



Stock Numbers Increase

In April the paddocks at the WA College of Agriculture have been transformed by the birth of Gelbvieh calves. So far 10 calves have been born out of 9 cows with another 15 cows due in the next few weeks. While many of the calves have been sired by semen developed on our own site or purchased here in Australia, some of the calves have been sired by semen that was imported from Canada.

In early April the Year 12's specialising in cattle were privileged to observe the birth of a calf, accompanied by Technical Officer Geoff Baines.

The students are involved in weighing, recording of birth weights, size and dams. Year 12 cattle students are also involved in working out breeding strategies for the 2009 drop calves. The students are working towards completing the competency requirements for the Certificate II in Agriculture.

During the school break the sheep returned to the College. Due to drought conditions in Morawa the sheep had been agisted at Gnowangerup since late last year.

Gavin Clark, Farm Supervisor, reported that on December 18th the rams were put with the Merino ewes and there were now 186 mixed weaner lambs and 116 mixed breeds.

In March the Year 12's specialising in sheep were involved in a shearing school held by Great Southern TAFE at Gnowangerup. This enabled them to complete their sheep and wool competencies using their own stock.

The Year 12's will be crutching the 180 lambs and are involved in sorting the sheep and putting them into paddocks to feed on the grass prior to ploughing.

The return of the flock is a positive learning tool for the students as the College strives to provide an authentic training workplace.

The WA College of Agriculture offers nationally recognised training in a Certificate II Agriculture and Automotive Mechanical and a Certificate I in Construction.

The College received a Top 50 Public Schools Award in 2006 and 2007. The College has become a school of choice for students aiming to enter apprenticeships, traineeships and pathways to Muresk and Murdoch University.

The College offers a free try out week for prospective students. For more information please phone 997 1158 or visit the website www.morawaag.wa.edu.au.

