



February 2017

## MANDATORY BRUCELLOSIS ACCREDITATION FOR AWSA MEMBERS

At the Federal Council meeting held in Wagga Wagga in February 2017 a discussion was held regarding the increased prevalence of Ovine Brucellosis in the Australian sheep flock. The financial impact of Ovine Brucellosis on stud and commercial flocks can be quite substantial through ram wastage, low lamb-marking percentages and extended lambing periods.

Ovine Brucellosis is an infectious bacterial disease of sheep caused by *Brucella ovis* and occurs in all districts. Infection causes inflammation of the male reproductive organs, in particular the epididymis in rams, resulting in infertility and sterility in some affected rams

White Suffolks now have as big an impact on the prime lamb industry as any other terminal sire breed with the number of rams sold annually and commercial lambs produced. As a breed we pride ourselves on the time and effort put into continually improving the quality of our stock and also maintaining the highest possible level of flock health status.

To help improve the overall health status within our breed and to be more pro-active and help minimize the spread of Ovine Brucellosis, Federal Council has made the decision moving forward that **ALL studs will need to be Ovine Brucellosis accredited to be a financial member of the Australian White Suffolk Association.**

From 2018 all White Suffolk studs will need to supply an Ovine Brucellosis accreditation number with their annual return to be included in the flock book. For those studs not accredited who need further information about ovine brucellosis certification please contact your state's Primary Industries or Agricultural Department.

To give members who are currently unaccredited time to set the process in motion, this requirement will not come into effect until the 2018 annual returns are due. This new by-law was presented at the 2017 AGM and had the support of those members present. We see this as a positive step into the future for our breed and for our standing in the Australian Lamb Industry. We look forward to the full support of AWSA members in reaching this deadline.

Regards  
AWSA Federal Council

*If you are not accredited and require further information on testing requirements, please contact your state Primary Industries or Agriculture Department:*

New South Wales [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au) or call 1800 808 095

Queensland [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au) or call 132 523 (QLD residents) or (07) 6404 6999

South Australia [www.pir.sa.gov.au](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au) or call (08) 8207 7959

Tasmania [www.dpiw.tas.gov.au](http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au) or call 136 186

Western Australia [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au) or call (08) 9368 3333