goat Roadshow series
Tuesday 19 March 2024 | 7:00pm – 8:30pm AEDT

Are your goats fit to load?
Are you planning to sell goats soon? Make sure you understand your roles and responsibilities in ensuring animals are fit to travel before you start loading.

This FREE Meat & Livestock Australia Goat Roadshow Webinar is designed to provide useful and practical insights on how to ensure your goats are fit to load before transport.

Hear from NSW DPI's Dr Petrea Wait, Agriculture Victoria's Dr Berwyn Squire and Integrity Systems Company's Elizabeth Bradley who will provide an overview of the Fit to Load legislation, plus on-farm advice for ensuring you meet animal welfare obligations, including the importance of checking animals prior to transport, your responsibilities and how to comply with NVD and NLS requirements.

Goat producers are invited to learn more on:

- Understanding when an animal is and isn't fit to make a journey.
- Preparing animals for transport.
- Individual roles and responsibilities in ensuring animal welfare.
- Livestock traceability - understanding LPA requirements around animal welfare, completing NVDs and updating the NLS database.
- Practical tips and resources available.

Make sure you understand your responsibilities in ensuring compliance with the Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines by the Land Transport of Livestock.



[Agenda](#)



MLA Goat Roadshow
GOAT WEBINAR + Q&A.
Are your goats fit to load?



Dr Daniel Forwood
MLA
MLA resources available

Dr Berwyn Squire
Agriculture Victoria
On-farm animal welfare obligations

Dr Petrea Wait
NSW DPI
What is fit to load and why is it important?

Elizabeth Bradley
Integrity Systems Co
LPA, NVDs and the NLS database

**Tuesday 19 March
7 - 8:30pm AEDT**

REGISTER NOW!

[Facebook event](#)



MLA Goat Roadshow
GOAT WEBINAR + Q&A.
Are your goats fit to load?

Tuesday 19 March, 7pm - 8:30pm AEDT
FREE. Register today.
bit.ly/MLAGoats-March24



[X post](#)



MLA Goat Roadshow
GOAT WEBINAR + Q&A
Welcome!
Tuesday 19 March 2024

• Speakers:

- Dr Daniel Forwood, MLA
- Dr Berwyn Squire, Agriculture Victoria
- Dr Petrea Wait, NSW DPI
- Elizabeth Bradley, Integrity Systems Company



[Webinar recording](#)

Case study: As there was no producer case study on this webinar, MLA and AgCommunicators agreed to interview SA goat producer Andrew Smith for this case study. This has been provided to MLA for publication.

3.3 Webinar 19 – Tuesday 21 May 2024

Webinar title: How goats can be part of the carbon sustainability system

Content:

Understanding carbon emissions and sustainability in rangeland and farmed goat situations is essential as the Australian livestock industry moves towards meeting carbon targets. As goat producers, you're invited to learn about how goats can be part of the carbon sustainability system in this FREE Meat & Livestock Australia webinar. Speakers will provide an overview of current research in this field, as well as useful and practical insights on ways to improve your understanding and increase sustainability.

Hear from:

- University of Queensland’s Senior Lecturer in Animal Science and Production Dr Sarah Meale: project leader on the Goat Industry Sustainability Credentials Project which is aiming to quantify greenhouse gas emissions from goats, assess carbon balance and potential for sequestration.
- MLA’s Project Manager - Sustainability Adoption Hilary Connors and Agrista consultant Tanisha Shields on the Carbon Edge package: a training program for the red meat industry, providing an understanding of the opportunities for emissions reduction and carbon storage activities in a livestock grazing business.
- MLA’s Project Manager - Environmental Markets and Sustainability Jenny Lim on the Carbon Calculator: online greenhouse gas calculator, updated earlier this year to include goat systems, which enables producers to increase carbon awareness and determine their net GHG emissions position.
- Producer case study – James Nalder, Coonamble, NSW

Speakers:

1. *Dr Daniel Forwood – Project Manager, Sheep and Goat Productivity, MLA*
2. *Dr Sarah Meale – Senior Lecturer in Animal Science and Production, University of Queensland*
Goat Industry Sustainability Credentials Project - This three-year project aims to quantify the greenhouse gas emissions of goats and assess the carbon balance and potential for sequestration for producers on demonstration sites.
3. *Hilary Connors – Project Manager, Sustainability Adoption, MLA and Tanisha Shields – Consultant, Agrista*
MLA Carbon Edge - Two-day training program to help producers understand opportunities for emissions reduction and carbon storage activities in a livestock grazing business.
4. *Jenny Lim – Project Manager, Environmental Markets and Sustainability, MLA*
MLA Carbon Calculator - Increase carbon awareness and determine net GHG emissions position.
5. *Producer Case Study – James Nalder, Coonamble, NSW*
James and wife Emma are commercial goat producers based in Coonamble, Central West NSW. James and Emma run a mixture of rangeland, XB, Boer and Contender genetics. Integrating their commercial-scale goat production with an Angus beef operation and cropping system, James and Emma are no strangers to driving production forward using on-farm data and the best available information.

The session began at 7pm AEDT and closed at 8:40pm. Daniel Forwood introduced and facilitated the session, starting with an outline of the agenda. The first speaker was Dr Sarah Meale, who spoke about early results from the Goat Industry Sustainability Credentials Project which aims to quantify the greenhouse gas emissions of goats. Following Sarah, Hilary Connors and Tanisha Shields spoke about the MLA Carbon Edge training program designed to help producers understand opportunities for emissions reduction and carbon storage activities. They spoke about what was involved in the two-day training course. MLA’s Jenny Lim then spoke about the MLA Carbon Calculator and showed how producers could use this to determine their net GHG emissions position. Producer James Nalder then provided some insight into how they are using data to improve their goat operations. There was strong engagement in the Q&A box, with at least 21 questions asked and answered. Due to time constraints, there wasn’t a longer Q&A session at the end of the session. Daniel wrapped up the session, providing some MLA resources and tools available to goat producers.



GOAT WEBINAR + Q&A

An online workshop delivered as part of the MLA Goat Roadshow series

Tuesday 21 May 2024 | 7:00pm – 8:30pm AEST

How goats can be part of the carbon sustainability system

Understanding carbon emissions and sustainability in rangeland and farmed goat situations is essential as the Australian livestock industry moves towards meeting carbon targets.

As goat producers, you're invited to learn about how goats can be part of the carbon sustainability system in this FREE Meat & Livestock Australia webinar.

Speakers will provide an overview of current research in this field, as well as useful and practical insights on ways to improve your understanding and increase sustainability.

Hear from:

- University of Queensland's Senior Lecturer in Animal Science and Production Dr Sarah Meale, project leader on the 'Goat Industry Sustainability Credentials Project' which is aiming to quantify greenhouse gas emissions from goats, assess carbon balance and potential for sequestration
- MLA's Project Manager - Sustainability Adoption Hilary Connors and Agrista consultant Tanisha Shields on the Carbon Edge package, a training program for the red meat industry, providing an understanding of the opportunities for emissions reduction and carbon storage activities in a livestock grazing business.
- MLA's Project Manager - Environmental Markets and Sustainability Jenny Lim on the Carbon Calculator, an online greenhouse gas calculator, updated earlier this year to include goat systems, which enables producers to increase carbon awareness and determine their net GHG emissions position.
- Producer case study.



Agenda



MLA Goat Roadshow
WEBINAR + Q&A
How goats can be part of the carbon sustainability system

Speakers: Dr Daniel Forwood (MLA), Dr Sarah Meale (University of Queensland), Hilary Connors (MLA), Tanisha Shields (Agrista), Jenny Lim (MLA), James Nalder (Coonamble).

Tuesday 21 May 7 - 8:30pm AEST

REGISTER NOW!
<https://bit.ly/MLAGoats-May24>

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MLA Goat Roadshow
WEBINAR + Q&A

How goats can be part of the carbon sustainability system

Speakers: Dr Daniel Forwood (MLA), Dr Sarah Meale (University of Queensland), Hilary Connors (MLA), Tanisha Shields (Agrista), Jenny Lim (MLA), James Nalder (Coonamble).

Tuesday 21 May 7 - 8:30pm AEST

REGISTER NOW!
<https://bit.ly/MLAGoats-May24>

Facebook event



MLA Goat Roadshow
GOAT WEBINAR + Q&A

Welcome!
Tuesday 21 May 2024

Speakers:

- Dr Daniel Forwood, MLA
- Dr Sarah Meale, University of Qld
- Hilary Connors, MLA
- Tanisha Shields, Agrista
- Jenny Lim, MLA
- James Nalder, producer, Coonamble

REGISTER NOW!
<https://bit.ly/MLAGoats-May24>

Webinar recording

Case study: James Nalder – this case study has been provided to MLA for publication.

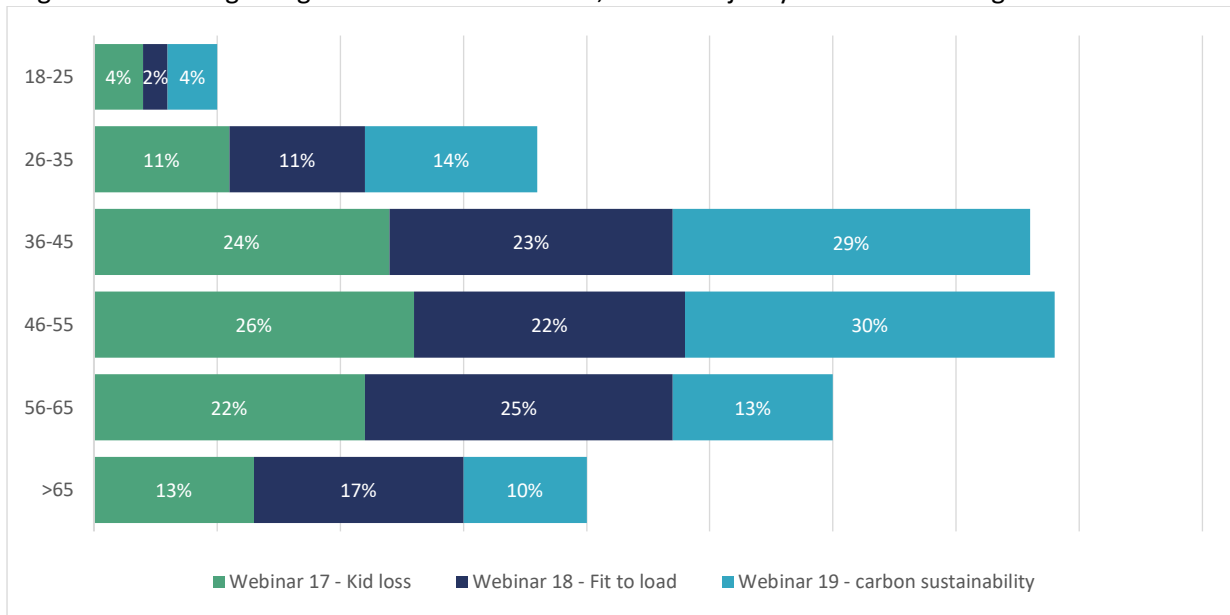
4. Results

These webinars have been successful in engaging goat producers across a range of systems and locations across Australia. In total, 590 people have registered for these three webinars, with 171 attending live (average 28% live attendance rate). There have been a further 842 views of the webinars on YouTube, showing a highly engaged audience.

Summary demographic data for all three webinars is provided below, with detailed reporting for each webinar also provided:

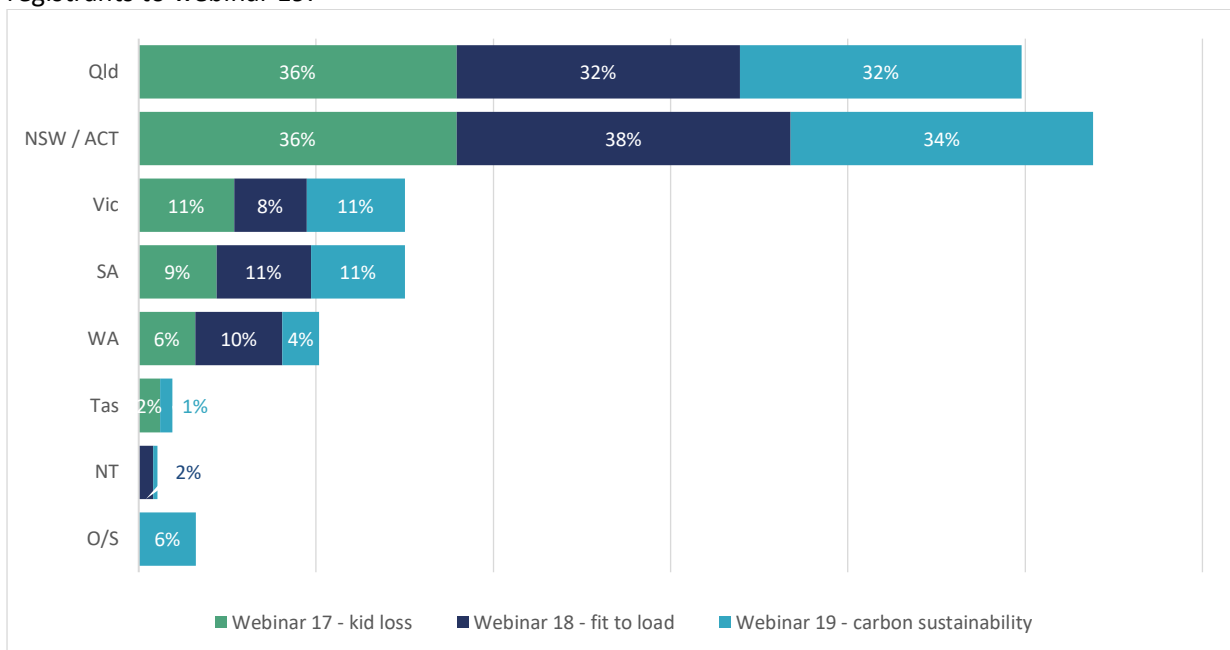
Age of webinar registrants:

Registrants of all ages registered for the webinars, with a majority in the 36 to 55 age brackets.



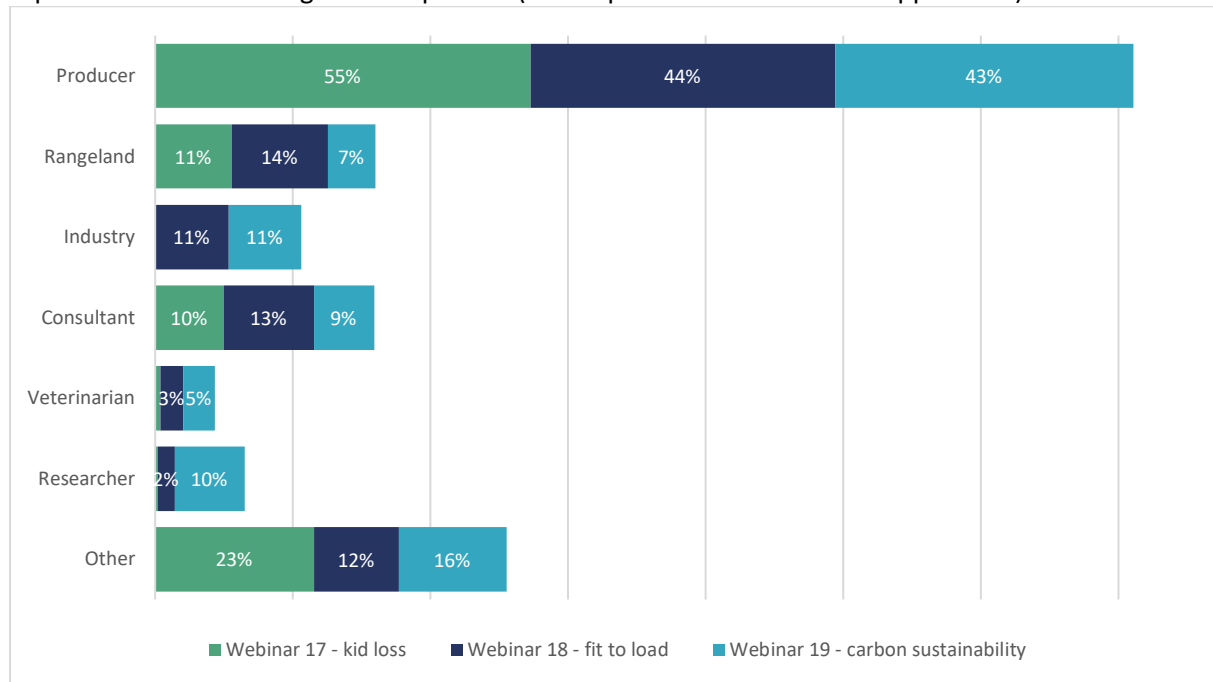
Geographical distribution:

Geographically, the registrants were spread right across Australia, however, the vast majority were located in Queensland, New South Wales and ACT. Interestingly, there were at least 14 overseas registrants to webinar 19.



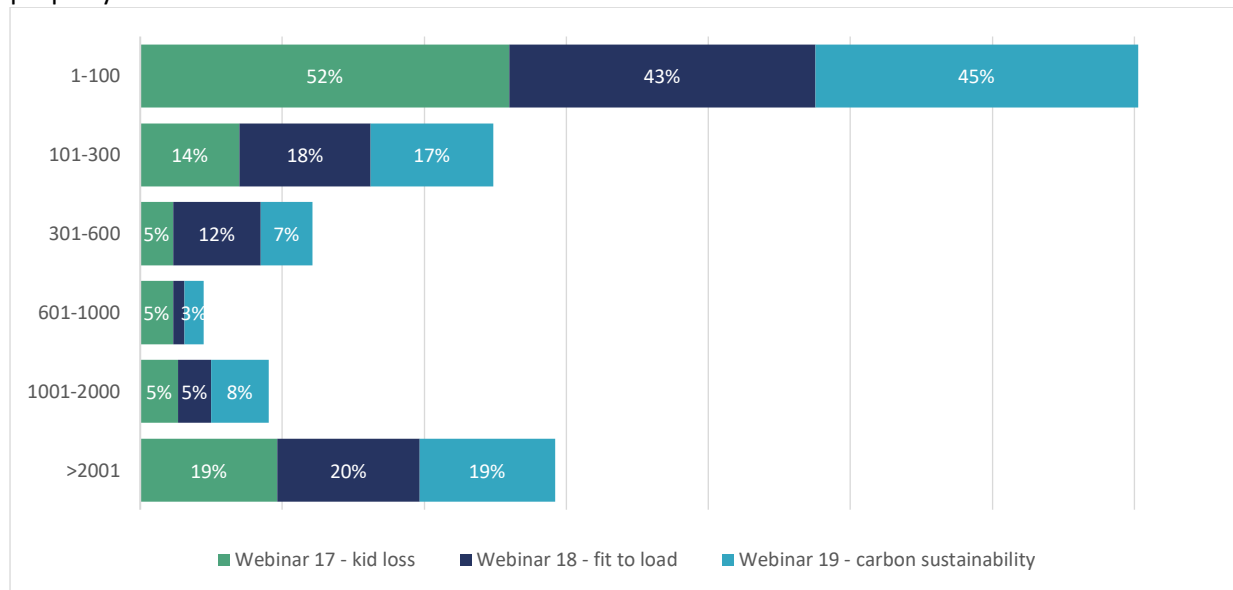
Occupation:

The largest group represented in the webinars was producers, however, there were also a range of attendees from industry, consulting, research and veterinarians. Those who selected “other” represented a broad range of occupations (full responses are included in Appendix 1).



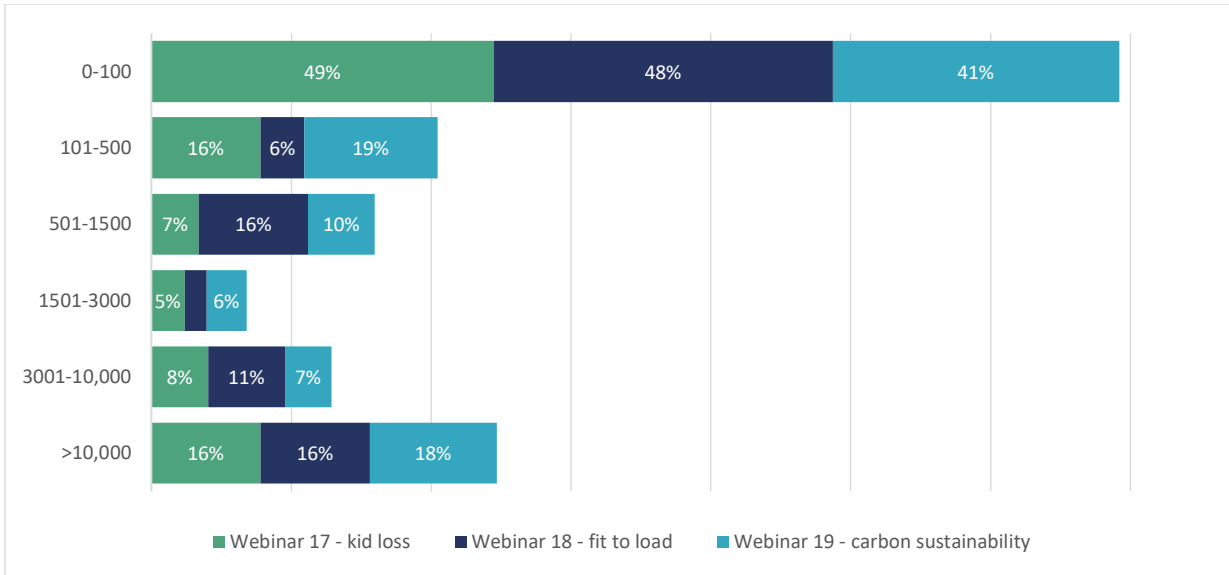
Number of goats on property:

The below graph demonstrates the huge range in producers attending these webinars. At one end of the scale, a majority of producers indicated they had less than 100 goats on their property, while there were approx. 20% of producers on each webinar who had more than 2000 goats on their property.



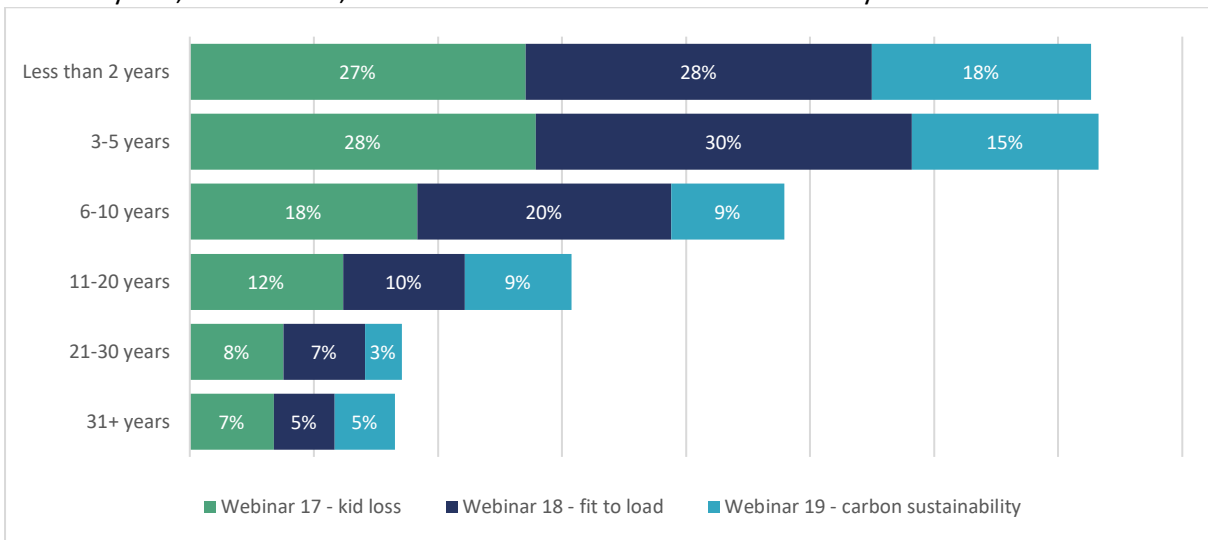
Size of property:

Registration data sought to understand the number of hectares being managed by goat producers. Again, there was a wide spread of participants – from those with less than 100 hectares to those with more than 10,000 hectares. There were also a significant number who indicated they managed property between 101 and 500 hectares.



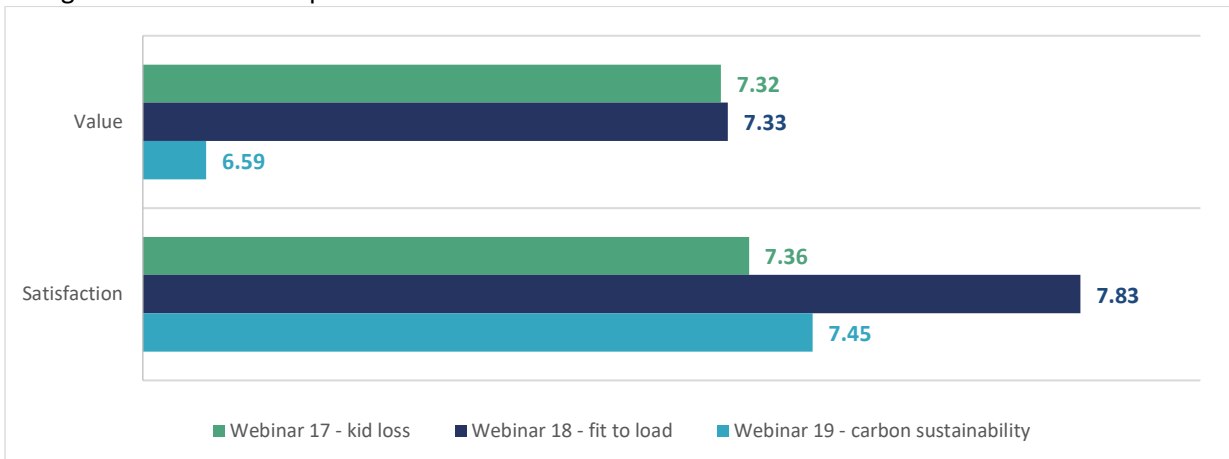
Length of time in industry:

The majority of registrants are relatively new to the industry. Most have been in the industry for less than ten years, and of those, most have been involved for less than five years.



Overall value / satisfaction ratings:

The post-webinar survey asked two questions of participants on the value of the webinar for their business and their overall satisfaction with the webinar. Generally, each webinar received high ratings for both of these questions.



4.1 Webinar 17 – Wednesday 4 October 2023

In total, 251 people registered to attend webinar #17. On the day, there were 67 unique views, a 27% live attendance rate. Attendees rated the **value** of the webinar 7.32/10 and indicated their **satisfaction** with the webinar was 7.36/10.

Demographics:

Of the registrants, 100 were male and 146 were female. From the registration list, 86 were consultants/industry and 165 were producers. About 12 registrants indicated they were looking at getting into goats for the first time, with a further 10 looking to diversify their current livestock enterprise.

Age	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	>65
#	10	28	59	66	56	32

State	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	ACT	Tas	O/S
#	90	90	27	22	16	6	0	-

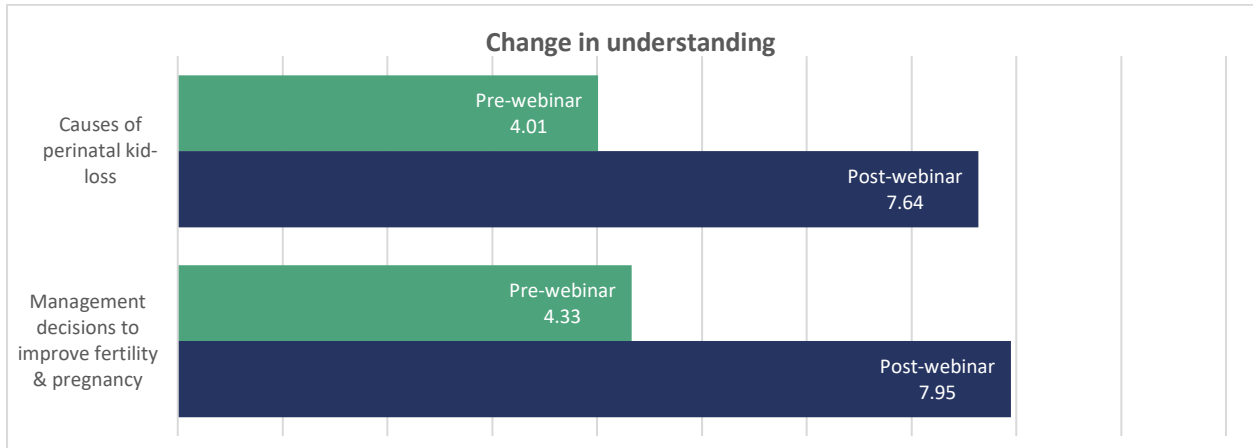
Knowledge:

Most of the attendees were interested in increasing their knowledge on increasing survival rates, preventing kid loss, increasing fertility and nutrition requirements. Some of the topics listed during registration were (full responses are included in Appendix 2):

- Better understanding of strategies to improve kid loss & on farm practical tips to get better results
- How to minimise kid loss and how to increase kidding percentage
- Better nutrition for pregnant does. Factors affecting kid survival.
- How nutrition helps with perinatal kid loss and what are the best supplements, when to administer, is it better to control join
- improve understanding of nutritional requirements pre kidding, pre and post kidding doe management.
- Managing multiples when nutrition declining and possible diseases to watch for e.g. campylobacter
- About hypothermia; Genetic inherited diseases causing mortality in goat kids
- All I can on feed grasses soil minerals birthing foot care parasite tick care all of this effects in production.
- Best practice goat management and specific things I would have to consider which are different to sheep management.
- Feeding strategies to improve doe colostrum and transition milk quality (IgG and IgA), doe heat stress and foetal programming
- Identify perinatal loss and what's required for testing (what samples, how to package, where to send)
- Management of kidding yearlings. Management to reduce abortion losses.
- Optimal mob sizes for highest kid survival and lowering pre kidding abortion rate.
- Practical aspect of goat management to improve survival of kids + knowledge gaps for further research.

Prior to the webinar, on average, registrants rated their knowledge of the causes of perinatal kid-loss at **4.01/10** and their knowledge of important management decisions such as scanning, prenatal nutrition and condition score targets to improve fertility and pregnancy at **4.33/10**.

After the webinar, on average, registrants rated their knowledge of the causes of perinatal kid-loss at **7.64/10** and their knowledge of important management decisions such as scanning, prenatal nutrition and condition score targets to improve fertility and pregnancy at **7.95/10**.

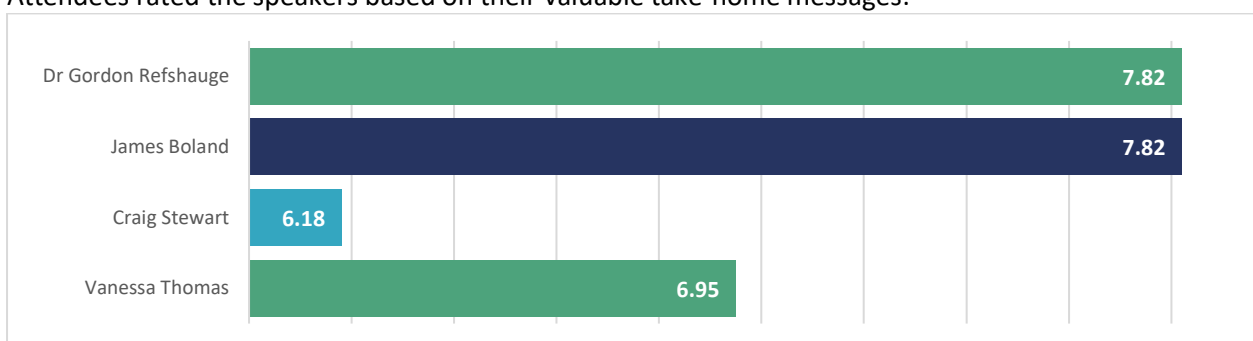


The most useful things attendees learnt from the webinar were (full responses are included in Appendix 3):

- Reinforcement of already existing information - nothing new out there so using best practices. A large commercial operator (Mt Hope) is trying to apply the principles on a commercial basis - this is very unusual for rangeland harvesters.
- Importance of drafting off does with bad teats.
- Kid losses in maidens. Keeping maidens out of breeding until more mature.
- That producers are only new to the goat meat industry. They need more practical advice on better management.
- Checking the nutrition of the goats relating to the bucks and does; and the udders of the does.
- Loss comparison information and nutritional information.
- Nutrition, maiden doe problems.
- 1. Maintaining a consistent feed regime in the last 60 days of gestation. 2. Ensuring that I maintain mothering pen practices for a minimum of only 6 hours - I have been maintaining 48 hrs.
- Advantage in learning other producers experience. More needed on nutrition please.
- Nutrition overall and for bonding with kid.
- Feeding, get around goats more and watch them to learn more of their habits.
- Condition scoring can be used to assess nannies, billy joining %
- technique for BCS in goats. Supplementary feeding minerals.
- Nutritional supplements - ideas for heading into summer prior to weaning. Udder conditions - importance of checking at weaning.
- Body condition score leading into joining and late-stage pregnancy management; statistics around expectations with multiples
- Nutrition prior to pregnancy, maintaining nutrition, reduce handling stress, vegetation coverage, and udder selection.

Speakers:

Attendees rated the speakers based on their valuable take-home messages:



Practice change:

Just under half of survey respondents planned to make changes to their business as a result of attending this event. These changes included (full responses are included in Appendix 4):

- My kidding ratio is up in the 140-150% as I select for mothering abilities and with better management, I have been able to improve kidding percentage by less doe number per paddock better pre kidding management of weight and mineral and vitamin given 3 weeks before kidding providing better shelter and food management for does to kid.
- Starting to think about marking rangeland bucks & interested to see what infrastructure is being used to do this successfully.
- Hobby business only so different considerations to the speakers for nutrition and shelter
- Take more care with maiden doe joining, feeding, and kidding.
- Time allocated to mothering pen / doe delivering a single kid.
- Nutrition more of
- Try and provide more shelter belts.
- Introduce supplementary feeding.
- In Tasmania, will use coats on my kids (small producer) based on observations on windchill and temp on survival.
- Never knew udder selection was so important.

When asked about the timing of the webinar, a majority of responses (77%) indicated they preferred the after-dinner timeslot, with other responses also indicating late afternoon (complete by 6pm) as a preferred timeslot.

Post-webinar engagement:

Post-webinar emails were sent to all those who registered. The email sent to those who attended had an open rate of 73.6% and click rate of 30.6%, while the email to those who registered but did not attend had an open rate of 65.4% and click rate of 23.1%. The industry open rate benchmark is 41%.

The webinar was recorded, and the link was included in the post-webinar emails. It has received 370 views on YouTube.

4.2 Webinar 18 – Tuesday 19 March 2024

In total, 122 people registered to attend webinar #18. On the day, there were 30 unique views of the webinar, a 25% live attendance rate. Attendees rated the **value** of the webinar 7.33/10 and indicated their **satisfaction** with the webinar was 7.83/10.

Demographics:

Of the registrants, 54 were male and 66 were female. From the registration list, 17 were consultants, 14 were industry and 71 were producers.

Age	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	>65
#	3	13	28	27	30	21

State	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	ACT	Tas	O/S
#	39	46	10	13	12	0	2	-

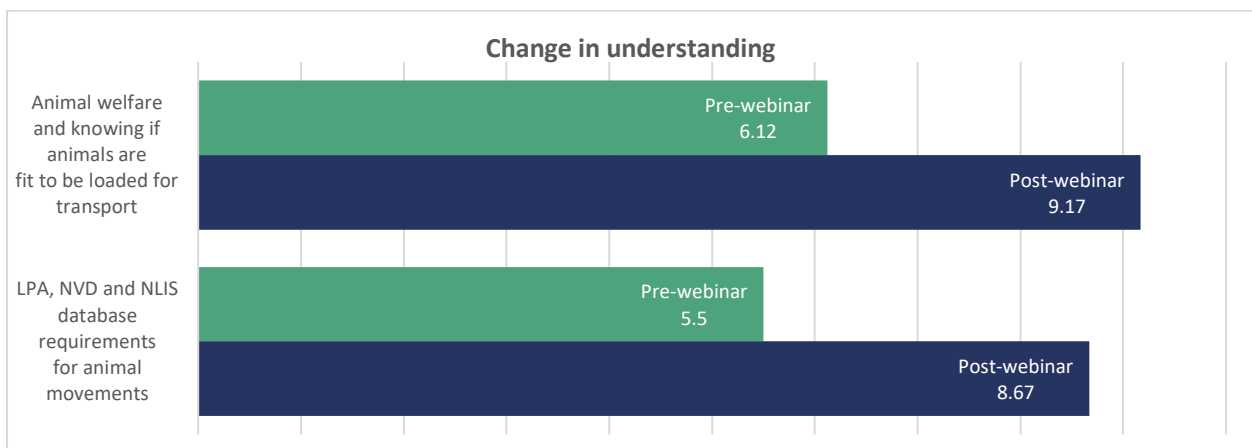
Knowledge:

Most of the attendees were interested in attending to learn about the regulations for fit to load, but also to increase their understanding on requirements around NVDs and the NLIS database. Some topics listed during registration were (full responses are included in Appendix 2):

- Checking that we're using correct animal welfare standards and where we stand in regard to tagging
- fit to load and legal processes with tagging and transport to market / slaughter
- gain confidence in judgement on goats being fit to load. Any suggestions and strategies those already within industry make.
- how to assess fitness to load and what are the new NLIS tag rules commencing Jan 2025
- How to comply with NVD and NLIS requirements. LPA requirements around animal welfare
- Industry requirements & differences between types of goat enterprises
- Insights on best practices for successful and healthy loading and transportation
- More specific points on fitness to load in goats, and more about the most common reasons why goats are unfit to load.
- The process of selling and how to do the paperwork for selling goats
- Welfare standards applying to fit to load for goats. Practical advice for ensuring compliance to the standard.

Prior to the webinar, on average, registrants rated their knowledge of animal welfare and knowing if animals are fit to load at **6.12/10** and their knowledge of LPA, NVD and NLIS database requirements for animal movements at **5.5/10**.

After the webinar, on average, registrants rated their knowledge of animal welfare and knowing if animals are fit to load at **9.17/10** and their knowledge of LPA, NVD and NLIS database requirements for animal movements at **8.67/10**.

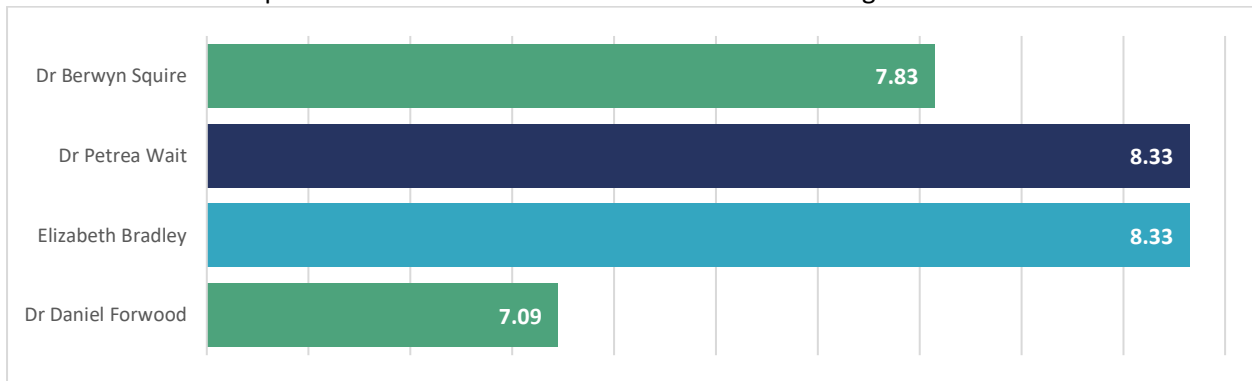


The most useful things attendees learnt from the webinar were (full responses are included in Appendix 3):

- Common sense animal welfare, being fit to load.
- A platform is being laid down, trying to get some stable data base for the goat industry to gain some respect, and become an industry with a future. Producers can't survive with the way its running now, hence high prices then not worth mustering, Rangeland producers can do nothing, then when good times are here, they can flood the market, causing an unreliable goat industry for those that run better management property. We need a stable future to be successful.
- Standards and validation of NVDs.
- Mobile app, goat clubs sharing captive bolt pistols.
- Consideration of not just fit to load but fit for intended journey. If in doubt leave it out.
- NLIS exemption and waybill books can be still used going forward.
- It is good to have a refresh on Fit to Load and LPA/NVD/NLIS database.

Speakers:

Attendees rated the speakers based on their valuable take-home messages:

**Practice change:**

Two of the survey respondents planned to make changes to their business as a result of attending this event. Comments included (full responses are included in Appendix 4):

- Yep, need a bigger office, too many rules and regulations for what is common sense. The indentation making these guidelines are fine, unfortunately those that enforce these rules, read everything to the extreme. Gunna chew on a bit of grass and think about it.
- Have no goats.
- Make more informed loading and transport decisions.
- We have a good practice in place.

When asked about the timing of the webinar, a majority of responses (83%) indicated they preferred the after-dinner timeslot, with other responses also indicating late afternoon (complete by 6pm) as a preferred timeslot.

Post-webinar engagement:

Post-webinar emails were sent to all those who registered. The email sent to those who attended had an open rate of 71.1% and click rate of 18.4%, while the email to those who registered but did not attend had an open rate of 68.1% and click rate of 26.4%. The industry open rate benchmark is 41%.

The webinar was recorded, and the link sent to all who registered. It has received 216 views on YouTube.

4.3 Webinar 19 – Tuesday 21 May 2024

In total, 217 people registered to attend webinar #19. On the day, there were 74 unique views of the webinar, a 34% live attendance rate. Attendees rated the **value** of the webinar 6.59/10 and indicated their **satisfaction** with the webinar was 7.45/10.

Demographics:

Of the registrants, 97 were male and 118 were female. From the registration list, 52 were consultants/ industry, 22 were researchers, 79 were goat producers and 13 were harvested rangeland producers. A further 15 were hobby farmers. About 17 registrants indicated they were looking at getting into goats for the first time, with a further 24 looking to diversify their current livestock enterprise.

Age	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	>65
#	9	31	62	65	29	21

State	Qld	NSW/ACT	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	NT	International
#	69	74	24	23	9	3	1	14

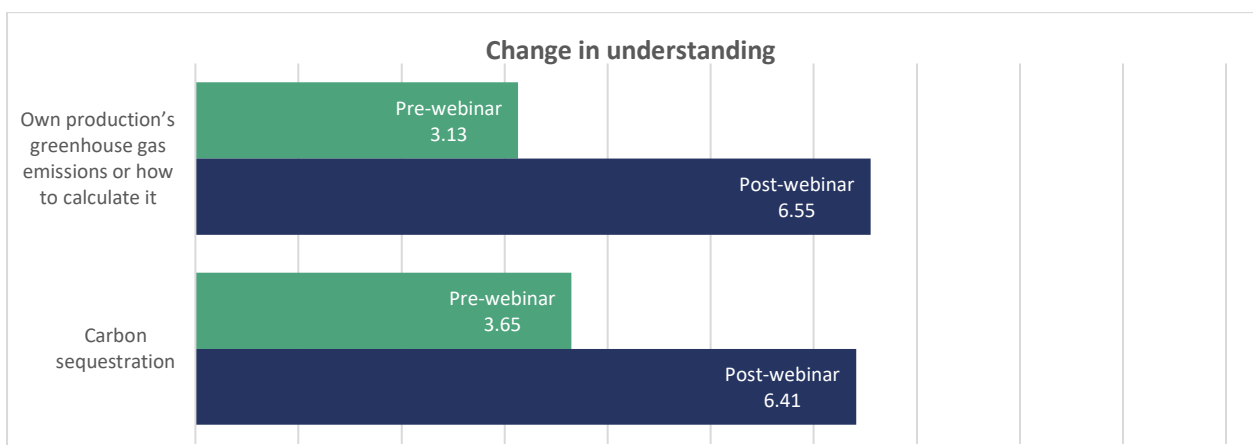
Knowledge:

Most of the attendees were interested in learning anything they could about carbon and how that fits within a goat production system. Some of the topics listed during registration were (full responses are included in Appendix 2):

- Carbon sequestration through regenerative livestock management and how to measure and calculate it in order to monitor progress
- Carbon targets and how to calculate carbon outputs
- Current knowledge of carbon emissions from goats and the potential future impact of new carbon targets and expectations
- Environmental markets and opportunities and the opportunities for emissions reduction in extensive grazing systems
- How can goat health, e.g., parasite or disease control, contribute to reduced carbon emissions.
- How goats can help the environment & how that works alongside Carbon
- Learn about carbon accounting and what we need to do as goat producers
- More info on goat carbon research, methanogenic properties of browse species and how this affects carbon emissions in goats
- potential markets - requirements - health - pest control
- To understand the link between wild/semi-wild goat harvests and herd structures and accounting of emissions.
- useful and practical insights on ways to improve your understanding and increase sustainability
- What is the present goat situation in agriculture and the effect that feral goats have on the present and future climate
- Where the goat industry sits with respect to carbon footprint in comparison with other meat/animal product industries
- How much more regulation & cost this will entail. How will the outcome/objective, whatever it is, be measured?
- management and mitigation of methane

Prior to the webinar, on average registrants rated their knowledge of their own production's greenhouse gas emissions or how to calculate it at **3.13/10** and their knowledge of carbon sequestration at **3.65/10**.

After the webinar, on average, attendees rated their knowledge of their own production's greenhouse gas emissions or how to calculate it at **6.55/10** and their knowledge of carbon sequestration at **6.41/10**.

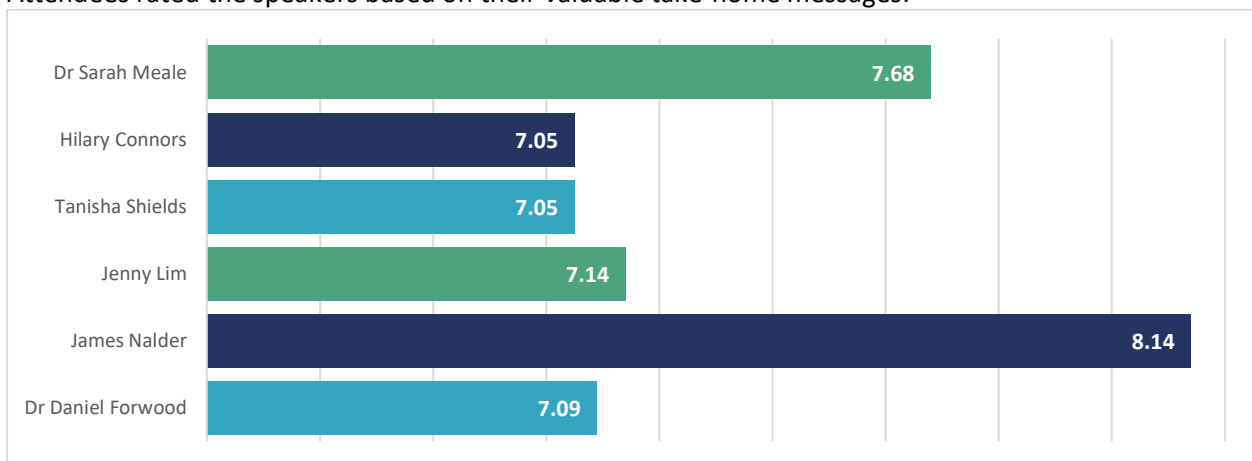


The most useful things attendees learnt from the webinar were (full responses are included in Appendix 3):

- Intro into the carbon footprints and resources available to my clients. I feel like I didn't know much going in... and while I learned a few things... I realised I have a long way to go.
- The information the producer shared on putting into practice eIDs to improve his outputs was encouraging to hear.
- Preliminary understanding of the variation of GHG emissions across feed types and production systems most likely to be of concern.
- Some interesting lack of relation between body weight and methane production.
- More understanding of projects
- The crop I was planning to plant is high in methane production.
- The online courses available to me on this subject.
- If I do an edge course invocation should be able to work out my emissions and carbon sequencing.
- I need to find out more about the worm selection.
- Enteric methane emission of goats
- Carbon Calculation
- There is a tool on the MLA website to calculate carbon for your farm
- That there are tools to calculate our carbon footprint for our business, some ideas on how to use eID + scales to add value in our business
- Learning terminology and terms used for carbon footprint and hearing from the producer on the benefits of eID tags in goats
- That goats are on the increase for commercial productions
- Understanding of the UQ project, farmer interest in research and marketing
- Hearing from an actual producer about their experience since starting and things that work out for them
- Loved the research and producer's section
- I very much enjoyed James' story of how his business has evolved and is moving forward. Of course, I also enjoyed Sarah's summary of the MLA project plans.
- Goat enteric methane emissions research
- The GAF tool workshops and training modules

Speakers:

Attendees rated the speakers based on their valuable take-home messages:



Practice change:

Just under half of survey respondents planned to make changes to their business as a result of attending this event. These changes included (full responses are included in Appendix 4):

- In lowly manageable production systems, guiding the direction of breeding may be the most promising outcome and a lack of correlation to body weight is promising for including in a

selection index but more extensive datasets are necessary before being confident in the finding

- We try to be carbon neutral
- Do more learning to improve my small holding
- Always trying new things but trying to source where the industry is at with regards supply and demand and how long it will be before we get at least \$7.00 a kg for our product dressed wt.
- Start investigating the factors in our business that impact on our carbon score and start to capture and measure these factors.
- Since this is based on Australia, the applicability of these things should be evaluated first in our current set-up
- Including links to the research on goat emissions in extension events

When asked about the timing of the webinar, a majority of responses (64%) indicated they preferred the after-dinner timeslot, with other responses also indicating late afternoon (complete by 6pm) (18%) or midday over lunch (14%) as alternative timeslots.

Post-webinar engagement:

Post-webinar emails were sent to all those who registered. The email sent to those who attended had an open rate of 74.7% and click rate of 20.3%, while the email to those who registered but did not attend had an open rate of 63.8% and click rate of 22.5%. The industry open rate benchmark is 41%.

The webinar was recorded, and the link sent to all who registered. It has received 256 views on YouTube.

5. Conclusion

Overall, the webinars have generated strong interest with more than 200 people registering for webinars 17 and 19, and more than 120 registering for webinar 18. This shows an interest to increase goat knowledge and interest in the skills and the topics advertised.

The live attendance rate varied – a 27% live attendance rate for webinar 17, 25% live attendance rate for webinar 18, and 34% live attendance rate for webinar 19. Registrants were aware they would receive a link to the recording to watch back in their own time, which may have contributed to the live attendance numbers. However, these rates are still average to above average when compared with industry benchmarks, with research* indicating average webinar live attendance rates typically vary from 30-40%.

Webinar attendees had the option to provide feedback on anything that could be added or changed to improve the content or ideas for future forums and speakers. Some of the suggestions include (full responses are included in Appendix 5):

- Limit webinar to 45 minutes then questions
- More information about worm control - treatments available & effectiveness of them
- More information on rangeland vs first cross productivity in pastoral areas
- Webinar on cull selection criteria based on the 9Ts - teeth, torso, toes, teats, testicles, tackle, temperament, tail web, tossers. Gross pathology and basic necropsy techniques. Euthanasia methods and how to determine quality of life.
- No discussion on difficult kidding; target audience are major producers not small holders (which I understand) but accommodating both would be excellent as both sectors serve to benefit.
- Keen to see best practice infrastructure including scanners for ear tags, cradles for marking and auto drafter feedback.
- I have elderly clients who can't fill out NVDs online or haven't got a smart phone or manage any new technology that are being left behind.
- Veterinary practice for goats - I found out today that Glanvac 5-1 needs to be given every six months for goats. Castrating goats.
- Relevance back to the primary producers. Research and tools were very interesting, but is the market actually going to price goat meat (generally sold as bulk) based on carbon impact?
- It was meat based, but it would be interesting to know the influence on fleece production in the cycle.
- More information about sustainability and real examples like the case study provided
- Thank you, and I appreciate all the effort, but in reality, this is not reaching the average producer. We need to better understand pasture and how this links with carbon sequestration and how to achieve healthy mineral rich soils.

*35+ Webinar Statistics & Data, SupplyGem, <https://supplygem.com/publications/webinar-statistics/>

6. Future research and recommendations

The Goat Roadshow webinars have provided a successful platform to promote topics of relevance and interest to a wide range of goat producers and industry professionals across Australia. If MLA decides to invest in the Goat Roadshow events in the future, the feedback from this project indicates that webinars are a useful way to engage producers.

One of the main benefits of webinars is their accessibility across a wide geographical region, which enables MLA to reach producers in remote locations and across Australia in just one event. The other benefit is the ability to record the presentations and provide these to a wider audience through the MLA website and YouTube channels. This also provides legacy content for future audiences.

The timing of the webinars – approximately quarterly – has ensured adequate time for planning and preparation. It is recommended that the timing of any future webinars coincide with an opportunity to promote the webinars through the Goats on the Move newsletter. This didn't always coincide with the most recent webinars; however, it is a useful platform to boost registrations and ensure strong attendance.

The webinars offer a cost-effective option, as there are no venue or travel expenses. However, there is value in the networking and engagement opportunities that come with hosting in-person events.

The inclusion of producer case studies has resulted in high engagement. The producer case study generally receives the highest rating of each webinar. For any future goat webinars, it is recommended to continue to include at least one producer case study on each. The real-world examples producers offer, when presented alongside research and technical speakers, ensure the webinars offer engaging and practical content.

Any future webinar topics and speakers would need to be determined through consultation with MLA. It is also recommended to engage with Goat Industry Council of Australia (GICA) and Goat Industry Research, Development and Adoption Committee (GIRDAC) for relevant topics. However, some topic suggestions based on feedback from webinar participants include:

- **Infrastructure** - efficiency with larger herds, goat handling equipment, suitable fencing, yard layouts, scanners for ear tags, cradles for marking, auto drafters – what works and what doesn't work for goats.
- **Nutrition and supplementation** – mineral and vitamin supplements, input from a specialist goat nutritionist and management plans i.e. yearly / monthly programs, weaning kids, creep feeding, growth rates, managing doe health and nutritional requirements.
- **Health** - veterinary practice for goats, vaccination, drenching, worm control including treatments available and their effectiveness.
- **Goat meat for consumers** – how to encourage more consumers to try goat, options for cooking goat, taste, cuts, quality
- **Rangeland goats** - plans to reduce the number of rangeland goats / total grazing pressure. How to assist rangeland goat producers control goat numbers.
- **Goats for beginners** – what basics are required, start-up costs, scale to make viable
- **Integrity system requirements** – refresher on NVDs, harvested rangeland goat NVDs, NLIS database
- **Potential markets** - where is the goat industry heading? What are we doing to mirror the lamb industry?
- **Profitability** – ways to reduce costs, increase productivity, obtain best prices for product.

7. Report against Communication and Evaluation Plan

The Communication and Evaluation Plan established at the start of the project in 2018 mapped the tactics and evaluation for face-to-face roadshow style workshops. When the variation to the contract was made from face-to-face workshops to online-only format in 2020, the Communication and Evaluation Plan was not updated as a standalone document but was rolled into annual planning for the webinar series plan. The webinars effectively became the communication outputs with supporting promotion outputs, and the evaluation was captured through the pre- and post-webinar surveys with indicators such as the number of producers indicating practice change outcomes.

As well as the achievements outlined above, the success of the webinars can be measured against the following key activities outlined in earlier communications plans:

- **Branding** – a consistent style has been developed and used across all recent webinars. This has included flyers/agendas as well as across social media tiles and PowerPoint templates.
- **Website** – the webinars were updated in the MLA Events Hub to ensure engagement with a broad producer audience.
- **Social media** – each webinar has been advertised via Facebook and X, using both AgCommunicators and MLA’s channels on these platforms. In addition to organic content, AgC has undertaken paid advertising on Facebook to further boost the events among the target audience. Detailed reporting is provided below.
- **Media liaison** – this has not been a specific focus as this was intended for the earlier face-to-face events. However, two journalists – Bec Nadge, *The Land* and Vanessa Binks, *Stock Journal* – both registered for Webinar 17 and Webinar 19. Vanessa also registered for the four previous webinars (W13-16), and another journalist, Victoria Nugent, from *Queensland Country Life*, registered for Webinar 16. Articles appeared in the *Stock Journal* and *The Land* publications after the most recent webinar. Clippings of these articles, as well as articles published after webinars 14 and 16, are included in Appendix 7. MLA also received a media inquiry from ABC Broken Hill after Webinar 19.
- **Database** – a database has been established and used to promote each webinar and encourage registrations.
- **Producer case studies** – a case study has been developed following each webinar. These are included in Appendix 6.
- **Legacy content** – each webinar has been recorded and uploaded to YouTube, along with the producer case studies shared to MLA’s website.
- **Monitoring and evaluation** – pre-webinar registration questions and post-webinar surveys have been developed to enable the capture of feedback and metrics relevant to MLA. The results from these surveys have been provided above.
- **Number of attendees** – the number of people registering for the webinars and viewing legacy content online. These results are provided above.
- **Practice change** – the number of producers indicating they will review elements of their farm practice or business as a result of the webinars has been reported above.

Facebook advertising results:

Campaign dates	Budget	Objective	Impressions	Reach	Link clicks	Cost per link click	Event responses	Cost per response
10 – 22 May	\$80.00	Link clicks	27,044	16,212	139	\$0.58	-	-
4 – 19 Mar	\$70.00	Event responses	6,060	2,682	-		21	\$3.33
	\$120.18	Link clicks	26,338	16,681	125	\$0.96	-	-
14 Sep – 4 Oct	\$100.00	Event responses	6,992	2,631	-	--	40	\$2.50
TOTAL	\$370.18	-	66,434	38,206	264	\$0.76	61	\$2.79

8. Budget reconciliation

Milestone	Professional Fees (per agreement)	Operating Expenses (per agreement)	Total (per agreement)	Professional Fees	Operating Expenses	Total	Comments
1	30,000.00	10,000.00	40,000.00	30,000.00	10,000.00	40,000.00	
2	20,000.00	40,000.00	60,000.00	20,000.00	40,000.00	60,000.00	
3	10,000.00	7,500.00	17,500.00	10,000.00	7,500.00	17,500.00	
6	20,000.00	7,678.00	27,678.00	20,000.00	7,678.00	27,678.00	
9	14,500.00	5,000.00	19,500.00	14,500.00	5,000.00	19,500.00	
10	10,064.00	15,000.00	25,064.00	10,064.00	15,000.00	25,064.00	
June 2022 - adjustment			0.00	52,000.00	-52,000.00	0.00	Budget reconciliation to June 2022 (Feb 2023) - adjustment approved by Melanie Smith.
11	15,936.00		15,936.00	15,936.00		15,936.00	
12	31,500.00		31,500.00	31,500.00		31,500.00	
TOTAL	152,000.00	85,178.00	237,178.00	204,000.00	33,178.00	237,178.00	

9. Appendices

9.1 APPENDIX 1: Occupation of webinar registrants if selected 'Other'

Webinar 17 - kid loss	Webinar 18 - fit to load	Webinar 19 - carbon sustainability	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goat Producer • Government advisor • Government vet • Hobby farm/Office Manager • I am a producer, consultant and mohair buyer • I want to produce baby kid goats that will go to term and have strong bone density. • Learning more broadly about the industry, which is of relevance to (but not at the centre of) my work • Livestock Compliance • QDAF employee • Research • vet • wanting to farm goats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial fencing industry • I've a fraud examiner with plans to venture into the goat industry. • Obtaining practical information • off farm worker • Other • pack goating • Researcher • Retired hobbyist. • Science technician • Science technician - education Queensland • vet servicing goat industry • Veterinarian (x 2) • Veterinary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountant • Agricultural journalist • Agronomist and consultant • AgTek adoption officer with SA Arid Lands Landscape Board delivering F2F future drought hub program • Animal Researcher • Bank Manager • Beef cattle producer with goats • Beef farmer • beginning farmer • Biosecurity Officer Invasive Pest Plant and Animals Agriculture Victoria • Business Development Genomics • Chair of group • Commercial farmer • District Manager • Ecological Outcomes Verification Service Coordinator for the AHMMC and goat producer • Ecologist • Executive Landscape Planner with Mulloon Consulting • Farm Hand • Farm instructor • Farm manager (x 2) • Farmer • Government • Government - Landscape Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government advisor (x 2) • Government extension officer • Grazier • Harvested Rangelands, Property Manager • Lecturer and Researcher • Livestock Program Manager • Meat Master Sheep farmer • Mining • Olive Grower, Tourism & Food production • PhD • Producer / advisor • Retired but not tired • Service Provider • Son of goat producer • State Government Employee • Stud & Commercial Breeder • Student (x 4) • Sustainable Agricultural Facilitator - Reef Catchments • Technical sales • Traditional custodian • Undergraduate Student • veterinarian • Work off farm - DIDO. About 80 goats. Still stabilising herd. • work off farm - wanting to expand to be full time

9.2 APPENDIX 2: Topics registrants want to learn about in webinar

Webinar 17 - kid loss	Webinar 18 - fit to load	Webinar 19 - carbon sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. About hypothermia; 2. Genetic inherited diseases causing mortality in goats kids • 1. necessary startup costs and scale to make viable. • 1. Nutrition information 2. herd management • 1. Understanding and avoiding kidding losses. 2. New ideas • A better understanding of weight, condition & diseases. • Actions currently taken & opportunities to improve reproductive performance. • All I can on feed grasses soil minerals birthing foot care parasite tick care all of this effects in production. • Always learn :) • any general knowledge • Any new and relevant information on goats • Anything • Anything and everything • Anything and everything! • Anything useful to better our outcomes • Article for The Land • As much as I can • Basic Kidding progression. Common diseases and how to manage them. • Best practice goat management and specific things I would have to consider which are different to sheep management. • better goat husbandry • Better kidding management • better knowledge • better knowledge • Better management and survival rates • Better management of goats & improved productivity • better management of pregnant does & enhancing mothering. • Better management practices (x 2) • better management, health care • better nutrition for pregnant does Factors affecting kid survival. • Better understanding of strategies to improve kid loss & on farm practical tips to get better results • Billy joining % best age for Nannie's to start joining and management after joining 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About tracking goats, how to prepare goats for transport. • Any info is good • Anything and everything • Application of legislation • As much as I can and refresher • Australia specific requirements for tags and loading • best ear tags or ankle bracelets for goats • Better understanding of current issues affecting industry • breeding stock nutrition health • Broader knowledge base of anything goat related! • Checking that we're using correct animal welfare standards and where we stand in regards to tagging • Clarification of details • clarification of standards and obligations • completing NVDs and updating the NLIS database. • Compliance update our records to make sure we are using best practice • curfew protocols, impact of new Eid requirements • Current laws and animal welfare requirements • Don't know what we don't know - We use Eid but interested in updates NLIS and Eid • Extra knowledge • fit to load and legal processes with tagging and transport to market / slaughter • fit to load and NVD information • Further clarification of regulations • Further Knowledge • Further knowledge & management skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. How goats can be part of the carbon sustainability system and 2. What research is happening • A better understanding of carbon emissions on a goat farm & how I can improve on the emissions • A carbon footprint calculation for our enterprise, opportunities for value add with carbon abatement • About goats & carbon • About Goats and Farm Management Sustainability • About the role of goats in reducing ghg emission • Always interested to learn & listen • Always something to learn • Any learning is good learning • Anything and more • Anything on the topics! • Appropriate tools for baseline carbon measurement and considerations by producers running goats to achieve nett zero emissions • are goats compatible with HIR projects / how to manage goats in a carbon project • Australian government tool to change to a carbon sustainability system • basic goat knowledge • Basic info • Be able to understand fully Carbon offsetting • Benefits and possibilities • Better management and genetics • Better understanding • Better understanding of carbon emissions and sustainability in rangeland and farmed goat situations • Broader understanding of whole process • CO2 emissions from goats and how it can be reduced • calculating and measuring carbon emissions • Calculating emissions and carbon sequestration • carbon cycling calculations and effects • carbon accounting for rangeland goats • Carbon emissions and sequestration in goat production

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes and how to avoid perinatal loss. • Causes and prevention of kid losses. • Causes of kid loss • Causes of perinatal kid loss, ways to prevent it • Causes of perinatal mortality, rates of preg diagnosis in the industry • Causes perinatal loss and diagnosis. • differential diagnoses • Disease and nutrition • disease control • Extend my knowledge. • Feed & Welfare requirements for goats • Feed type during pregnancy. / chances of triplets • Feed, nutrition requirements, worming • Feeding requirements, mob sizes • Feeding strategies to improve doe colostrum and transition milk quality (IgG and IgA), doe heat stress and foetal programming • Fill any gaps in my current knowledge; hear what is happening in the goat industry • Fine tune our management plan to enhance our weaning % and profitability • Further education, I have had two losses due to poor presentation, one miscarriage & lost kids to botulism during flooding event • Further knowledge around nutrition & pregnancy needs • Further learning • Gain further knowledge & improve management • Gain more knowledge about kid lose and how to prevent it in herd • Gain more knowledge about the industry to help support clients • General knowledge • Getting kids on the ground and keeping them alive • getting stronger kids at birth. mothering issues • Goat management and how to increase my herd size and quality of my stock • Goat survival and nutrition • Greater knowledge & better management strategies • Greater understanding of managing a rangeland goat herd, maximising productivity. • hear new ideas • How nutrition helps with perinatal kid loss and what are the best supplements, when to administer, is it better to control join 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gain confidence in judgement on goats being fit to load. Any suggestions and strategies those already within industry make. • General • General information and relevant laws • General knowledge and standards • General update • Goat health / kidding info • Goat health, movement requirements • Goat management • Goat management and condition of goats • Goat specific loading requirements • Goat welfare • health of goats required for transport • How goats are managed in small and large scale settings • how things should be done • how to assess fitness to load and what're the new NLIS tag rules commencing Jan 2025 • How to complete the required paperwork when selling and transporting goats. • How to comply with NVD and NLIS requirements. LPA requirements around animal welfare • How to keep goats healthy, best supplements to use • I would like to know more about reducing animal stress when selling breeding females during drought times. • If producers actually understand the fit to load guidelines, and if there's any changes to them • Improving animal wellbeing and growth rates • Increased knowledge on animal welfare and health • Industry requirements & differences between types of goat enterprises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carbon emissions and sustainability (x 3) • Carbon emissions calculation and current research in goat farming • Carbon emissions, goat management • Carbon farming, more on how to sequester more carbon • Carbon footprint of goats and their methane output • Carbon impact and future for goats/pricing/viability pricing • Carbon info • carbon information - feeding goats with soluble trace elements pre batched in 10,000 tanks • Carbon sequestration, farm trees • carbon sequestration through regenerative livestock management and how to measure and calculate it in order to monitor progress • Carbon sustainability and how goats fit into the mix with the other livestock we have • Carbon targets and how to calculate carbon outputs • carbon understanding • Carbon, goats roi • Clarification on anecdotal evidence of benefits of managed goats in rangelands & learn from experts about possible next steps in • Cost • Current knowledge of carbon emissions from goats and the potential future impact of new carbon targets and expectations • Current knowledge, understand what the issues and consequences are • Deeper knowledge, science, evidence of success • DNA testing; data recording • don't know what I don't know • Current research/industry update on Rangeland goat population and how to assist/encourage landholders to control numbers • earn \$ from carbon capture, advising producers • Emission measurement and output • Emissions factors for goats; measurement/verification of practices for whole enterprise account • Environmental markets and opportunities and the opportunities for emissions reduction in extensive grazing systems • Everything • Everything about goats and emissions • factors included in carbon storage in goat meat, fibre, bones and other body parts as opposed to emissions
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to better reduce kid loss • How to get more kids on the ground? How to keep more kids alive? • How to get the best success rate from a breeding program. How to ensure my does and kids are healthy • How to improve herd and kid health • How to improve kid outcomes and breeding management • how to increase kid numbers • How to increase production. • How to increase survival rates • How to optimise the health of pregnant does and kids • How to minimise kid loss and how to increase kidding percentage • How to prevent kid loss • How to prevent loss kid losses in climate change • How to reduce kid losses. How to ensure optimal nutrition for pregnant does. • how to reduce perinatal loss • I want to get more knowledge on Goat Management in particular prenatal and postnatal care for the Female Goats / Does. • I would like to learn more on the nutrition side of management. • Identify perinatal loss and what's required for testing (what samples, how to package, where to send) • identifying risk increasing production • Important considerations for prepartum/transition nutrition • Improve knowledge about pregnancy, kidding, nutrition and general health • improve knowledge. • improve management • Improve methods to prevent kid loss. • improve understanding of nutritional requirements pre kidding, pre and post kidding doe management. • Improve weaning percentage • improved kidding success • Improving kidding results and generally improving management systems • Improving the survival rate of kids and tips on how to prevent mis-mothering. • Increase fertility • increase in numbers and health of nannies • Increase knowledge, breed more kids with less losses. • increase knowledge (x 5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insights on best practices for successful and healthy loading and transportation • Intricacies of NLIS, NVD etc • Just want to improve knowledge • Keep up to date with any changes • Knowledge and information • Knowledge and new information • Knowledge and NLIS • Latest NLIS/LPA responsibilities as a vendor and purchaser • Learn more about goats • Learn more about preparing for transport and practical tips • Learn more and where to find resources • Learn what the new NLIS requirements are for goats next year and better understanding of their welfare • Learning to transport goats to the processors • listen to questions from others, hear Ag Vics presentation • Livestock traceability under the new tagging requirements, how the new tagging requirements will be managed on the NLIS data base • Livestock traceability – LPA NVDs and NLIS • LPA and NVD requirements with eID • LPA requirements • Marketing and genetics • Markets and confidence • More info • More knowledge • More knowledge & Up to date policy • More on fit to load for goats and LPA • More specific goat information • More specific points on fitness to load in goats, and more about the most common reasons why goats are unfit to load. • Moving legislation and legislation in general 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • further knowledge • Future potential of goat farming and info on carbon etc • Gain insight to goat's footprint • General Goat information and carbon options • GHG emissions and its impact and how can we minimise its production • GHG emissions state of play for goats. Emissions reduction solutions • Goat emissions and reduction strategies • Goat management & looking after them. • Goats and carbon • Green house farming with goats • greenhouse and carbon impacts • How a goat production enterprise can co-exist with carbon • How can goat health, e.g., parasite or disease control, contribute to reduced carbon emissions. • How can goats benefit pasture • How goats add value in the carbon economy • How goat farming can fit into an enterprise involved in carbon farming • How goats and carbon can work together • How goats can be utilised in conjunction with carbon sequestration. • How goats can help manage the property and support regenerative farming techniques • How goats can help the environment & How that works alongside Carbon • How goats help the earth, how to get into goats • How Goats work into the emissions and carbon system • How much more regulation & cost this will entail. How will the outcome/objective, whatever it is, be measured? • How to agist goats on our lot • How to benefit my goat breed and the best way to help the land they roam on. • How to calculate and quantify carbon sequestration on my property • How to calculate carbon for goats • How to calculate goats high repro rate into a yearly calculation • how to combine goat productivity with return from carbon. Increase profitability • How to help clients • how to reduce emission, and how goats can help on that
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased survival of twins and triplets • Increase my knowledge so I can have meaningful discussions with my customers. • Industry challenges and advice • Increased knowledge on factors affecting and Management options that can cost effectively prevent or reduce perinatal kid loss. • Information (x 2) • Information about kid loss & ideas for nutrition • information and inspiration • Injecting and dosing • Interested what are the main causes in kid losses • Is there a genetic connection & will kid plan help improve kidding% • just to learn as much as possible and be aware of problems in future • Kid lose and how to prevent it • Kid loss • Kid loss & nanny management • Kid loss and nutrition • Kid loss and preventative measures • Kid loss education • Kid management, Nutrition (minimising production loss from internal parasites) • Kid survival and nutrition • Knowledge (x 4) • Knowledge and a plan • Knowledge and experience (x 2) • Knowledge and skills • knowledge extra information • knowledge in goat industry • Knowledge on condition score. Fertility and how to limit losses • Latest research findings (x 2) • laminal husbandry & have a better understanding of kid plane • Latest information on reasons for and ways of reducing kid loss • Loss reduction & health • Learn more on how to reduce kid loss and receive further education on nutrition and environment. • Main causes of loss and how to minimise loss • Making sure doe is in optimal health for conception and causes of kid loss • manage kid losses and more does kidding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new info • New information • New producers • New updated info • NVD/LPA requirements; water retention in goats despite kept off water for transportation • optimum time off feed/water. problems. • Practical Tips and resources available • Practical tips to prepare animals for transportation • Refresh on the fit to load concept. Identify key parameters for assessing fitness to load • refresh knowledge and find out what's new • Refresh my skills on current requirements • revision and any recent changes I may have missed • revision of current knowledge + update on EID • Stuff • The conditions to send goats and transporting them the best way • The process of selling and how to do the paperwork for selling goats • Traceability steps and changes • Transportation requirements in NSW and when an animal is in optimal condition to be transported. • Understanding LPA requirements, NLIS database • Unsure • Up to date information on the industry to date. • Update knowledge • Update on pre transport health • Update on standards • Useful information • Various • Welfare for animals and standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How versatile are goats & pasture management • Impact of goats on carbon footprint • Increase knowledge • Increase my knowledge • increase understanding of goats and carbon industries • Increased knowledge • Industry updates in relation to goats • Influence of goats on carbon emissions • info on goats and their place in the emerging carbon sensitivities and farming enterprise • Information (x 2) • interested in topic. • Knowledge • Information on how goats can impact current sequestration projects. How goats may affect future project eligibility • Insights on the goat industry and emission reduction methods which will help me in gaining knowledge for my future research • Knowledge, how to help with reducing carbon emissions • Knowledge and application • Knowledge and implementation • Knowledge and insight • knowledge and new insides • Knowledge of greenhouse gas emissions calculations & carbon sequestration • knowledge understanding • Knowledge, information • Knowledge, Networking, • Learn about carbon accounting and what we need to do as goat producers • Learn all about it • Learn more about carbon • Learn more about the goats and carbon • Learning of information available. • Looking to keep informed on advances in the goat industry • Lots to learn, interested in everything that is being advertised • management and mitigation of methane • Markets and carbon • Management of goats and how they be beneficial in a farming system.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of causes of kid loss • Management of kidding yearlings. Management to reduce abortion losses. • Management techniques • Managing doe health and nutritional requirements • Managing goats on grain. Meeting their welfare needs • Managing multiples when nutrition declining and possible diseases to watch for e.g. campylobacter • More about kid loss • More about prevention in kid loss • More goat data on production and deaths • More information (x 3) • More information about kidding ad best practices • more information on care for goats in kid and correct sized birth weight for goats • More knowledge (x 2) • More knowledge about reproduction and nutrition • More knowledge and hearing what other producers are doing. • More knowledge around goat enterprises • more knowledge on kidding and health- • More knowledge. Different perspectives. • More than I know. • Needs • New ideas • New information and greater technical understanding • new knowledge • New things • Not sure but know there will be bits to learn- mineral deficiencies and how to spot in kids would be good. • Not sure don't know what I don't know. • Nutrition and health of the kid • Nutrition and perinatal diseases • nutrition and prevention strategies • Nutrition and supplementing • nutrition management; worm management • Nutrition requirements and preventative strategies for kid loss • Nutrition requirements and ways to reduce dystocia. • Nutrition requirements for pregnant does and managing kid loss • Nutrition, care of newborn kids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare standards • Welfare standards applying to fit to load for goats. Practical advice for ensuring compliance to the standard. • Wellbeing of goat for transport • what best mineral blocks to put out in local area and best blocks to give breeding nannies when lactation • What is and isn't fit to load, filling out an NVD correctly for harvested rangeland and managed goats (same or separate NVDs) • Would like to be informed and use information as a learning tool for senior ag students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure CO2 emissions and how much Carbon I sequence. • methane emissions information, current research update • Methods of measuring methane • Minimisation of carbon emissions, maximisation of carbon sequestration. • More about carbon • More about carbon accounting & sequestration • more about carbon and animals • more about carbon stuff..... • More about goat sustainability. And goat emissions. • More info on goat carbon research, methanogenic properties of browse species and how this affects carbon emissions in goats • More information (x 3) • More information regarding the land, water and mineral usage requirements of producing goats. • More information to move to the next level and have better and more up to date information on goat rearing • More knowledge (x 2) • More knowledge in the industry I am passionate about. • More knowledge, contacts • New information and technical info • New information. • New knowledge (x 2) • New regulations • No idea • No sure • Not sure • Obtain information about carbon sequestration in a grazing industry and how to measure the impact • obtaining new information about GHG mitigation from ruminants and its effect • On-farm sustainability and carbon sequestration • Plans to reduce the number of rangeland goats/TGP. How to assist rangeland goat producers control goat numbers. • potential markets - requirements - health - pest control • practical tips and how goats can be part of the solution of rangeland sustainability • Practical understanding of carbon mitigating options • Research in goat production systems in Australia
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutritional health for doe and kid • Nutritional information • nutritional management of doe for easy kidding high kid survival • Nutritional requirements compared to sheep. Animal health treatments and management for goats. • Optimal mob sizes for highest kid survival and lowering pre kidding abortion rate. • Optimisation of health to improve outcomes. • Perinatal care, kid nutrition • Perinatal kid loss causes, Management tips for optimal doe health • possible causes of lost kids in pregnancy, more about nutrition in goats • Pregnancy nutrition • Practical aspect of goat management to improve survival of kids + knowledge gaps for further research. • Pregnant does care • Pre-natal disease and control • preventative practices; rapid identification of life-threatening diseases • Prevention of prenatal diseases and proper goat management during pregnancy • Processes and procedures to improve. • producers understanding of factors influencing kid loss. • Production & nutrition • reasons for kid loss/ management strategies • reasons for late term kid loss • Reducing kid loss ;) and optimising doe health during pregnancy • Reducing kid loss and nutrition • reducing kid losses and more info on nutrition • reducing loss, and pre management strategies to improve survival. • Reduction of kid loss. Disease control • refresh knowledge and up to date information • REFRESHER • ruminant nutrition of the goat • Scanning accuracy and doe management in rangelands to optimise weaning% • specific hands-on tips and tricks, specific details on goats specific data and knowledge • Strategies & information • supplementation for rangeland goats, impact of billy percentages on kidding rates 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rumen methane production and how to minimise it • Specific data on C sequestration; management of goats for C farming. • State of goat industry. Why goats are beneficial for sustainable systems. • Story for The Land • Support for MLA funded Kids+ and Sustainability projects :) • Sustainable goat management • taking information to better aid producers in my area • The effect on grass and trees • The relationship between carbon and goats, is there \$ to be made? • To get a better understanding of carbon emissions and sustainability in rangeland and farmed goat situations • to understand how carbon outcomes may (or may not) align with ecological outcomes • To understand the link between wild/semi-wild goat harvests and herd structures and accounting of emissions. • To understanding carbon emissions and sustainability and about what part the goats play in the carbon emission system • training, knowledge • Understand carbon emissions for rangeland businesses, increase knowledge of goat management in rangeland environment • Understand my business carbon impact and how to use goats to help meet carbon targets. • Understand the current research into sequestration and to understand We have the opportunity to partner • Understand the industry better, and look at best practice goat management • Understanding • Understanding carbon emissions and sustainability in the Australian livestock industry • Understanding carbon emissions in rangeland environments and how this is being measured • Understanding carbon emissions. Increase sustainability • Understanding goat production impact on carbon emissions • Understanding goats roll in carbon sequestration • Understanding more opportunities within the goat industry and learning about carbon sustainability. • Understanding of what research is being done, and how the industry may become more secure
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplements and health while pregnant and how to help with birth if needed • tips and practical advice • the impact of my current farming practices on pregnancy/kidding, how to improve fertility. • To learn things that I might not know yet • To maintain healthy goats and better percentage of survival rates in newborns • To produce more kids for market • to rear kids and stop loss • Troubleshooting, Setting does up for kidding success. • Understanding infectious causes of perinatal kid loss occurs and their management • Understanding loss and prevention • Understanding what contributes to perinatal kid loss. • Understanding of pressure point on farmers in the industry; compare and contrast with my knowledge of sheep husbandry • Understanding, mitigation • Unsure • Up to date information • Update and expand knowledge • Ways to improve weaning percentages. More info on relationship between condition score and survival of kids. • What are considered to be adverse environmental conditions for goats, and how does nutrition impact on fertility. • Whatever I learn will help. • what is being promoted • What is the forecast for goat prices and when will demand pick up. • What is the major cause in stillborns? Pregnant Does that run a lot late term, are they more likely to abort? • Whatever I can • whether the research and information offered is moving us forward • Why kids die. How to them from dying. • Why perinatal kid loss occurs and how to increase kidding percentage • Worm control & nutrition • you never stop learning 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update • Update goat research in productivity and migration of environmental pollution e.g GHG • Updates on research in this space • useful and practical insights on ways to improve your understanding and increase sustainability • What carbon emissions are in relation to goat production and how we can manage them. • What I can do to help the environment and to improve the soil and thus pastures grown for the goats • What is happening • What is the present goat situation in agriculture and the effect that feral goats have on the present and future climate • what MLA is focused on for the goat industry and if mohair is considered important • what possibilities are there to make gains in carbon and have a productive flock of goats • What this is all about • What we can do better in the carbon space • what works for others in similar situations and what to consider/factor in • Where goats fit in a regenerative system, problems to look for • Where is the goat industry heading? What are we doing to mirror the lamb industry? • Where the goat industry sits with respect to carbon footprint in comparison with other meat/animal product industries • whether we are on the right track with the environment, /v there are many informed opinions that vary immensely on these • Why consumers will not eat goat meat. Why consumers only think that you can curry goat. • Why is this important? What does it mean for me? • would like to understand the basics
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9.3 APPENDIX 3: Post-webinar feedback – useful things learnt

Webinar 17 - kid loss	Webinar 18 - fit to load	Webinar 19 - carbon sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Maintaining a consistent feed regime in the last 60days of gestation. 2. Ensuring that I maintain mothering pen practices for a minimum of only 6 hours -I have been maintaining 48 hrs • Advantage in learning other producers experience more needed on nutrition please • Body condition score leading into joining and late-stage pregnancy management; statistics around expectations with multiples • Checking the nutrition of the goats relating to the Bucks and Does; and the Udders of the Does. • Check Qld time, I missed the first hour • Condition scoring can be used to assess nannies, billy joining % • Confirmation of prior knowledge and reasons for actions/activities conducted on farm: Confirmation that whilst I am small-scale, large-scale properties are experiencing the same issues. • Feeding, get around goats more and watch them to learn more of their habits • Importance of drafting off does with bad teats • Kid losses in maidens. Keeping maidens out of breeding until more mature • Loss comparison information and nutritional information • Nutrition, maiden doe problems. • Nutrition overall and for bonding with kid. • Nutrition prior to pregnancy, maintaining nutrition, reduce handling stress, vegetation coverage, and udder selection • Nutritional supplements - ideas for heading into summer prior to weaning. Udder conditions - importance of checking at weaning • reinforced our farming strategy ideals. Learn and act has always been a big learning curve for us • Reinforcement of already existing information - nothing new out there so using best practices. A large commercial operator (Mt Hope) is trying to apply the principles on a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common sense animal welfare, being fit to load. A platform is being laid down, trying to get some stable data base for the goat industry to gain some respect, and become an industry with a future. Producers can't survive with the way its running now, hence high prices then not worth mustering, Rangeland producers, can do nothing, then when good times are here they can flood the market, causing a unreliable goat industry for those that run better management property. we need a stable future to be successful. • consideration of not just fit to load but fit for intended journey. If in doubt leave it out. • It is good to have a refresh on Fit to Load and LPA/NVD/NLIS database. • mobile app, goat clubs sharing captive bolt pistols • NLIS exemption and waybill books can be still used going forward • Standards and validation of NVDs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon calculator. MLA workshops • Enteric methane emission of goats. Carbon Calculation • Goat enteric methane emissions research. The GAF tool workshops and training modules • Goat GHG Methane estimates figures; Research happening and where; • Great to hear from more people working in the industry, and gain an insight into areas of focus • Hearing from an actual producer about their experience since starting and things that work out for them • I very much enjoyed James' story of how his business has evolved and is moving forward. Of course, I also enjoyed Sarah's summary of the MLA project plans. • If I do an edge course invocation I will be able to work out my emissions and carbon sequencing. I need to find out more about the worm selection. • Intro into the carbon footprints and resources available to my clients. I feel like I didn't know much going in..and while I learned a few things...I realised I have a long way to go. The information the producer shared on putting into practice EIDs...to improve his outputs. Was encouraging to hear. • Knowing there's resources online and where to access them. That goats are on the increase for commercial productions • Knowledge & Networking • Learning terminology and terms used for carbon footprint and hearing from the producer on the benefits of EID tags in goats • Links to tools • Listening to James Nalder was definitely the most interesting as he is a producer discussing real life activities. • Loved the research and producers section • More Understanding of projects • Preliminary understanding of the variation of ghg emissions across feed types and production systems most likely to be of concern. Some interesting lack of relation between body weight and methane production

<p>commercial basis - this is very unusual for rangeland harvesters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• some paddocks just aren't good kidding paddocks for no obvious reason• That producers are only new to the goat meat industry They need more practical advice on better management• technique for BCS in goats. Supplementary feeding minerals• Useful information from Gordon.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• That there are tools to calculate our carbon footprint for our business, some ideas on how to use EID + scales to add value in our business• The crop I was planning to plant is high in methane production. the online courses available to me on this subject• There is a tool on the MLA website to calculate carbon for your farm• This is a work in progress. A training day is planned for Toowoomba• Understanding of the UQ project, farmer interest in research and marketing
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9.4 APPENDIX 4: Post-webinar feedback – practice change

Webinar 17 - kid loss	Webinar 18 - fit to load	Webinar 19 - carbon sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already doing everything and more than was outlined and achieving far higher survival rates than the evidence provided. • Hobby business only so different considerations to the speakers for nutrition and shelter • I was already suggesting these practices • In Tasmania; will use coats on my kids (small producer) based on observations on windchill and temp on survival • information is always useful • Introduce supplementary feeding • My kidding ratio is up in the 140-150% as I select for mothering abilities and with better management I have been able to improve kidding percentage by less doe number per paddock better pre kidding management of weight and mineral and vitamin given 3 weeks before kidding providing better shelter and food management for does to kid • Never knew udder selection was so important • Nutrition more of • Starting to think about marking rangeland bucks & interested to see what infrastructure is being used to do this successfully • take more care with maiden doe joining, feeding and kidding. • Time allocated to mothering pen / doe delivering a single kid • Try and provide more shelter belts • I spend more time checking on the nutrition of the goats in terms of improving the soil composition in our paddocks via a combination of soil testing and farming soil; an inspection of the udders of our Does before we breed them; nutrition of course. It was interesting regarding the wind chill factor as we have open sheds for them to stay warm when the weather gets bitterly cold, but maybe look at it closer to build more sheds and find out materials for the sheds that will help to reduce the wind chill factor. I know that the wind chill factor is problematic when the baby kid goats are born when the weather is wet and bitterly cold. I have thought of maybe actually knitting them jumpers like you do for lambs, but it was pointed out by Craig Stewart that it was important that when the baby kid goats are born, there is a period of 6 hours of solid bonding and I do not want to be interfering with the bonding process with mum and baby by putting on a goat kid knitted woollen jumper to keep it warm. I guess it is the same when a mum gives birth to a baby. The nurses are always going about skin to skin human contact and the breastfeeding process helps with the bonding with the human mummy and baby. I know all about it as I had to breastfeed both my girls and my older daughter had a low weight and so had to be in a special incubator to keep her warm and when it was feeding time, she was brought out for me to breastfeed and have the opportunity for skin to skin bonding. I think that with animals, it is harder to do that because like Craig says, you really do not want to interfere with the bonding between mummy goat and her baby kid goat. I learnt heaps and it was amazing. I am glad that this Webinar has been recorded as it will allow me to go back to listen to their words of wisdom and I can fill in the gaps in my notes that I was unable to write fast enough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have no goats. • Make more informed loading and transport decisions. • We have a good practice in place. • Yep, need a bigger office, too many rules and regulations for what is common sense. The indentation making these guidelines are fine, unfortunately those that enforce these rules, read everything to the extreme. Gunna chew on a bit of grass and think about it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always trying new things but trying to source where the industry is at with regards supply and demand and how long it will be before we get at least \$7.00 a kg for our product dressed wt. • do more learning to improve my small holding • Don't have any large-scale producers at the moment. • I don't have a lot of clients with big operations, but I do think we need to keep improving to • I don't have a business • In lowly manageable production systems, guiding the direction of breeding may be the most promising outcome and a lack of correlation to body weight is promising for including in a selection index but more extensive datasets is necessary before being confident in the finding • Including links to the research on goat emissions in extension events • Need more focus on how these calculators or processes impact actual producers. Whilst great to see progress, and plenty of researchers on the call, as primary producers we (personally) are a long way off seeing benefit in recording these numbers. There are plenty of benefits of carbon reduction and plenty of research in the area, but how does it impact primary goat producers. • Not applicable to my farming system • Since this is based on Australia, the applicability of these things should be evaluated first in our current set-up • Start investigating the factors in our business that impact on our carbon score and start to capture and measure these factors. • we try to be carbon neutral

9.5 APPENDIX 5: Post-webinar feedback – suggestions for improvements, ideas for future forums and speakers

Webinar 17 - kid loss	Webinar 18 - fit to load	Webinar 19 - carbon sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all speakers to give a few statistics. eg. how many kids are they losing, how many does don't kid after a joining, what was the weather like when they lost kids. • Andrew Refshauge's presentation has been trotted out so many times. It is 2019 data and if he hasn't got something more relevant what is he doing for a living? • choose qualified speakers. • easy access to information • Fantastic to have webinars like this and to see the increasing interest in goats (despite the current low prices). • From an industry point of view, it would be worthwhile MLA working with producers to refine their presentations - some of Craig Stewart's photos are not appropriate for public viewing (in my opinion). • I would like to attend a field day and see selection processes in the real life • it's a shame I didn't realise Qld was in a different time zone • just need more rangeland goat owners to listen • Keen to see best practice infrastructure including scanners for ear tags, cradles for marking & auto drafter feedback • Limit webinar to 45 mins then questions • more help for those speakers with limited tech skills. • More information about worm control - treatments available & effectiveness of them • More information on mineral and vitamin supplements a specialists goat Nutritionist and proper management plans ie yearly / monthly programs weaning kids crepe feeding and growth rates • more information on rangeland vs first cross productivity in pastoral areas • No discussion on difficult kidding; target audience are major producers not small holders (which I understand) but accommodating both would be excellent as both sectors serve to benefit • Nutrition and supplements are a big subject • Overall, interesting and informative. Thanks! • Please NEVER let anyone near a presentation if they cannot work the technology. The presentation by Craig Stewart was basically offensive as it just wasted our time. Was he pissed? Or just so bad at 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't be so repetitive, two speakers basically covered the same thing, and to most farmers or large land holders would have walked away. Fit to load was treating farmers like fools. • I have elderly clients who can't fill out NVDs online or haven't got a smart phone or manage any new technology that are being left behind. • Overall, I felt it was informative and useful. Most of my contacts wanted more on the NLIS tags, shifting interstate. While this was covered there's all those small important parts that weren't. • Veterinary practice for goats - I found out today that Glenvac 5-1 needs to be given every 6mths for goats. Castrating goats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 o'clock for seminars is good like tonight. Thanks for putting this on very good speakers brief and to the point. Once a month have an hr next time cover marketing and supply and demand. Who could I contact about selecting for worm resistance. • Any carbon calculation needs to be integrated with our long paddock forage reports • Great speakers, I'm just not sure how I can use this in my rangeland goat harvesting system. Seems there is conflict between the carbon produced from goats from the research done by the Uni of Queensland and how MLA calculates it. (Carbon produced per goat vs carbon per kg of goat) • I am a small Angora goat producer, so it's always nice to include the influence of fleece producing animals • I question what the long-term use of this data will be used for natural grazing systems are positive for our ecology. • It was great • It was meat based, but it would be interesting to know the influence of fleece production in the cycle • Maybe on a bit earlier • More information about sustainability and real examples like the case study provided • More specific to carbon calculation • No, it was great...would love more...so I can learn. • No keep them coming • Relevance back to the primary producers. Research and tools were very interesting, but is the market actually going to price goat meat (generally sold as bulk) based on carbon impact? Lots of interest from relevant researchers, but how many actual growers • Sorry, but you really have left me flat - I am not sure I will bother again. • Thank you, and I appreciate all the effort, but in reality, this is not reaching the average producer. We need to better understand pasture and how this links with carbon sequestration and how to achieve healthy mineral rich soils. • That was great!

<p>presenting. It really did make me want to provide this feedback. We give our time at night to try to learn from MLA presentations but his was a total waste of our time. MLA needs to set a standard and if they are not confident a speaker can handle the technology either don't use them or find a way of doing the technology for them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some information or advice from breeders and a vet with regards to induction prior to 150 days. I hear rumours this is common to avoid kid loss. Especially in the miniature breeds. The rise in popularity of the miniature goat and how it affects producers • Talk to producers who have been in the industry for several years who have good management experience and their life knowledge on selection of bucks and does targets • Thank you • Thank you for organising the webinar, it was very useful and informative. • Thank you for this webinar. It was amazing. Thank you, Vanessa Thomas for organising this Webinar and all the speakers, Mr Craig Stewart, Mr James Boland and Dr Gordon Refshauge. • Thanks • Thanks for organising a Goat focussed event. Could we please explore Angora goats? • There is nothing I can think of. I felt that the presentation was most comprehensive. I would like to see maybe in future a presentation on vaccination / drenching on goats and their kids. • Very good presentation, well worth the seminar • Webinar on cull selection criteria based on the 9Ts - teeth, torso, toes, teats, testicles, tackle, temperament, tail web, tossers. Gross pathology and basic necropsy techniques. Euthanasia methods and how to determine quality of life. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goat producer had a little too much screen time personally. It's great to hear producer talks but lacked some direction in his talk. That said the rest of the talk gave me good background around the tools and resources available and where Australian research is currently at regarding goats and other livestock and our understanding of ghg • The speakers are light years ahead of most producers but these edge fields while help diminish that gap. • Truly appreciate MLA taking the time and effort to pull these events together. Whilst I may have differing opinions on the importance of some subjects, running more of these events is the only way we learn, and any criticism of content should not be misconstrued as lack of enthusiasm for future learning
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9.6 APPENDIX 6: Case studies

9.6.1 Webinar 17 – Craig Stewart

Helping producers a privilege and learning opportunity

Key points:

- Producers learn and adapt to try to reduce kid loss on NSW farm
- The importance of nutrition and body condition score should not be underestimated.
- Minimising the effects of the weather through paddock selection, nutrition and shelter
- Watch the Goat Roadshow Webinar – [Kid Loss](#)

Carrying out hundreds of autopsies on kids over the past four years has been heartbreaking for NSW goat producers Craig and Jo Stewart.

But it has been essential to understand the reasons for the losses and what management strategies they can apply to reduce them.

They have also joined two research studies looking at reducing kid loss and improving reproductive performance to increase productivity and profitability on-farm.

“We run a paddock-to-plate business and need consistent supply of product year-round,” Craig explained.

“We have been kidding three times a year and this year, we’ve added a fourth kidding. This is partly due to the lower conception rates of our summer joining and needing to cover the lower percentages in the earlier kiddings.

“Our aim is to minimise the effects of the weather through paddock selection, nutrition and shelter. We’ve done hundreds of autopsies ourselves and with our vets to try to understand some of the stuff that’s going on.”

Located across two properties at Collie, west of Gilgandra in western New South Wales, the Stewart’s mixed-farming operation features 1000 Boer and Boer-cross breeding does and 150 rangeland cross goats.

Craig also runs up to 50 breeding cows and crops approximately 400 hectares of predominantly wheat and barley, as well as vetch for feed, across the 1500-hectare farm.

Jo has been responsible for the creation of The Gourmet Goat Lady, producing and supplying goatmeat and specialty goatmeat products to butchers and providores along the east coast of Australia.

From one goat to many

In 2007, the Stewarts brought home a poddy goat, which started their journey with goats.

As one goat became 20 goats in a couple of years, Craig suggested Jo needed to “do something” with the goats.

“The goats kept breeding and we went from a couple of animals wandering around not being noticed, to something that was taking up more space and effort,” he said.

“Goats weren’t worth much more than what they are now, but Jo set out to create a business out of it.

“She didn’t get much help in the beginning as I had my cattle and cropping, but soon enough, I could see Jo was creating something that was worth putting the effort into.

“The goats were still breeding, and we started going to farmers markets in Dubbo.”

From there, the business kept growing and once the herd had increased to 200 does, Craig realised they needed to define their purpose.

“We had to stop and think about whether we had a serious go at doing this or whether we went back to having a few running around and stick to farmers markets,” he said.

“In 2014, we created The Gourmet Goat Lady brand. When we started, there weren’t a lot of people in goats, especially in our area and it was difficult to find knowledge.

“We just carried on and did our own thing. We learnt from our mistakes, even though at times they were heartbreaking and costly, and adapted a lot of our knowledge from keeping cattle.

“A lot has changed since then and it is easier now for people to find information than when we started.”

Breeding the right kind of goat

To ensure their operation breeds the kind of goats that can be used in the meat business, Craig has opted to breed their own genetics on-farm.

“I’ve always struggled to find the animals that are what I’m looking for, or they haven’t been structurally sound,” he said.

“When we started, there weren’t many options and I couldn’t find the style and shape of productive animal that I wanted.

“That animal may not be someone else’s cup of tea, but that’s my animal and that’s what we’ve based our business around.

“So we’ve bred our own bucks and we have bred self-replacing does since the start.”

Keeping things simple – shelter and predation

As the goat production in their business has increased, Craig has realised the importance of providing adequate shelter in the paddocks.

This is particularly important for pregnant does and immediately after kidding but he says shelter does not necessarily need to equate to a man-made structure.

“Shelter doesn’t have to be a shed; it can be as simple as some buffel grass or a few roly polys,” he said.

“It might be untidy but it’s actually quite beneficial in making do with what you have. The grass allows them to stay out of the wind.

“The wind chill factor is a big killer, and rain and wind together are pretty dangerous with goat kids. The grass lets them get in there but out of the weather.”

Craig said he has also found the ground covering shrubs had helped keep flying predators away.

“Some of the bigger predators, like the wedge-tailed eagle, like a clear runway so if you can hamper that runway, you can hamper them taking a few kids.”

Other predators the Stewarts contend with on their property include foxes and crows, however, Craig says the former are successfully controlled.

“We have been running a baiting program with about 20 neighbours for the last 10 years for foxes, and we do it every year, regardless of whether we think there are foxes or not,” he said.

“Crows are harder to control but they’re only responsible for a small percentage of the kid deaths.”

To assist in reducing predation, the Stewarts have three Maremma livestock guardian dogs running with three mobs.

“They’ve got a scent, so any foxes are smelling that and are aware of the dogs being there with the goats,” he said.

Body condition score and nutrition

For Craig, the importance of nutrition and body condition score was reinforced through his involvement with the Reducing Kid Loss project run by NSW Department of Primary Industries researcher Dr Gordon Refshauge in 2019.

“Body condition score is a key to trying to stay productive,” Craig said.

“We join the maidens from 7-15 months now and that’s based on a liveweight and condition score.

“We aim for a condition score of three but can run them at 3.5 and it doesn’t seem to be detrimental to their joining. For those carrying kids, it’s probably easier to start at 3.5 than to start at 2.5.

“Our aim is to carry them through in that three score condition or better from the time they are joined until after they kid.”

Craig said they had been supplementary feeding on and off for a couple of years, depending on seasonal requirements and ensuring the does have adequate nutrition for joining and kidding.

“In a normal year, nutrition isn’t a big issue. The does get enough through what we grow naturally for pasture without the need for supplementing,” he said.

“The wethers are offered supplementary feed, however, as these are used for the meat production.

“For the rest, it’s about filling the gaps in the critical times in production. It might be only a three-week gap or a six-week gap, rather than a full-on drought feeding regime.”

Craig said he understood concerns about the costs involved with supplementary feeding, however, for their business, the benefits far outweigh any costs.

“I’ve always maintained you need to put in to get back and you can’t run these animals long and lean and expect them to give you 150 per cent,” he said.

“Then it becomes a matter of head over heart – do you follow your heart which says not to start too early or you’ll be feeding them too long, or do you listen to your head and start feeding them earlier.

“It is hard in years like this when you’re working out feed budgets and trying to work out how much grain you have on hand and how long it will last.

“We started supplementary feeding does back in July/August and we were still feeding a couple of mobs in November. The production we’ve picked up that we would have missed if we hadn’t fed is worth the cost.”

Diversification the next step

Beyond continuing to work on changes to their management practices to reduce kid loss, Craig said they will look to downsize their numbers slightly while exploring additional products for the goatmeat business.

“In the past, we put older does into the export market, but through the drought, we didn’t keep any additional does, so we haven’t had any for sale,” he said.

“Now we’ve picked up the gap we had in breeding does, we can afford to downsize and put more into production.

“Jo has been tinkering with some smoked products for a charcuterie range through The Gourmet Goat Lady.

“Some of those products, including a leg ham style meat, smoked cutlets and a chorizo-style salami, are in a few restaurants at the moment and we’re looking at where we can increase that supply.”

Wisdom for the next generation

Craig reinforced the importance of seeking advice and guidance from other people who have faced similar challenges.

“There is plenty of information out there now to do your homework, whether it’s ringing someone else or researching online,” he said.

“At the end of the day, people in the goat industry are willing to help other people.

“The most important thing to consider when getting into goats or looking to increase numbers, is to have a reason.

“You need to have a bit of forethought in your decision-making. Do your homework, do your budgets and understand the industry.”

For those looking to increase kidding rates and reduce losses, Craig said it was important to make any changes possible, regardless of how insignificant they may seem.

“Learn and do the easy things first. They might be one- or two-percenters, but they add up, and if you’ve got four two-percenters, you’re at eight percent, so it’s worth doing,” he said.

“The other thing to remember is control the controllables. Focus on what you can change, not what you can’t.”

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Resources

[MLA’s Goats Hub](#)
[Goat webinars](#)

9.6.2 Webinar 18 – Andrew Smith

Diversifying into goats provides rewards for SA producer

Key points:

- Goats provide diversification option for landscape management and fire risk management
- Livestock guardian dogs keep predators at bay
- Ag teacher supports future generations to understand goats through show support
- Watch the Goat Roadshow Webinar – [Fit to Load](#)

As a fifth-generation farmer from Laura in South Australia’s Mid North, sheep and goat producer Andrew Smith understands the importance of longevity and sustainability.

While his family have farmed in the hills west of Laura for more than 150 years, and his parents still live on-farm, Andrew has juggled a high school teaching career alongside managing the farming operations and his own young family.

Running 800 Merino ewes and about 20 Angus cows on the 700-hectare Laura Hills Farm, the need to diversify and future-protect operations was brought into sharp focus following the Bangor bushfire in 2014, which burnt through two-thirds of the property.

“We were lucky that we didn’t lose any structures, but we lost fencing, and the flash flooding from three inches of rain in an afternoon which extinguished the fire took out all the fences we had set up along creek lines too,” he said.

“After the fire, we saw several wattle species thriving, but unfortunately this included a wattle *acacia wattsoniana* – or dog wattle – which neither the sheep nor cattle would eat. The sheep wouldn’t go into the scrub country as this wattle was too prolific and they wouldn’t eat it or push past it.

“We had previously had the occasional rangeland goat mob come onto the property as our property borders crown land, so I started thinking about trialling some goats on this wattle.”

Four years after the fire, Andrew bought his first mob of goats – 40 commercial Boer goats – which has now grown to about 400 Contender meat goats.

“We have now shifted from the Boer to a composite goat which has good genetics with rangeland and Boer goat bloodlines crossed with Tennessee meat goats from the US,” Andrew said.

“The dog wattle has a fair bit of natural defence through oils and tannins which makes it barely palatable. The goats eat some of it but they won’t live on it entirely.

“The goats have taken well to the high browse situation and we keep them in the non-arable steep wooded country, whereas the sheep are on the open country like the stubbles and open arable paddocks.”

Andrew said they tend to keep the goats together as one big herd and run through 12 paddocks in rotational grazing but were looking to double the number of paddocks.

“We try to keep them moving and so as not to overgraze, so they’re still getting the intensity of grazing and making good use of the wattles without staying too long to damage native grasses,” he said.

“The goats are useful in reducing the scrub density which is important given we’re in a high fire risk area, as it is likely this area was a semi-wooded grassland before European settlement.”

Targeting 150% production rate

For Andrew, the aim is to produce 600 kids annually from 400 does, which he realises is an ambitious target.

“We generally have one kidding in August and September when we have good feed on offer,” he said.

“We’re focused on breeding objectives and looking at fertility, growth rates, good mothering and hardiness. Generally, the goats are low stress and I’ve only pulled one kid in six or seven years of being a goat producer.”

Andrew said they limit movements during kidding, which takes place in smaller paddocks with scrub as cover.

“When they’re kidding, we give the does extra hay and slow the rotations down as we don’t like to move them too much,” he said.

“Generally, we don’t supplement feed, however, we’ve had fairly limited rainfall since spring and want to keep the does in good condition, however we are experimenting with lick feeders in stubble to grow out weaners.”

Plans underway to introduce electronic identification

With the focus on increasing fertility for the mob, Andrew said they had started to introduce electronic identification ahead of the mandatory rollout from 2025.

“We’ll look to monitor growth rates of kids and using eID to track scanned pregnancies for multiples,” he said.

“We see it as a good cost-effective way to get some data on fertility and keep track of kid loss.”

They already have basic infrastructure including weigh bars, a wand and a manual crate, but Andrew said top of the wish list is an auto drafter “that does all that work for me”.

Predation and protection

Like other livestock producers, the Smiths face challenges with predation of kids and lambs on their property, particularly from foxes and eagles.

To overcome this, Maremma livestock guardian dogs live in the paddocks with the goats as protection.

Andrew said the farm has a resident pair of wedge tailed eagles who have three nesting sites close to where kidding takes place.

“Since we’ve had the dogs, we haven’t seen the eagles in with the goats at kidding time, which is remarkable considering their nests are only up to 1km away,” he said.

“We like the territorial pair of eagles as we’ve never seen another group of eagles move in, so they’re keeping those transient eagles away.

“We think the Maremmas have convinced the eagles that goats are off the menu.”

In terms of infrastructure, the property has required minimal upgrades from sheep fencing and yards to accommodate the goats.

“We have upgraded to electrified fencing with low outrigger electric wire, but that’s all we need to keep the goats in,” Andrew said.

“Heavy meat goats tend to go under rather than over fences. We use the standard sheep yards with no real modifications.”

Supporting goat knowledge in the next generation through shows

Andrew, who also represents Livestock SA on GICA, said some of his interest in goats stemmed from his exposure to livestock through his work as a secondary school agriculture teacher.

“I taught a semester with a Year 9 class on goats, and I realised some of their selling points such as high fertility and high browse capacity could work on the non-arable parts of our property,” he said.

The connection to schools has continued beyond teaching for Andrew, with Laura Hills Farm now supplying goats to schools for the Royal Adelaide Show.

“The Led Goat Wether competition is one of the best goat competitions in Australia in terms of comparing commercial meat goats,” he said.

“I’ve supplied six schools this year – including schools from the Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula and Mid North – with goats that they will grow out over the next few months and halter-train them before showing them in September.

“It’s an opportunity for the students to learn stockmanship skills with a smaller animal, but what they learn with goats is applicable to cattle and sheep.

“The schools can teach a range of topics such as breeding, nutrition and diseases, as well as basic goat care and farming, as the students ramp up the feed and nutrition to see the goats compete on level playing field.

“They are judged as meat goats, not for breeds or standards, but as a commercial meat goat carcass.”

Local market drives meat demand

After earlier experiences selling lamb meat direct to consumers, Andrew said they chose to focus on a wholesale market for goat meat and have one main wholesale customer based in the Adelaide Hills.

“Our wholesaler purchases high-quality farmed goats from all over SA and uses a small abattoir to process the animals, before supplying meat to a Nepalese supermarket in Adelaide and other smaller markets,” he said.

“There is strong demand for this farmed goat product, which is completely different to the rangeland market, with our customers looking for a 20kg carcass.

“We aim for a 40kg liveweight in about 10 months, but unlike sheep, there is no penalty for an older (two-tooth) animal into this market, so we can keep them longer than the 12-month period if we need to fatten them up.

“There is a particular Hindu festival in early October, Dashain, where goat is consumed so there is huge demand from the Nepalese community at that time of year.”

Goats an attractive alternative worth considering

Andrew encouraged others considering goats to speak with as many other goat farmers as possible and attributed much of his learning to talking to other producers.

“We are fortunate to have a good network among the farmed goats community in SA, with producers extremely generous with their knowledge,” he said.

“We get together every few months for a goat chat day at someone’s property and look at each other’s goats and infrastructure, which is really insightful.

“There are also really good resources available on (MLA’s) Goat Hub – it is a one-stop shop for everything goats and the Getting into Goats resources are incredible.”

He also said it was not essential for those wanting to start with goats to purchase expensive purebreds, with impressive genes available in rangeland goats.

“There are some excellent goats refined to Australian conditions, which just need weight put on them and you can do that with cross breeding,” he said.

“It’s also important with goats to figure out what minerals your paddock, soil or environment is lacking. Goats have quite a different, often higher, mineral requirement than sheep, so it’s important to learn what they need and supplement through mineral licks or salt.

“It’s also important to get your fences in order before introducing goats. I find the meatier the goat, the heavier they are, and they don’t jump as easily, whereas rangeland goats tend to go over fences.”

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Resources

[MLA’s Goats Hub](#)
[Goat webinars](#)

9.6.3 Webinar 19 – James Nalder

Thirst for learning drives NSW goat operation forward

Key points:

- Controlling the controllables key to driving success
- Using data to improve animal selection boosts herd uniformity and pregnancy rates
- Having the right equipment and infrastructure keeps staff happy
- Watch the Goat Roadshow Webinar – [Carbon sustainability](#)

“Controlling the controllables” - the catch cry of veterinary consultant Tim Gole - has been the mantra James and Emma Nalder have aimed to follow in their livestock operation.

The unpredictability of farming has been a constant for James and Emma, who run Angus cattle and goats alongside a broadacre cropping operation across three properties near Coonamble in central west New South Wales.

However, by focusing on the variables within their control – which includes adding goats to their enterprise mix and working to improve the genetics of their herd – the operation continues to thrive.

When Emma moved to Coonamble from her family’s sheep, cattle and rangeland goat operation at Wanaaring in western NSW, she brought a “handful” of goats with her as pets.

The Nalders noticed how well the goats handled the wet conditions in 2016.

“They didn’t really have any issues and they only went from strength to strength,” he said.

“Fertility levels were pretty good with lots of does bearing multiples, and they seemed to thrive. Then in the following three years when we had a drought, the goats held onto their condition really well and they never dropped their bundle.

“They stood up to the conditions in what was a pretty harsh and tough situation with some of the lowest rainfall recorded in consecutive years.”

During this time, the Nalders had de-stocked their cattle significantly, with numbers reduced by two-thirds.

But rather than launching straight back into cattle when the drought was over, they looked at other opportunities, including goats.

“At the same time we started buying goats in, we had been updating our infrastructure like fencing to try and manage kangaroo and wild pig numbers,” he said.

“From a pest management perspective, we wanted to make sure our cropping areas weren’t being decimated but also managing our pastures better. We were also conscious of needing every blade of grass to count for the livestock we were running.

“We decided with the fencing upgrades we were doing and where the goat industry was heading with pricing, that was our opportunity to really push ahead with goats.”

Using genetics to improve the herd

James said their initial herd had a ‘very wide base’ of genetics when they started buying goats commercially in 2021, which had been a deliberate move to help them select their ideal goat.

“Rather than having a blinkered look to what sort of goats we were going to run, we took an open eye to it and looked at a range of new genetics,” he said.

“We looked at every option that was within reason to be able to easily buy-in and truck into our business at the time.

“Then we started to narrow it down and improve our herd, looking at the physical attributes such as frame size, and structural issues like feet and udders.

“I was once told there’s something like 12,000 different genetics within the goats in Australia at the moment. It’s the widest genetic base of any farmed animal in Australia.

“There’s so much potential within that range that we haven’t discounted anything. Our bucks are predominantly a mix of Boer and Contender and we’re continually trying to improve on that.”

Importance of having the right equipment

Following a rough first year running goats, with high worm egg counts and kidding at various times throughout the year, James acknowledged the importance of having the right infrastructure and equipment to do the job.

“When we needed to drench the goats because of those high worm counts, we realised our yard infrastructure needed a bit of work and since then, we’ve been trying to improve on that,” he said.

“Drenching goats can be very challenging, especially in a wet year when you’ve got high worm burdens. It’s nearly enough to put you off, However, having the right equipment makes all the difference and it’s something we learned very early.

“When you’re working with any animal, you’ve got to have the right equipment to not just do the work, but to make it enjoyable.”

James said some of the equipment they have invested in include a ProWay bulk lifter to make drenching easier; a vet marker cradle with a weigh cell so as the goats are tagged with an eID ear tag, their weight is collected; and a Prattley auto drafter with an in-built eID reader.

“This makes it easier both on the goats and on us and our staff. We want to retain our staff and enjoy the work they’re doing,” he said.

Using data to move forward

Eliminating the guesswork when it comes to selecting the right goats is the primary motivator in improving their herd’s genetics, according to James.

“One of the main issues that always bothered us when it came to selection with our goats was how to know whether we’re actually selecting the right goats to cull and those to keep on farm,” he said.

“Initially, we were trying to get a more uniform goat and selecting on physical traits such as frame size and structural issues like feet and udders.”

But within those goats, there were large variations in what each of the does produced and their ability to be a mother. There were also variances in how those progenies reacted to the physical environments, how they gained weight and how they developed into a carcass later on.

“I’m always thinking about what our ideal goat is, but how do we know when we’re just looking at it?” he said.

James said they had no hesitations joining the Kids Plus project run between Meat and Livestock Australia and the University of Queensland.

The project is being run on several properties throughout Queensland and New South Wales aiming to improve reproductive performance in goats to increase productivity and profitability on-farm. Researchers are investigating similarities and differences in production systems as well as the factors that increase the survivability of kids and lead to reproductive success and failure.

“For us, being part of the Kids Plus project was the first time we could statistically see the variation in our goats in an objective not subjective way, and also how much improvement we can hopefully make with better genetics,” he said.

“It’s a clear conscience knowing that when you’re selecting the animals to keep on farm, you’re actually picking the best animals based on the data to drive your genetic gains going forward.

“Compared to sheep, some of the numbers were not that great, but we found some of the goats had weight gains up to 280 grams a day, where sheep can do around 300 grams a day.

“We thought if we can start selecting some of those animals, it’s going to be encouraging to see where our weight gains can be in turning off goats quicker and with more carcass weight.

When they joined the project in 2022, their goat numbers had reduced from 1000 goats initially, to about 600-700 does.

Being involved with the Kids Plus project also marked the start of the Nalders journey into using eID tags.

“I know that nothing ever stands still, and technology in agriculture is an ongoing evolution,” James said.

“Using eID is a natural progression for the industry and if we can use those tags to track animals and gather data that we can actually use, it will help us to take our operations forward in the future.

“When technology like this comes along, I try to see how we can make it work and how it can be a profit driver rather than being a drain on the cashflow.

“All our costs are continually going up and you’ve got to keep finding improvements in yield and performance all the way through to keep up with that.

“In our production system, we’re really focused on trying to make use of anything we can to improve our goat herds moving forward.”

Improving kidding rates

James said the first year they had goats on a commercial basis, marking percentages were about 70 per cent, which was less than ideal.

But with changes in management and tightening the joining window to a six to eight-week timeframe, there had been a noticeable improvement.

“In 2022, we had 167 per cent marking percentage and in 2023, with the dry conditions, it dropped back to about 134 per cent. However, in 2024, we expect to be back to between 160 and 170 per cent,” he said.

“We have made a few other improvements with nutrition and ground cover while the goats are kidding and tightened the joining period, while also being more diligent with pest control.

“We’ve got a good tight window for pregnancy scanning to get an accurate result on how many singles, multiples and empties we’ve got.

“Controlling the controllables really shows the things you can have an impact on, and in our instance, that was in the pregnancy rates.”

Supplementary feeding when necessary

Supplementary feeding is a new addition to the Nalder enterprise, but only during dry years and in a way that complements their other farming operations.

“We want to try to boost the nutrition of the goats at key times like in the lead-up to joining, just before kidding takes place and for the first month of kidding,” he said.

“Instead of using smaller feeder systems, we’ve used the larger bulk systems as it is much more efficient and easier to use. We can pull up alongside the delivery bin we’ve converted to a feeder, which holds 10 to 12 tonnes, and fill directly from our chaser bin from our cropping operation.”

Always learning the key to improving

Continually looking for ways to improve operations has been essential for the Nalders to progress.

James attributes his progress to his curiosity and thirst for knowledge in wanting to learn as much as possible to improve.

“We’ve worked on controlling the controllables and any aspect that we can influence on the management of our goats, we’ve tried to implement,” he said.

“Nothing stays the same. Our industry is constantly evolving.

“We want to try and improve both the welfare of our goats as well as their productivity and, in turn, the profitability of our entire enterprise, including our cropping and beef cattle operations.

“We try and take as much as we can from any information MLA puts out, any research paper that comes out or by attending information days about the industry.

“It might only be one pearl of wisdom that you get out of something, but that one pearl can make a difference to your whole operation.

“Sometimes it is a light bulb moment and just a bit of a tweak to your system can make every little piece just that bit easier.”

More information

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Resources

[MLA’s Goats Hub](#)
[Goat webinars](#)

9.8 APPENDIX 8: Goat Roadshow Event List

The table below lists all topics and speakers for webinars hosted for the Goat Roadshow since July 2020.

#	Date	Topic	Name	Title	Organisation	# rego	# attendees	live attendance
19	Tues 21 May 2024	How goats can be part of the carbon sustainability system Understanding carbon emissions and sustainability in rangeland and farmed goat situations is essential as the Australian livestock industry moves towards meeting carbon targets. How goats can be part of the carbon sustainability system - overview of current research + useful and practical insights to improve understanding and increase sustainability.	Dr Daniel Forwood	Project Manager, Sheep and Goat Productivity	MLA	217	74	34%
			Dr Sarah Meale	Senior Lecturer in Animal Science and Production	University of Queensland			
			Hilary Connors	Project Manager, Sustainability Adoption	MLA			
			Tanisha Shields	Consultant	Agrista			
			Jenny Lim	Project Manager, Environmental Markets and Sustainability	MLA			
			James Nalder	Producer	Coonamble, NSW			
18	Tues 19 Mar 2024	Are your goats fit to load? Understand roles and responsibilities in ensuring animals are fit to travel before you start loading. Overview of Fit to Load legislation, plus on farm advice for ensuring you meet animal welfare obligations, including importance of checking animals prior to transport, responsibilities and how to comply with NVD and NLIS requirements.	Dr Daniel Forwood	Project Manager, Sheep and Goat Productivity	MLA	122	30	25%
			Dr Berwyn Squire	Goat Health Veterinary Officer	Agriculture Victoria			
			Dr Petrea Wait	Senior Program and Project Officer, Animal Welfare Unit	NSW Department of Primary Industries			
			Elizabeth Bradley	Manager - Quality, Policy and Compliance	Integrity Systems Company			
17	Wed 14 Oct 2023	Understanding and reducing kid loss Recent research has estimated the scale of kid loss to the goat industry could be as high as \$1.45 million per year - a significant cost to the industry. Research insights on factors causing kid loss and management strategies to improve outcomes + practical tips to manage weight and condition, nutritional requirements, environmental factors and disease for better outcomes.	Vanessa Thomas	Project Manager, Sheep and Goat Productivity	MLA	251	67	27%
			Dr Gordon Refshauge	Research Scientist and Institute Director, Livestock Systems	Department of Regional NSW			
			James Boland	Producer	Big Ampy Pastoral			
			Craig Stewart	Producer	Buena Vista, Collie, NSW / The Gourmet Goat Lady			
16	Tues 13 June 2023	A guide to on-farm biosecurity Good on-farm biosecurity practices act as a management tool to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases or harmful pests. Having an effective on-farm biosecurity plan will provide immediate and ongoing returns including reducing your chances of introducing important economic diseases to	Dr Melanie Smith	Program Manager, Sheep and Goat Productivity	MLA	175	70	40%
			Dr Rob Barwell	Head of Program, Biosecurity	Animal Health Australia			
			Bec Brayley	Extension Officer (Small Ruminants)	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland			
			Glenda Henry	Boer goat breeder, Bellarine Boer Goats	Emerald, Qld			

		your livestock. Overview on managing risks to your property, with practical tips on improving your on-farm biosecurity.	Dr Berwyn Squire Elizabeth Bradley	Goat Health Veterinary Officer Manager – Quality, Policy and Compliance	Agriculture Victoria Integrity Systems Company			
15	Mon 27 March 2023	Sustainable grazing management of rangeland goats Overview of how rangeland goat producers can best optimise their operations to maximise productivity and sustainability in the rangelands. This includes understanding the grazing and browsing behaviours of goats, how to manage them effectively, and how to gain a further understanding of how goats utilise the landscapes and resources so you can optimise infrastructure investments e.g. fencing and water sources	Joe Gebbels Mark Trotter Associate Professor Matthew Harrison Peter Whip Lester Pahl	Program Manager, Sheep and Goat R&D Professor in Precision Livestock Management, School of Medical and Applied Sciences Systems Modelling Team Leader, Tasmanian Institute of Ag Producer, PRW Agribusiness Principal Scientist	MLA Central Qld University University of Tasmania Longreach, Qld Qld Agriculture and Fisheries	181	68	38%
14	Mon 5 Dec 2022	Goat meat webinar - meeting the market End-to-end supply chain overview of the goat meat market, from producers supplying to domestic and export markets to a goat processor. Listen to producers discuss how they manage animals on farm to meet domestic and export market specifications. Gain insights from goat processors around carcass specifications and pricing grids and understand factors influencing goat eating quality from a meat scientist.	Dr Melanie Smith Michael Leopardi John Blore Paul Leonard Dr Jarrod Lees	Project Manager, Sheep and Goat Productivity Goat producer and wholesaler Goat producer / rangeland goat depot owner Small stock manager Researcher	MLA Adelaide Hills Silverton Goats Thomas Foods International	227	77	34%
13	Tues 4 Oct 2022	Goat industry need to know Overview of industry's governance, tag requirements, animal movements, animal health and distribution of the goat levy. Outline of who GICA and GIRDAC are and their responsibilities, different tag requirements between systems, the collection and use of the goat levy and animal health including WormBoss.	John Falkenhagen Katie Davies Matt Playford Joe Gebbels Dr Melanie Smith Dr Rob Barwell	President Vice-President and Secretary Veterinary Consultant Program Manager, Sheep and Goat R&D Project Manager, Sheep and Goat Productivity Head of Program, Biosecurity	Goat Industry Council of Australia Goat Industry Council of Australia Dawbuts MLA MLA Animal Health Australia	218	57	26%
12	Thurs 9 Jun 2022	Adding value through genetics Overview of KIDPLAN and case study examples from producers about how genetics can be used to help improve productivity and profitability in a range of goat production systems. MLA's latest Kidplan research, advice from a seedstock breeder, practical commercial producer experience.	Dr Melanie Smith Peta Bradley Professor Louw Hoffman Colin Ramsay Emily Watts	Project Manager, Sheep and Goat Productivity Manager - Sheep Genetics Animal scientist Producer Producer	MLA MLA University of Queensland Dudauman Boers Catlok Goats	167	72	43%

11	Wed 20 Apr 2022	Supplementary feeding for success Nutritional requirements of goats and using supplementary feeding to optimise their growth and productivity. MLA's latest goat supplementation research, using a cost-of-supplement calculator, nutritionist approach, practical producer experience.	Dr Melanie Smith	Project Manager, Sheep and Goat Productivity	MLA	166	45	27%
			Simon Quigley	Research Fellow (Livestock)	Future Farming Systems, CQ University			
			Reza Tahmasbi	Ruminant Nutritionist	Alltech Lienert			
			Emma Patterson	Producer	Springvale Reds			
10	Tues 16 Nov 2021	Getting into goats: make the most of what you have Goat management tips and tricks from a panel of producers, as well as profile of the range of goat industry resources and tools produced by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA). Hands-on experience of a panel of goat producers, representing a range of enterprise types, sizes, and environments. Each panellist will give an overview of their operations and management practices.	Joe Gebbels	Program Manager, Sheep and Goat R&D	MLA	180	91	51%
			John Falkenhagen	President	Goat Industry Council of Australia			
			Stefan Anesbury	Producer	Anesbury Hill Angora Study			
			Bradley & Christine Irvine	Producer	Belle Ridge Goats			
			Anita Dennis	Producer	Coolagh			
9	Mon 29 Mar 2021	Economics and resilience Detailed economic analyses of goat production systems in rangeland Queensland have been conducted by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF Qld) staff as part of a project funded by the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation Program. This webinar explores methods to appropriately assess the impact of strategies on profit, risk, and the time period before benefits can be expected.	Emily Litzow	Project Manager, Sheep and Goat Productivity	MLA	96	36	38%
			Maree Bowen	Principal Research Scientist, Ruminant Nutrition, Animal Science	Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries			
			Scott Counsell	Producer	Lyndon, Qld			
8	Wed 16 Dec 2020	Kid loss Increasing producer awareness of factors causing perinatal kid loss and what can be done on-farm to respond to nutritional requirements, environmental factors and disease management. Perinatal kid loss causes, pregnant doe nutritional requirements, producer case study, management tips for optimal doe health.	Dr Gordon Refshauge	Livestock Research Officer	NSW DPI	135	56	41%
			James Boland	Producer	Big Ampy Pastoral			
			Kylie Greentree	District Veterinarian	Hunter Local Land Services			
7	Thurs 9 Jul 2020	Improving on-farm practices and business management skills in the Australian goat industry, profiling range of new resources and tools produced by MLA, business management, case study, management tips for optimal goat health, industry expert panel session.	Karissa de Belle	Associate	Bush AgriBusiness	159	78	49%
			Bob and Amy Brown	Producer	Heather Station, Qld			
			Emily Litzow	Senior Project Manager	MLA			