

# Role

## General Information

|                             |                             |                       |                    |                        |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Title:</b>               | Senior Agricultural Officer |                       |                    | <b>Classification:</b> | OPS3                        |                                |
| <b>Division:</b>            | SARDI                       | <b>Branch:</b>        | Livestock Sciences |                        | <b>Business Unit:</b>       | Livestock Innovation & Welfare |
| <b>Type of Appointment:</b> | Term contract               | <b>Hours of Duty:</b> | 37.5 hrs per week  | <b>Location:</b>       | Turretfield Research Centre |                                |

## About us

South Australia is internationally recognised for the quality of its agriculture, food, and wine. Our regions are the backbone of our state and the economic powerhouse that drives prosperity for all South Australians.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is a key economic development agency working in partnership with our primary industries, regional stakeholders and across all levels of government to advance the prosperity and sustainability of South Australia's primary industries and regional communities.

We are a passionate team of around 800 people working across metropolitan and regional South Australia to develop and protect our state's regions and food, wine, aquaculture, fisheries, forestry, grains, livestock, dairy and horticulture industries.

## Purpose

The primary purpose of the role is to support all farm operations required to maintain the research sheep flocks and to establish and maintain the pastures on which they graze, working under general direction to deliver technical and operational activities associated with research programs.

The role contributes to delivering the agency's priorities including assistance with project activities required to complete contracted research projects.

The role contributes to delivering high level care and maintenance of research flock sheep to ensure that animal health and wellbeing standards are met.

## Key Accountabilities

- Provision of support for research projects conducted by the Senior Research Officer and collaborators
- Arrangement, management and conduct of all husbandry regimes required to sustain health and wellbeing of the project sheep
- Regular animal health observations and morphometric measurements reported to the Research Officer
- Coordination and recording of the movement of PC2 transgenic and control sheep used in specific research testing protocols and provision of technical support to underpin facilitation of onsite trials of protentional therapies in project sheep.
- Collection of biological samples taken from animals in the research project including collection of blood and CSF sampling.
- Operation of a system to establish, improve and maintain the pastures in holding paddocks and maintenance of infrastructure, equipment and machinery required to support farm operations involved in care of the sheep flocks.
- Provision of practical support to other farm operation activities underway at Turretfield as required and provide day-to-day supervision of farm hand and delegate duties as required by the Senior Research Officer.
- Support reproduction protocols involved in production of research flock progeny including pregnancy scanning of project ewes.

## Key Deliverables / Results

# Role

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of sheep produced in the project is achieved, using sound experience in all facets of sheep husbandry and prompt attention to the health needs of individual sheep is provided, documented and reported, applying sound judgement in responding to emerging issues.</li> <li>• A proactive husbandry approach is used to minimize health and safety risks to sheep and their handlers is maintained through personal initiative</li> <li>• Adherence to, and application of, the guidelines of the PIRSA Animal Ethics Committee and Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) for grazing, movement, handling, housing and transport of sheep.</li> <li>• Establishment and maintenance of fencing required to meet OGTR standards for PC2 certification of PC2 large animal holding paddock facilities while also liaising with members within the team and the farm team to ensure smooth coordination and planning of project field operations and scheduling of major animal husbandry events including shearing and crutching.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of management practices for the establishment, improvement and maintenance of pastures used in the research projects, via consultation with the Research officer and advice from an agronomist</li> <li>• Support the implementation of requirements of the OGTR licence, including routine facility inspections, maintenance of SOPs and paddock certifications while also providing support for routine live animal sampling protocols when required, including undertaking blood sampling, CSF sampling and pregnancy scanning of pregnant ewes.</li> <li>• Harvesting of tissues from deceased animals during post-mortem examinations, including assistance with sample fixation or freezing and collection of scavenged material from local abattoirs.</li> <li>• Assistance with procedures required for the disposal of sheep and farm waste when required and performance of routine maintenance of farm infrastructure, farm machinery and equipment, including maintenance of logging of use of such machinery and equipment</li> </ul> |
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# Role

## Relationships

- Role reports to the Senior Research Officer (Reproductive Technology)
- Role has interactions with Research, Technical and other Farm staff in the project team

## Requirements

- Possession of a current driver's license and willingness to drive.
- Out of hours work including on weekend and public holidays may be required. This work will include observation of and attention to livestock and general security checks as required.
- Australian residency or current works permit is required (responsibility of applicant to provide evidence of a current work permit).
- You acknowledge your [work, health and safety obligations](#) and [our expectations](#).
- The incumbent will be required to undertake emergency management training and must be willing to participate in emergency preparedness, response and recovery activities required by government agencies.
- A forklift license is required.

## Qualifications

- Essential: Nil.
- Desirable: High level of experience in farm operations, in annual husbandry and management regimes required to maintain livestock health and wellbeing and in use of farm machinery.

## Capabilities

| Capability                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Behaviours                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| <p><b>Professional &amp; Technical Knowledge</b><br/>Demonstrates a strong knowledge of sheep husbandry and management practises used on-farm and has considerable experience in handling of sheep in a production setting.</p> <p>Demonstrates a good knowledge of pasture management practices.</p> <p>Has wide experience in operation of farm-based vehicles, machinery and equipment required in sheep and pasture management.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of the methodologies of current sheep husbandry and management practises used on-farm and maintains up to date knowledge/skills required for sheep husbandry.</li> <li>• Applies previous experience to improve sheep husbandry and management approaches, including management of pasture systems.</li> <li>• Holds current licences for the operation of machines and vehicles that may be required in the role and has recent experience in operation of farm-based vehicles, machinery and equipment required in sheep and pasture management.</li> <li>• Provides excellent operational support to staff in the project team, assimilates new and complex information quickly and contributes intelligently outside specific area of expertise.</li> <li>• Experience and capability in sheep biological sample collection including blood sampling, CSF sampling and post mortem tissue collection. Experience and capability to perform pregnancy ultra sound scanning in sheep and willingness to learn advanced reproductive techniques such as laparoscopic artificial insemination.</li> <li>• Demonstrated ability to use a full range of PC applications, including word, excel, PowerPoint, Microsoft Outlook and GPS mapping applications.</li> </ul> |

# Role

**Achievement Orientation**

Focusing on desired results or goals and readily taking action to achieve first class outcomes and meet deadlines.

- Achieves desired results with energy and enthusiasm.
- Develops challenging but achievable goals for self and actively works with the project team to meet deadlines.
- Sets own work priorities, and uses tools (e.g. calendar, files, charts) and time efficiently to meet work objectives

# Role

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| <b>Attention to Detail</b><br>Ensuring that work and or information is complete and accurate; paying attention to detail to ensure work is timely, accurate and reliable. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitors own work, to ensure it complies with the standards required to achieve project goals, to maintain animal health and wellbeing and pasture quality.</li> <li>Delivers a high standard of performance even when working under pressure.</li> <li>Uses a planned, structured approach in applying scientific methods.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Initiative</b><br>Identifying opportunities, anticipating problems and taking action; undertaking activities beyond the immediate job requirements.                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acts autonomously within the scope of duties.</li> <li>Looks for alternative ways to ensure work is completed, where necessary.</li> <li>Anticipates problems and takes action.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                             |

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|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------|------------|
| <b>HRMS No:</b>                                       |                                                 | <b>ANZCO Code:</b>                                                                 |  | <b>Objective ID:</b> |            |
| <b>Delegate Approval:</b>                             | Prof. Mike Steer<br>Executive Director<br>SARDI |  |  | <b>Date:</b>         | 29/06/2026 |
| <b>Approved and Classified by People and Culture:</b> | People and Culture - 3/6/26                     |                                                                                    |  |                      |            |