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Economic Development,
Jobs, Transport
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Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund

Summary of Projects
2015-16

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Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund overview

Victoria's Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund is established under the *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994*. The fund collects livestock duties paid on the sale of sheep and goats or their carcasses in Victoria.

The Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund receives \$0.12 for each sheep or goat, or each carcass of sheep or goat sold.

The Minister for Agriculture may make payments from the Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund (the Fund) from:

- the capital of the Fund for administering the provisions of the *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994* relating to sheep and goats;
- interest earned on money from the Fund for programs and projects for the benefit of the sheep and goat industry in Victoria;
- from the capital of the Fund or from interest earned on money from the Fund for programs and projects for the control or eradication of disease of sheep or goats.

The Minister for Agriculture must not make a payment from the fund unless the Minister has considered any relevant recommendations from the Sheep and Goat Compensation Advisory Committee (SGCAC).

Committee members

The SGCAC has been established to provide advice to the Minister for Agriculture on diseases for which compensation should be payable, the maximum amount of compensation that is payable, payments which should be made and any other matter referred to it by the Minister.

Under Section 79I (3) of *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994*, the SGCAC comprises eight members appointed by the Minister as follows:

- four are to be persons with suitable qualifications and experience relating to the sheep industry;
- one is to be a person with suitable qualifications and experience relating to the goat industry;
- one is to be a person with suitable qualifications and experience relating to the livestock agents profession;
- one is to be a person with suitable qualifications and experience relating to the meat processing industry; and
- one is to be a person nominated by the Secretary.

TABLE 1: Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund Advisory Committee membership

Representation	Representative
Victorian Farmers Federation	Mr Michael Craig (Chair) Mr Ian Feldtmann, Livestock Group Ms Faye Tuchtan, Livestock Group Ms Margaret Piccoli, Goat Producer
Victorian Farmers Federation (not affiliated, VFF nominee)	Ms Kate Joseph, Sheep Producer
Australian Livestock & Property Agents Association	Ms Liz Summerville, Southern Regional Manager
Australian Meat Industry Council	Ms Angelique Rospin, Australian Lamb (Colac) Pty Ltd
State Government	Ms Cassandra Meagher, Executive Director, Agriculture Victoria

2015-16 year in review

Combined Funding of the Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund and the Cattle Compensation Fund

In 2015-16 the Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund and the Cattle Compensation Fund jointly funded eight projects.

TABLE 2: Projects jointly funded between Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund and Cattle Compensation Fund (50:50)

Project	Objective	Administered by	Fund Use	2015-16 budget
Disease investigation training for veterinary practitioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver training in animal disease investigation that will increase the knowledge, competency and capacity of private veterinarians to conduct a thorough and effective disease investigation in livestock. 	Agriculture Victoria	Training and development	\$70,000
Local area networks for disease investigation (LANDI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish groups of local sheep and beef producers throughout Victoria with the aim of obtaining reliable livestock disease information from producer groups and reporting this information to Agriculture Victoria in a timely manner. Enhance Victoria's ability to detect emergency or emerging animal diseases quickly. Assist to train veterinarians, veterinary students and producers in relevant aspects of farm biosecurity and livestock health. 	University of Melbourne	Information sharing	\$120,000
Enhanced livestock pathology services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable more pathology investigations from LANDI to be processed through the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences at Werribee. Provide enhanced training to veterinary students in the diagnosis and pathology of diseases of sheep, goats and cattle. Provide better training to junior veterinary pathologists by increasing the caseload of material from food producing ruminants. 	University of Melbourne	Training and subsidised investigations	\$60,000
Johne's disease market assurance program (MAP) operational support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide operational support to the national Johne's disease Market Assurance Programs, including administrative activities and program coordination. 	Agriculture Victoria	Information and support for producers	\$100,000
Significant disease investigations (including anthrax investigations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide financial subsidies to cattle producers to offset the cost of engaging a private veterinarian to undertake an investigation of a significant disease event. Encourage private veterinarians to investigate and report significant disease events. 	Agriculture Victoria	Information gathering and support for producers	\$150,000

Project	Objective	Administered by	Fund Use	2015-16 budget
VFF livestock project officers (animal health and biosecurity extension) project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver key animal health and biosecurity messages to all Victorian sheep meat, wool, goat and beef producers with a focus on endemic disease that impact farm profitability, animal welfare and Victoria's biosecurity status. This includes the provision of educational workshops for all producers; develop and/or distribute related industry materials including VFF online resources to the farming community; and act as a point of contact for any animal health and biosecurity questions. 	Victorian Farmers Federation	VFF extension activities with producers	\$300,000
VFF policy development and livestock industry network project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to policy development at a state and national level in relation to biosecurity and welfare, particularly in the context of welfare/management standards, disease surveillance, endemic disease control and emergency animal disease preparations. Maintain industry networks at producer and national levels to facilitate the effective communication of information, particularly in the context of natural disasters and emergency disease response, the maintenance of appropriate biosecurity and livestock management standards. Represent Victoria's livestock health and welfare interests at a national level. 	Victorian Farmers Federation	VFF policy development	\$220,000
Q fever abattoir seroprevalence study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimate the prevalence of Q fever among Victorian cattle, sheep and goats. Identify regions of increased risk and estimate prevalence of recent exposure amongst animals from Victorian farms at abattoirs in three different locations. Identify risk factors and inform planning of future control activities. 	University of Melbourne	Research and development	\$50,000

Sheep and Goat Compensation Projects Funded

In 2015-16 the Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund funded eleven projects.

TABLE 3: Projects funded by the Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund

Project	Objective	Administered by	Fund use	2015-16 budget
Accreditation for footrot contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that there is a pool of accredited contractors to perform footrot eradication when virulent footrot has been diagnosed on a farm. 	Agriculture Victoria	Support for producers	\$2,500
Feedback on disease and seed contamination in sheep carcasses throughout the supply chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect, interpret, monitor and provide feedback to producers on disease and seed contamination in sheep carcasses throughout the supply chain. 	Agriculture Victoria	Information for producers	\$90,000
Footrot training workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve sheep producer and animal health adviser awareness of diagnosis, control and eradication of footrot, leading to improved control and eradication. 	University of Melbourne	Training for producers	\$25,000
Negative ovine Johne's disease reporting (ongoing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Victorian sheep producers with reports of negative results from ovine Johne's disease abattoir surveillance. 	Agriculture Victoria	Information for producers	\$5,000
New diagnostic for controlling ovine footrot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the early detection of ovine footrot. 	Agriculture Victoria	Research and development	\$27,000
North West biosecurity area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support development and maintenance of a regional biosecurity area to facilitate interstate trade of sheep. 	Agriculture Victoria	Support for producers	\$11,500
Saleyards and abattoir surveillance project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detect incursions of emergency animal diseases in the sheep and goat industries. Investigate and describe the causes of mortality and loss in transported sheep and goats at Victorian saleyards and abattoirs. Maintain or enhance Agriculture Victoria staff capabilities in disease surveillance and gross necropsy. 	Agriculture Victoria	Co-contribution for disease surveillance and information gathering	\$200,000
Sheep and goat mortality surveillance project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detect incursions of emergency animal diseases in the sheep and goat industries. Investigate and describe the causes of mortality and loss in sheep and goats on Victorian farms. Provide Agriculture Victoria staff the opportunity to maintain or enhance their capabilities in disease surveillance, especially in gross necropsy. 	Agriculture Victoria	Co-contribution for disease surveillance and information gathering	\$100,000

Sheep and Goat Compensation Projects Funded (cont.)

Project	Objective	Administered by	Fund use	2015-16 budget
Sheep and goat veterinary officers project (including Sheep Notes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop expertise within Agriculture Victoria by the employment and continual development of two veterinary officers serving the sheep and goat industries. Manage endemic disease programs (ovine and caprine Johne's disease, caprine arthritis encephalitis, ovine brucellosis, National Sheep Health Monitoring Project reporting). Inform sheep industry stakeholders of disease, welfare, biosecurity and production issues through the production of Sheep Notes. 	Agriculture Victoria	Information and support for producers	\$210,000
Vaccination of sheep against anthrax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the provision of specialist advice on sheep and goat diseases. 	Agriculture Victoria	Producer Subsidy	There was no expenditure for the 2015-16 period.
Abattoir (sheep and goat) monitoring feedback for production diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish causes of deaths in sheep and goats in Victorian abattoirs; advise producers with data on disease detected and prevalence. Develop and deliver factsheet. 	Agriculture Victoria	Information for producers	\$5,000

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The logo for Agriculture Victoria, featuring the text "AGRICULTURE VICTORIA" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The word "VICTORIA" is partially overlaid by a white downward-pointing triangle.