

FRED MORLEY CENTRE

“Applying critical thinking to agriculture.”

The Fred Morley Centre, named after the eminent scientist, the late Dr Fred Morley, is an initiative of CSU's School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences. The Centre is assisting the rural livestock industries by providing further training of undergraduate and graduates in agricultural related disciplines to help them provide high quality “whole farm” services to producers. In addition assessment of research outcomes for on-farm implementation and participation in on-farm research will provide further support to the livestock industries.

The Centre's Mission

“Apply critical thinking to improve the profitability, productivity and animal welfare of the broadacre agricultural industries.”

During the next three years to 2017, it is envisage the Fred Morley Centre will become a leader in applied innovation and analysis in broadacre agriculture as the team is built and works on a wide range of new and existing projects. The aim is for the Centre to become self sustaining in that time.

The Centre is currently providing:

- A livestock health and production rotation for final year veterinary students, to give them additional exposure to the livestock industries
- Postgraduate Certificate, Diploma and Masters programs to professionals involved in agriculture. Postgraduate professionals will work up cases on existing clients' properties as part of their studies with the aim of giving them the skills and knowledge to expand their current work.
- Support for Honours students – four projects covering worm control, lamb losses and increasing flock efficiency using pregnancy scanning are being undertaken this year. A range of other projects are being developed covering sheep and beef, pastures and crops.
- Core research as part of MLA's national Lifting the Limits worm control research program.
- On-farm modelling, including modelling the impact of ultrasound scanning in sheep and the optimal area of lucerne pasture on grazing farms.
- Occasional producer presentations on animal health and production issues.

Areas of Interest for the Centre

The Centre has interests in a range of areas in broadacre agriculture. Specific interests include:

- Crop /sheep interface
- Application of new pastures into farming systems
- Least cost methods of moving between enterprises – enterprise flexibility
- Assessing the economic gains from cattle and sheep genetic programs, particularly Breedplan, Lambplan and Merino select
- Establishing existing on-farm practices and identifying and promoting areas for improvement.

