

Johan Greeff



Johan Greeff was born and raised in South Africa. His career in quantitative genetics began as a Research officer at the Animal and Dairy Science Research Institute, Irene, Pretoria, South Africa in 1976. In 1985 he became the leader of Sheep Genetics Research Unit with the responsibility of both conducting research and implementing the research results in industry. After completing his PhD with the University of Pretoria in 1992 he successfully applied for the Geneticist's position at the Great Southern Agricultural Research Institute in Katanning, Western Australia in 1993. In 2001 he was appointed Project Leader of Sheep Breeding Research and in 2002 Genetics Extension activities were added to his portfolio. During this time Johan was also Project Manager for the Breeding for Worm Resistance program in the Sheep CRC from 2000 to 2006. In 2009 he became Project Manager for the Sheep Welfare and Production project in the Department of Agriculture and Food WA.

Johan has worked tirelessly for the good of not only the Western Australian Sheep Industry – but the industry as a whole. In his time in WA (28 years) he has overseen the Katanning Base Flock (representing Merino Genetics from all over the state), the Rylington Merino flock (working on resistance to internal parasites), the breechstrike flock (pioneering the work on odour and fly strike), the CRC Information Nucleus Flock (INF) and now the MLA resource Flock. As part of his work with the INF, he was one of the first to estimate genetic parameters for methane

production use short-term measurements of methane. He has also been instrumental in the continuation of the Yardstick Sire evaluation flock in WA. Initially using parameters from the Katanning Base Flock, Johan was able to carry out within flock genetic analysis for WA ram breeders before across flock analysis was available. He was then an advocate for a national across flock analysis. He helped many ram breeders set up to breed for resistance to internal parasites – some of these are still producing top rams for WEC nationally. Johan has often been the sole voice of Merino genetic research from WA – but has successfully kept the WA sheep industry included in many AWI and MLA funded genetics projects. Johan has always worked to put the interests of the industry in the forefront and listens to the needs of industry. In addition, Johan has quietly mentored DAFWA colleagues, supported post graduate students and assisted with teaching at Murdoch University, Curtin University and the University of WA, where he is an Adjunct Associate Professor.

Johan has been active in AAABG throughout his career, publishing and presenting many papers as well as being President for the 2011 Conference, held in Perth and Secretary for the 1999 Conference, held in Mandurah.

For his outstanding contributions to the science of genetics and animal improvement, the Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics is pleased to elect Johan Greeff as a fellow of the Association.