

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **NSHMP growing by leaps and bounds**

More sheep producers have access to carcass data to inform their animal health management strategy than ever before following another growth year for the National Sheep Health Monitoring Project (NSHMP). This data empowers produce to make decisions about how to manage sheep health conditions and boost their bottom line.

Sheep health data is collected in abattoirs throughout Australia via the NSHMP, managed by Animal Health Australia (AHA) and supported by Sheep Producers Australia and WoolProducers Australia. Primary Industries and Regions South Australia also contributes data through the Enhanced Abattoir Surveillance Program (EASP).

NSHMP and EASP data helps form a broader picture of the prevalence of health conditions which impact profitability through decreased productivity and increased processing waste.

“We’re on the lookout for 19 common health conditions which impact sheep production or cause carcasses to be trimmed or condemned,” said Dr Rob Barwell, AHA’s Senior Manager Biosecurity.

In the 2018-19 financial year, NSHMP monitored close to 40,000 lines totalling 8.7 million sheep. This is another new record for the project, representing a 30% increase on the previous year.

“This year there was more than 9,500 properties who now have a better understanding of the hidden health conditions impacting their flock,” Dr Barwell explained.

“That’s 9,500 businesses which are better able to manage animal health to increase their productivity and earn a better price for their animals.”

Producers have access to NSHMP data through the Livestock Data Link (LDL) portal, run by the Integrity Systems Company.

LDL is a free and convenient way for producers to access feedback on how their livestock are performing and any potential disease or health issues that might require management on-farm.

“We’re excited to see as many producers as possible accessing data which guides their management strategies,” said Dr Barwell.

“If you haven’t accessed LDL to see your health data, now is the best time to start.”

More information about the NSHMP is available at: <https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/nshmp/>

Producers can find out more about LDL at: <https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/livestock-data-link/>

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#### **About Animal Health Australia**

Animal Health Australia works in partnership with our Members and other stakeholders to keep Australia free of new and emerging diseases and to improve animal health, enhance market access and foster resilience and integrity of the Australian animal health system.