

## ***Sheep and Wool Undergraduate Units at UNE Information for new students***

The attached pages explain in “user friendly” terms, the details of the ***Sheep and Wool Units offered via UNE***. The initial paragraphs explain the units involved and provide a ball park estimate of the expected work load you would have to do to get through the units. At the end, answers to the most commonly asked questions are provided.

Listed below are summaries of all unit units offered. The units are designed for *external* delivery, suiting most people working full time or studying at other Universities. Typically each unit, if offered internally, would have six contact hours per week made up of lectures, tutorials, seminars, practicals and industry visits. Normally there are three lectures per week, each of one hour duration. This will give you some idea of the equivalent *full-time* internal workload.

As you are studying the units *externally*, similar time should be allocated to studying the external lecture notes, and Sakai content. In terms of the amount of work you should be doing *additional to* formal contact time per lecture, students are advised to study one to two hours per lecture. A standard week consists of 3 lectures for each unit, so you would spend between 6 to 9 hours per unit per week, studying the material. This does not include the time required and spent completing assignments.

To make this clear, if you are studying 1 unit in a semester, you would spend a total of 6 to 9 hours per week studying and learning the material. This equates to between 1 to 2 hours per day (roughly). Most people who have full time jobs typically only study one unit per semester.

There are also residential schools associated with most of the units, which require you to come to Armidale, Melbourne (AWTA) or Lincoln, NZ (AgResearch) for 3 days in the middle of the semester. Most, but not all, of these are compulsory, that is to say, you should not enrol in the unit if you know you will not be able to attend mandatory schools.

*We strongly recommend that external students in employment study one unit at a time.* Doing two units externally at the one time requires quite a bit of work, and if you are very busy in your current job, it may be difficult finding the time to study two units at night. Only those people with exceptional energy and an academic flare would tolerate studying 2 units each night after working hard all day.

We suggest you are better off taking on something that is achievable rather than attempting too much and then pulling out half way through because you don't have the time.

Please read the enclosed information which should answer most of your questions regarding the units, in easy to understand, “non-university” language.

Unit outlines: See <http://www-personal.une.edu.au/~dcottle2/>  
Enrolment form: <http://www.une.edu.au/for/current-students/forms/ss-xinst-non-award.php>

## SEMESTER ONE UNITS

### Sheep Production (WOOL412)



This unit introduces the major themes associated with sheep production in Australia including: wool production, sheep meat production, sheep management, sheep breeding, grazing and nutritional management.

At the completion of this unit students should be able to:

- Document a clear picture of the Australian sheep industry
- Articulate their understanding of the inherently variable nature of wool and meat as a product
- Compare components of wool variability namely: fleece weight, diameter length and density, staple strength, style, colour, vegetable fault and dark fibre contamination.
- Describe the key factors affecting returns in prime lamb enterprises.
- Describe the major environmental challenges to sheep production namely: health and disease, physiological demand and breeding and genetics
- Quantify the importance of genetics and selection on improving returns per head
- Articulate the role that grazing and nutritional management have in determining returns per hectare from sheep
- Describe bench marking of the sheep enterprise and how the knowledge can be transferred into action within the sheep production sector.

The unit has six main modules that can be studied in any order, however it is advised to follow the given timetable. We suggest you aim to complete 2 topics each week of semester (Semester 1 = 13 weeks). This schedule will give you a week of revision time in the final week of semester.

**Unit Coordinator: Prof. David Cottle, Ph: 02 67732178**

**Intensive school dates: see**

**<http://www.une.edu.au/courses/2010/units/WOOL412>**

## Wool Biology and Metrology (WOOL472)



This unit covers the molecular structure of the wool fibre, wool follicle formation and cellular and molecular processes. The characteristics of wool follicles and fibre are related to aspects of wool measurement or metrology and its effect in sheep selection, prediction formulae and processing performance. The unit explains the procedures and measurements involved to objectively specify the Australian wool clip. Specifically the topics include the principles and procedures of fibre diameter, staple length, strength, colour, contamination and resistance to compression measurement. This unit supplements topics introduced in the Wool Marketing and Clip Preparation and Wool Processing units.

Upon completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

- Comprehend the initiation and development, and function and structure of mammalian wool and describe the differences in skin structure between different sheep breeds
- Explain the ultrastructure of the wool fibre and describe the chemical composition of the various cells composing the wool fibre
- An understanding of the principles of measurement and their relationship with sampling regimes
- Describe the main techniques and procedures of measuring yield, fibre diameter, staple length, strength and position of break, colour, fibre curvature and resistance to compression
- An understanding of the principles of new measurements including dark or medullated fibres and non-wool contamination
- An understanding of the impact of test results on sheep selection, processing prediction formulae and processing performance.

**Unit Coordinator: Dr Emma Doyle      Phone: 02 6773 3094**

**Intensive school dates: see**

**<http://www.une.edu.au/courses/2010/units/WOOL472>**

## SEMESTER TWO UNITS

### Wool Marketing and Clip Preparation (WOOL422)



This unit introduces the major themes associated with wool marketing in Australia including: clip preparation; practical marketing (including selling options, price prediction and risk management and new marketing developments); economic and marketing principles; and global fibre market dynamics, including the promotion of wool.

At the completion of this unit students should be able to:

- Describe how and why clips can be prepared in different ways
- Document new measurement techniques, such as OFDA2000 and Fleecescan, as cost effective methods of clip preparation
- Describe how producers and their contractors can influence wool clip returns by management
- Appreciate the role played by all participants in the wool supply chain
- Document the different ways wool can be sold and demand/supply/price risk managed
- Appreciate the economic theory behind various wool marketing and promotion schemes
- Document how demand, supply and promotion affect the prices received for wool on the global scale
- Define the different market segments for wool.

**Unit Coordinator: Dr Emma Doyle      Phone: 02 6773 3094**

**Intensive school dates: see**

**<http://www.une.edu.au/courses/2010/units/WOOL422>**

## Wool Processing (WOOL482)



This unit covers: wool scouring, carbonising, wool carding, combing, weaving, knitting and finishing, and principles of woven, non-woven and carpet manufacture. Also the effect of fibre qualities on processing performance are covered.

Upon completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

- Explain the rationale of blending wool before scouring, scoured wool before carding, carded slivers through the gilling process and so on throughout the processing line
- An in depth understanding of the fundamental processes and systems involved in scouring and the three main processing routes of wool yarn manufacture (worsted, woollen and semi-worsted)
- An understanding of the attributes of yarn and the importance of twist and the multi-stage process of spinning
- An understanding of the relationship between early and late stage wool processing including the effect of fibre properties on fabric quality
- Describe the main techniques and procedures for spinning, weaving, knitting, finishing, non-woven and carpet manufacture
- An awareness of the latest developments in wool processing including producing a fabric that matches the requirements of customers

**Unit Coordinator: Dr Emma Doyle      Phone: 02 6773 3094**  
**Intensive school dates: see**  
**<http://www.une.edu.au/courses/2010/units/WOOL482>**

## SUMMARY OF UNITS IN 2010

### ***Semester 1***

<http://www-personal.une.edu.au/~dcottle2/first.htm>

Term begins Monday 22 February

### ***Semester 2***

<http://www-personal.une.edu.au/~dcottle2/second.htm>

Term begins Monday 26 July.

## **Answers to the most commonly asked questions**

### **1) How do I enrol in the units?**

A cross- institutional admission and enrolment form is available from the following website:

<http://www.une.edu.au/for/current-students/forms/ss-xinst-non-admission.pdf>

### **Enrolling in an individual unit of study**

You are welcome to apply to study individual unit(s) at UNE, either on or off campus. You might want to do this if you are enrolled at another university and you want to incorporate UNE subject(s) into your qualification.

Alternatively, you may not be enrolled in a course anywhere and just wish to enrol in a single UNE unit of study, but not apply for a full UNE qualification. Generally, enrolling as a non-award student doesn't allow you to attract HECs, so a full-fee will apply for that particular unit of study. We do not cover that situation in these notes.

### **If you're enrolled at another university**

We welcome applications from students who are studying at another university and want to study a UNE sheep and wool unit either on or off campus.

The steps you need to take are:

#### ***Step 1: Prepare***

You will first need to apply for admission to the University, so contact us ([studentcentre@une.edu.au](mailto:studentcentre@une.edu.au)) asking for an admission application form for cross-institutional enrolment in wool units at:

Student Centre  
University of New England  
Armidale NSW 2351

Phone: 02 6773 4430  
Fax: 02 6773 4400  
Email: [studentcentre@une.edu.au](mailto:studentcentre@une.edu.au)  
Web: <http://une.edu.au/studentcentre/>

or download and fill out the [Undergraduate Admission Application Form](http://study.une.edu.au/downloads/UG_Admission.pdf) ([http://study.une.edu.au/downloads/UG\\_Admission.pdf](http://study.une.edu.au/downloads/UG_Admission.pdf), 54kb, 4 A4 pages) via the web.

Identify the unit(s) of study you want to take, including any relevant course codes etc. The sheep and wool unit descriptions are available on Prof. Cottle's home page or the UNE unit's database (<http://www.une.edu.au/courses/2010/units/bykeyword>), or directly from the Sciences Faculty office. When sending the form you should also send internal copies of academic transcripts (your local admin. person should be able to provide these and we only need an internal copy). Forms etc. can be faxed and the originals then sent by mail.

Start to arrange whatever permission your University requires for you to be credited for the UNE subject(s). This is also a good time to request a letter from your university confirming that they will accept the UNE unit(s) as credit towards your degree. This will normally be issued via your Head of School. Most Universities already have a MOU in place with UNE for the sheep and wool units to facilitate this process for you.

Another important consideration is your time commitments at your home university. For example, check that exam times and so on do not clash with the timing of residential schools for the UNE subject(s).

**Step 2: Apply to the Student Centre.**

When you apply, make it clear on your form that you are seeking "cross-institutional" enrolment, not admission to a full UNE course.

**Step 3: Register**

When you are admitted to the university, the Sciences Faculty will send you an enrolment registration pack. Complete the form in this package and select the units you want to study as a cross-institutional student. When you return your registration form, include a letter from your home university accepting the UNE unit(s).

Once you have registered, you will be issued an invoice for that unit to be paid before commencing study. Applications will close in mid January for Semester 1 intake and the end of May for Semester 2 intake.

**2) What is the last date for enrolment?**

The "official" last day for enrolment in first semester external units is about 2 weeks before lectures start. The last day for enrolment in second semester units is also about 2 weeks before lectures start. See <http://www.une.edu.au/dates/2010/>

If you have received advice of the units a bit late to make the deadline you may still be accepted. It will be best to complete enrolment for first semester 2007 during Nov/Dec 2006. If you need guidance, we would be happy to talk to you before that to discuss your proposed units.

The practical implications of late enrolment are that lecture notes will start to be sent out to external students from early February 2007 and all the administration with mail lists etc. is preferably completed by the end of January 2007.

**3) If I enrol and then pull out, what is the last date I can pull out without incurring any HECS fees?**

The end of March for first semester and the end of August for second semester. Lectures start at the end of February, so you will have a month to decide whether you want to continue before you will be liable for a HECS fee in first semester. Second semester lectures begin in late July, so you will have a similar period to decide. For external students, teaching materials are sent out in January/February for Semester 1 and in July for Semester 2.

**4) What level are the units?**

The units are 300, 400 and 500 level and are designed for third and fourth year University students who have two years of an undergraduate course behind them. Prerequisites are listed on the unit database. We suggest you discuss your appropriate choice of unit(s) with your head of School.

**5) What does it cost?**

You will be invoiced for a General Service fee and the HECS payment for the unit(s) by UNE. The unit cost will be a similar cost to the agricultural units delivered at your host University. Your University is subsidised for the loss of your student load funding by funding UNE receives from the Australian Wool Education Trust to support the national delivery of the sheep and wool, but not meat, units.

**6) How many units can I do?**

This depends on how many elective units you have in your course and how many units your University will cross-accredit. You need to check with your local Head of School.

### **7) When and where will the residential schools be held and how long do they take?**

Intensive schools are held during specific periods and vary depending on the unit you are studying. Average duration is three days, and this sometimes includes a weekend. Specific dates within the residential school period are listed in the unit outlines detailed previously in this document.

### **8) Do I have to pay the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) fees and if so, how much, who to and when do I pay it?**

Yes you do to UNE. The cost is approximately \$880 for each six credit point unit, if you pay up front or a bit more if you defer payment. This is a charge or tax levied by the Federal Government. Because it is a tax it is not tax deductible for an individual. After you send off your enrolment form, you will receive an invoice in the mail, usually around February for 1<sup>st</sup> semester and June for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. You are only invoiced on a semester basis. You don't have to send any money with your enrolment form.

### **9) Do I face residential school costs and are there any travel awards?**

There are travel and accommodation costs for when you come to Armidale for residential schools. Accommodation details are at <http://www.une.edu.au/eao/externals.html>

The easiest and most convenient accommodation is in one of the residential colleges. A booking form will be posted to you 6-8 weeks prior to your residential school. Just complete the form and return by mail or fax to the External Students Accommodation Office.

**Alternatively you can print a form ([http://www.une.edu.au/accommodation/eao\\_form.pdf](http://www.une.edu.au/accommodation/eao_form.pdf)) or complete an online Booking Form (<http://www.une.edu.au/eao/externals.html>) and submit it.** Either way, we will send you a confirmation of your booking. Use one of the following methods to get in contact with us:

E-mail	<a href="mailto:eao@une.edu.au">eao@une.edu.au</a>
Telephone	External Students' Accommodation Office on 02 6773 3370

Alternatively, there are numerous Armidale motels which typically charge from \$85 per night plus meals. The only other costs will be travel to and from residential schools and the cost of purchasing text books, if you decide to purchase and not borrow from a library. You can apply for an Australian Wool Education Trust travel award to cover the cost of your return economy travel up to limits. The travel application forms are available from Prof. Cottle or via his UNE web home page. The awards are based on academic merit.

### **10) How does external study work?**

We send you all the written lecture notes in one ~500 page volume, normally around 6 A4 pages per topic. There is additional reference material as well supplied via e-reserve. You may borrow or purchase the recommended text books for each unit. You send assignments to us at the University via Sakai on the web and they are marked and sent back to you. You can discuss topics with fellow students no matter where they are based via Sakai. Details for each unit are provided with the first mailing of material. The residential schools are where students attend UNE Armidale, Sydney or Lincoln depending on the unit.

### **11) If I pull out of a unit half way through, what happens?**

If you don't complete and pass anything, you will receive no credits and depending when you pulled out, it will cost you a proportion of the HECS and general service fee for the units you enrolled in, (see question number 8).

As an example, the last day for withdrawal from first semester courses in (without failure and without incurring HECS liability, that is, paying the \$880 per unit, and also to obtain a refund of the service fee) was end of March. The last day for withdrawal from second semester units is the end of August.

## **12) Is there an exam at the end?**

Yes. There will be an exam at the end of each semester for each unit, of 2 to 3 hours duration. The exam is designed to test your understanding and is structured according to the lectures and practical sessions. In addition, there may be an "open book" examination done from home.

**Exam times** - 1st semester exams run from late June to early July, 2nd semester exams run from mid to late November.

## **13) Do I have to come to Armidale to do the exams?**

No. Many students live in remote areas and in locations far away from Armidale. The University does not expect you to incur the cost of travelling to Armidale to sit a 2 or 3 hour exam. You can sit the exam in a location approved by the University, in closer proximity to you, usually at your University.

## **14) I live a long way from Armidale and it's going to be very inconvenient and expensive to attend the residential schools each semester. What can you do to help?**

Depending on the unit, it may be possible to send you lecture notes in first semester and officially enrol you in that unit in second semester. This may enable you to kill two birds with one stone, by attending residential schools for two units in second semester. It would mean you are doubling up for one semester, but you would have had the previous semester to become familiar with the lecture notes for one of the units. You should contact one of the people listed below to discuss this. This arrangement would only apply in exceptional circumstances for people from overseas countries or extreme distances from Armidale, such as Western Australia.

## **15) Whom do I contact to find out more information about the units?**

Contact the Student Centre or for more specific information contact the unit coordinator (given above) of the units that are of interest to you.

**Website:** <http://www-personal.une.edu.au/~dcottle2/>

*The information above is correct as at 2 October 2009 and has been written in simple terms to help those unfamiliar with University jargon. Please don't hesitate to call if you have a problem or query or would like the full enrolment pack for 2010 sent to you.*