

## **Dr Sue Hatcher**

### **Senior Research Scientist**

**Animal Genetics Research**  
**Orange Agricultural Institute**  
**Industry and investment NSW**

### **Research interests**

- Sheep breeding and genetics
- Precision sheep production systems
- Reproductive efficiency including breeding ewe management, lamb and weaner survival
- Wool production, quality and processing

### **Background**

Sue Hatcher commenced employment at Orange Agricultural Institute with NSW Department of Primary Industries (now Industry and investment NSW) in 1997. She has nearly 20 years scientific research experience and a proven track record of effective extension of research results to industry. Her research program has included wool metrology and fibre identification, applied research of the genetic, economic and industry constraints impeding fine wool production across Australia, and linking Merino breeding to wool processing. A feature of her research is effective within and across organisational collaborative teams.

More recently she has undertaken research into aspects of breeding ewe management including both lamb and weaner survival and the consequences of selecting sheep for high wool production.

### **Qualifications**

- B.Agric.Sc. – University of Western Australia 1990
- PhD – University of Western Australia 1995

### **Current projects**

- Reproductive efficiency of the Australian Merino ewe
- Phenotypic and genetic aspects of lamb survival
- Improving weaner survival
- Nutrient partitioning between wool, meat and reproduction
- Quantitative genetic analysis of visual and measured wool trait, conformation and wrinkle scores.

### **Recent Publications**

Fogarty, NM, Safari, E, Mortimer, SI, Greeff, JC, **Hatcher, S** (2009) Heritability of feed intake in grazing Merino ewes and the genetic relationships with production traits. *Animal Production Science* **49**: 1080-1085.

**Hatcher, S**, Atkins, KD, Safari, E (2009) Phenotypic aspects of lamb survival in Australian Merino sheep. *Journal of Animal Science* **87**: 2781 – 2790.

**Hatcher, S**, Atkins, KD, Safari, E (2009) Lamb survival in Australian Merino sheep: a genetic analysis. *Journal of Animal Science* Submitted (18 May 2010).

**Hatcher S**, Atkins KD, Thornberry KJ (2008) Strategic use of sheep coats can improve your economic return. *Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture* 48, 762-767

**Hatcher S**, Eppleston J, Graham RP, McDonald J, Schlunke S, Watt B, Thornberry K (2008) Higher weaning weight improves postweaning growth and survival in young Merino sheep. *Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture* 48, 966-973

**Hatcher, S**, Atkins, KD, Thornberry, KJ (2009) Breeding plain-bodied fine wools – no problem! *Proceedings of the Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics* **18**: 330-333.

**Hatcher, S**, Atkins, KD, Thornberry, KJ (2009) Survival of adult sheep is driven by longevity genes. *Proceedings of the Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics* **18**: 580-583

**Hatcher, S**, Eppleston, J, Thornberry, KJ Watt, B (2010) Liveweight at weaning and post-weaning growth rates interact to influence survival of Merino weaner sheep. *Animal Production Science* **50**: In press.

Refshauge PG, **Hatcher S**, Hinch G, Hopkins DL, Nielsen S (2008) The impact of clean fleece weight and bodyweight selection in Merinos on meat traits in the progeny. *Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture* 48, 1076-1084

Refshauge, G, **Hatcher, S**, Hinch, GN, Nielsen, S, Hopkins, DL (2010) Fat depth, muscle depth, fat score and wool growth in Merino dams selected for high or low clean fleece weight and bodyweight. *Animal Production Science* **50**: In press.

Safari A, Fogarty NM, Mortimer SI, Greeff JC, **Hatcher S**, Lee GJ, Gilmour AR (2007) Feed intake and its genetic relationship with growth traits in Merino sheep. In 'Genetic Improvement - Making it happen. Proceedings of the 17th Conference'. Armidale, NSW Australia. (Ed. K Donoghue) pp. 199-202. (Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics).

Shands, CG, McLeod, B, Lollback, ML, Duddy, G, **Hatcher, S**, O-Halloran, WJ (2009) Comparison of manual assessments of ewe fat reserves for on-farm use. *Animal Production Science* **49**: 630-636.