

Sheep producers urged to follow new traceability rules

Sheepmeat Council of Australia urges sheep producers to follow the new National Livestock Identification (NLIS) traceability rules that came into effect July 1st and also correctly complete National Vendor Declaration forms (NVDs).

“Under the new rules, all movements of sheep between properties with different Property Identification Codes (PICs) must be recorded, including movements to agistment properties, regardless of who owns or leases those properties,” said Kate Joseph, President of Sheepmeat Council of Australia.

The new rules are part of an ongoing effort to improve the current NLIS for sheep to achieve more efficient and effective traceability.

“Sheepmeat Council is committed to strengthening the current traceability system for sheep,” said Ms Joseph.

“Using visible tags and mob-based recording provides the most cost effective and practical way to meet traceability and market access requirements for Australian sheepmeat producers, but it relies on producers doing the right thing,” said Ms Joseph.

Sheepmeat Council cannot stress strongly enough that producers across Australia must adhere to the new changes and correctly complete NVDs, which underpin the integrity of the NLIS database.

“For the current system to work, we need all sheep producers across Australia to comply with the NLIS rules and complete their NVD forms accurately and in full,” said Ms Joseph.

Sheepmeat Council is a member of the NLIS (Sheep & Goats) Advisory Committee, which is the group that makes decisions on traceability requirements for sheep in Australia. As a member of this Committee, Sheepmeat Council has played an integral role in focusing industry on a solution that meets traceability requirements domestically and internationally, whilst ensuring the most cost effective result for grass roots producers.

Under the new rules, owners will not need to record a mob-based movement on the database if they buy or sell sheep through a saleyard, or send them direct to an abattoir, feedlot or export depot, as it will be done for them.

As the state regulatory authorities are responsible for ensuring that verification arrangements are in place, it's important producers get in touch with their local agency for any state specific requirements.

State agency contacts can be located at www.sheepmeatcouncil.com.au

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