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# South Australian Selection Demonstration Flocks

Produced for the CRC for Premium Quality Wool undergraduate program by;  
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# SA Selection Demonstration Flocks

- A comparison of three Merino breeding programs:
  - representing major breeding trends currently encountered in the Merino industry (i.e. within-flock ewe selection and choice of outside sires)
  - each breeding program is driven by an industry group, comprising ram breeders, woolgrowers, classers and consultants, i.e. selection and mating decisions determined by “users” of the technology
  - similar management schedule across all flocks
- The broad aim in each flock is the genetic improvement of the profitability of SA Merino sheep, by increasing the quantity and quality of wool produced, the reproductive rate and the saleability of surplus sheep.

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# SA Selection Demonstration Flocks

- **Flock 1** - control.
- **Flock 2** - selection mainly based on performance records, but with some attention to visually assessed wool and body faults.
- **Flock 3** - selection mainly based on classer assessment of wool quantity and quality, and on the ability of the sheep to thrive and reproduce. Occasional and non-systematic use of objective measurement data.
- **Flock 4** - selection largely based on the technological package that favours sheep having smooth, loose and pliable skin. Involves tactile and visual evaluation of the skin, use of objective measurement and mate allocation.

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