



# GENOMIC PROFILING: NEW BENCHMARKING TOOL FOR EWE COMP ENTRANTS

NSW Flock Ewe Competition entrants will now have access to genomic flock profiling through an exciting partnership between the NSW Stud Merino Breeders' Association, XytoVet and Coopers/Allflex.

All entrants will have access to free sampling during this year's competition tours, which will be used to generate a Flock Profile report for each entrant. Sampling will be conducted by Coopers/Allflex, or another nominated representative, with XytoVet to provide Flock Profile reports direct to breeders.

First placegetters in each competition will receive a free Flock Profile, valued at up to \$1500. Flock Profiles are a tool that will allow commercial Merino producers to benchmark how their flock compares to industry and will increase the value for commercial breeders entering flock ewe competitions across the state.

## 1 What is it?

A Flock Profile test involves genotyping a random selection of 20 animals from the same year-drop to gain an idea of how a flock benchmarks to industry. The results provide flock average breeding values for a suite of ASBV traits, expressed as percentiles, supplied to you in a Flock Profile report.

## 2 How does it work?

During flock ewe competition tours, tissue sample units (TSUs) will be taken from a random sample of 20 animals from each flock entered. This is not compulsory for all entrants and you may opt out from the sampling process. Samples will then be used to generate a Flock Profile report by XytoVet for each entrant, available at a heavily subsidised rate of \$600 + GST. First placegetters in each competition will receive a Flock Profile at no cost and second placegetters will have access to their profile for half price (\$300 + GST).

## 3 How do I use it?

You can use your Flock Profile to track genetic progress and help make decisions about your breeding program, such as ram selection or refining your breeding objectives. Support from service providers after testing can assist with interpretation of results.

## 4 When do I get my results?

Results will be issued to entrants and will be available approximately 4-6 weeks after sampling. Competition entrants will have 12 weeks after sampling to decide if they would like to invest in a Flock Profile. After this time samples will be destroyed. Your results are confidential to you. Results will only be released to the owner of the flock and are not used as part of the flock ewe competition judging process.



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