

MEDIA RELEASE

January 31, 2007



Leading livestock exporter Wellard Rural Exports has announced it is funding a new Senior Lecturer in Leadership in Animal Health and Production position at Murdoch University's School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences.

The partnership with Murdoch University reflects the commitment of Wellard to the future of Western Australia's livestock industry and to improved animal welfare.

Wellard will provide \$500,000 over the next five years to fund the position.

Wellard Managing Director Steve Meerwald said the Wellard/Murdoch partnership was a merger of leadership ideals.

"Wellard is a leader in the live export industry having embraced best practice and technology to deliver industry best outcomes," he said.

"And the Murdoch Veterinary School is a leading education and research institution, which has worked on a number of significant live export research projects, the outcomes of which have already become part of industry operational practice."

Mr Meerwald said he believed the creation of the senior lecturing position "Leadership in Animal Health and Production" would entice more veterinary students into the animal production sector rather than current trend towards companion animals.

"Better animal welfare, health, production and biosecurity are vital for the long term viability of Western Australia's livestock industry," he said.

"We are pleased to partner Murdoch University in this position to work towards that goal, to benefit both the farmers of today, and to sustain the future for the generations of farmers to come."

In addition to Wellard's financial contribution, both Murdoch and Wellard are in planning discussions on research, training and educational initiatives that will benefit the company, its employees, Murdoch veterinary students and livestock producers across the state.

Mr Meerwald has been a trustee of the Murdoch University Veterinary School Trust for the past two years. The Trust works with donors, the community and the school to achieve the highest standards of excellence in Veterinary Science.

As a trustee Mr Meerwald has a first-hand understanding of the contribution the Veterinary School makes to both animal production and animal welfare – two areas which are central to Wellard's operations.

Murdoch University Dean of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Dr John Edwards said the School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences at Murdoch University was recognised at state, national and international levels as a provider of quality research and training in the fields of animal health, production and biosecurity.

"The School and the Murdoch University Veterinary Trust greatly appreciates the initiative by Wellard to support the position of Senior Lecturer for Leadership in Animal Health and

Production because it will significantly strengthen our capacity to provide the research and training required by the livestock industries," he said.

In addition to funding the Lecturer in Leadership in Animal Health and Production, Wellard will also sponsor the Wellard Production Animal Health and Management Prize.

Each year's recipient will receive a \$500 prize from the company.

Also, Wellard principal Mauro Balzarini will award the Emilio Balzarini Equine Prize each year for the student who shows outstanding commitment to equine medicine and surgery.

The award recognises Mr Balzarini's father Emilio's foresight, vision and hard work establishing and developing the Wellard business some 30 years ago and his life long passion for thoroughbred horses.

For more information contact

Cameron Morse
Porter Novelli – Perth
Ph: 9386 1233
Mob: 0433 88 68 71