

# AWI Flystrike Genomics

## Reference Flock

### *Expression of Interest*



#### About the Project...

AWI has commenced a 2-year project aimed at increasing the phenotypic and genomic information needed to establish a Flystrike ASBV, as well as adding data to the Merino Genomic Reference Flock.

The project aims to provide financial assistance to ram breeders collecting flystrike data on genotyped animals, so a genomically enhanced Flystrike ASBV can be established. In the short term, a Flystrike Research Breeding Value will be released, which breeders involved in the project will receive prior to the release of the ASBV.

All animals involved in the project will form part of the Merino Genomic Reference Flock. This will allow breeders involved in the project to fully utilise the benefits of genomics in their broader selection decisions by improving their flock's linkage to the reference flock and increasing the accuracies of their ASBVs, including the new Flystrike ASBV.

The project seeks a diverse range of ram breeders who are currently, or who plan to, record flystrike occurrence within their flock and are genotyping at least a portion of each drop being recorded for flystrike, from now until June 2025.

Flystrike data will need to be collected and provided in line with the attached protocols and funding will be allocated to ram breeders on a competitive basis based on the industry benefit that their flock provides. A range of Merino types that provide good linkage for industry are sought. Merino Sire Evaluation sites will also be involved in the project and ram breeders are encouraged to also enter those trials.

#### Benefits to Merino Ram Breeders...

AWI assistance will be provided in the form of a 100% rebate on the cost of genotyping the flystruck animals. Assistance is also available to fund the cost of making the flystrike data available to the project. This will cover the ram breeders own time or that of a service provider that has been engaged.

The rebate on the cost of genotyping flystruck animals as well as the cost of data supply will be paid to the ram breeder based on the supply of flystrike phenotypes and on receipt of a tax invoice and accompanying receipts of expenditure.

#### How to get involved...

AWI is seeking **Expressions of Interest** from Merino ram breeders who are collecting, or are planning on collecting flystrike records and undertaking genotyping over the next 2 years.

**The project is open until 30 June 2025.**

AWI has contracted BCS Agribusiness to manage the project, including the distribution of funds.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT : BEN SWAIN**

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