



2021 SALRC PRIORITIES

The following priorities were compiled from issues identified by each of the seven SALRC regional livestock producer committees throughout the first half of 2021. A prioritisation process was conducted by the SALRC Chair in consultation with the chairs of each of the regional livestock producer committees during July 2021.

Priority No.	Outcome(s) sought	Further details	Identified in which SALRC region(s)
1	Develop extension programs and standardised, affordable monitoring tools to enable cost effective monitoring and reporting of the environmental sustainability and carbon footprint on farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key, measurable elements of environmental sustainability on farm Raise awareness of achievable timeframes for carbon neutrality targets 	SEVT, SNSW, CWNSW, SA, CV, NNSW
2	Build human capacity and professional pathways- attract/train/retain staff on farms and increase awareness of succession planning needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include increased awareness and training in use of agri-tech Include financial planning and business management elements 	SEVT, WV, NNSW, SNSW, CWNSW
3	Develop useable tools for decision making before, during and after "extreme events" (drought, bushfires, floods) and to enable adaptation to increasing climate variability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include assessment of risk for destock or feed options before and during "extreme events" Best practice for herd/flock rebuilding after "extreme events" Develop trigger points/decision matrix to assist producers respond to emerging climate conditions Identify and promote case studies of successful management strategies that enabled producers to manage and recover from drought Should drought affected heifers be retained or culled 	SEVT, WV, NNSW, CWNSW, SA, CV, SNSW
4	Improved, integrated techniques for prevention and treatment of internal parasites in sheep and cattle to reduce drench resistance and improve production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include management of Barbers Pole worm emerging in new areas in response to climate change 	SEVT, NNSW, CV, SNSW, WV
5	Develop improved grass and legume cultivars and management guidelines to improve pasture performance- production, persistence, nodulation, low bloat, seed production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative pasture species needed for high and low rainfall regions 	SEVT, CV, WV, SNSW, NNSW, SA
6	Develop and evaluate key indicators of production efficiency for sheep and cattle grazing enterprises in different	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial impacts of increasing mature breeding unit size/weight 	SEVT, WV, SNSW, CWNSW, CV

	regions-including attention to mature breeding unit size/weight versus weight of offspring weaned, feed use efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include development of monitoring tools for feed conversion efficiency 	
7	Pasture species selection, mixes and management practices that provide improved persistence, higher quality feed, minimise weed incursions and adaptation in variable climates and across specific regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include focus on multi-species perennial pastures and cover cropping • Integrated pest management in pastures • Monitoring feed quality and quantity recovery post drought • Monitoring and controlling weed encroachment 	SEVT, NNSW, SNSW, CWNSW, SA, CV
8	Develop tools to assist producers avoid stock losses from bloat-including effective prevention treatments, warning systems to identify high risk, grazing management, non-bloating legume varieties		SNSW, CV, WV
9	Develop, promote and deliver beef productivity extension services relevant to southern Australia cattle production systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partly covered in MLA's 2021 call for proposals • Develop and promote delivery of courses relevant to beef producers(similar to Lifetime Ewe Management; Bred Well Fed Well; Ramping up Repro) • Develop and support beef extension services to deliver the above courses • Demonstrate improvements in cattle reproductive performance and mortality rates through adoption of selected management 	SA, CV, WV, SEVT, SNSW
10	Develop and promote to the broader community, best practice codes of conduct for animal welfare, objective measures of livestock wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include development of guidelines for best practice pain relief across livestock industries • Best practice guidelines for producers must take into account different production systems in different agri-climatic zones 	WV, SNSW, CWNSW, SA, CV, SEVT
11	Evaluate productivity, animal health and economic impacts of utilizing grazing crops (forage and dual purpose)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important for post drought management plans 	SNSW, CV, SA, WV
12	Develop and evaluate precision weaner management strategies for sheep (including containment feeding for weaners and breeding stock; early weaning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate the productivity and economic impacts of precision management techniques for weaners and breeding ewes 	SA, CV, WV, SNSW
13	Develop and evaluate genetics and management tools (including joining length, lambing group size, post-lambing management, scanning) to reduce reproductive wastage in sheep flocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure lamb survival rates and identify opportunities for improvement including scientific understanding of physiological constraints • Develop breeding values for lamb survival and maternal traits that will improve overall lamb survival 	SA, NNSW, SNSW, WV

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased extension of current best practice-including taking into account feed costs in variable environments and predator control • New strategies to improve ewe fertility and lamb survival to weaning • Long term evaluation and extension of precision management of reproduction processes (joining length, lambing group size, post-lambing management, scanning) to decrease mortalities of ewes and lambs 	
14	Development, commercial evaluation and adoption of new treatments and management procedures to assist producers minimise pink eye in cattle		NNSW, CV, WV
15	Adoption of best management practices to better match stocking rate to carrying capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop new and improved decision support tools to actively match land capability and feed resources to stocking rate and stock nutritional requirements • Promote increased adoption of these tools for improved environmental and animal welfare outcomes 	CWNSW, SA, CV
16	Minimise heat stress impacts on sheep production under extensive grazing and confinement feeding regimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop mitigation strategies and management responses to minimise heat stress impacts on sheep reproduction • Develop improved knowledge about microclimate variability and management in feedlots, confinement feeding and paddocks 	SA, CV, SNSW
17	Quantify farm productivity, animal welfare and wildlife ecology impacts, of control of abundant grazing competitor species and predators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine tools and develop novel techniques for cost-effective and humane control and/or exclusion of grazing competitor and predator species • Develop communication and advisory services and skills on the benefits to productivity and animal welfare of virtual fencing • Innovative technologies to cost effectively reduce macropod grazing pressure while meeting animal welfare and native species obligations • Objective quantification of the contribution of kangaroos to total grazing pressure • Improved community awareness of wild dog impacts and options to address wild dog control at a regional scale 	SA, CV, WV, NNSW, CWNSW, SEVT
18	Improved diagnostic testing of livestock diseases and mortalities in southern Australian grazing systems,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include investigation of the prevalence of Toxoplasmosis and evaluation of the current NZ vaccine 	SEVT, WV, SA, CV, SNSW

	including on-farm, rapid diagnostic tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other diseases to focus on include chlamydia, pneumonia, leptospirosis 	
19	Develop multi-breed EBV's for beef cattle		WV, CV, SA, NNSW
20	Develop improved feedback systems for product quality		SA, WV, CV
21	Measurement and evaluation of soil pH impacts and stratification on pasture productivity and persistence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate amelioration options 	SNSW, CV
22	Develop new, non-chemical control of cockchafers and other insect pests to reduce damage to pastures		WV, CV, SA, SEVT, SNSW
23	Demonstrate the animal welfare, production and financial benefits of virtual fencing		WV, SA
24	Improved understanding of water volume and water infrastructure requirements to support livestock businesses under increasing climate variability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under increasing climate variability, develop recommendations on optimum dam sizes; better understanding of the status of groundwater reserves and their accessibility; how do livestock water requirements change with higher average temperatures 	SA, NNSW
25	Investigate animal health issues, biosecurity, feed requirements and economics of dairy breeds in current beef production systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to address issues with some current meat processors 	SEVT, WV

SALRC's seven regions:

-NNSW: Northern NSW

-CWNSW: Central/Western NSW

-SNSW: Southern NSW

-SEVT: South east Victoria/Tasmania

-CV: Central Victoria

-WV: Western Victoria

-SA: South Australia