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Growers called to vote

Stock Journal

WOOLGROWERS will get the chance to decide what levy rate they pay when the 2012 WoolPoll vote is held later this year.

The WoolPoll panel met for the first time on Monday, deciding that the proposed levy rates to be voted on would be the same options as offered in 2009.

These include no levy, 1 per cent, 2pc, 2.5pc and 3pc. [Read More](#)



REDUCE LEVY: Torlano Station's Robert McBride, via Wentworth, New South Wales, said dropping the levy rate to 1.5 per cent would be prudent.

Australian Stud Merino Breeders Association president Tom Ashby, who is also WoolPoll panel SA representative, said last week that he wanted more growers to have their say by voting in the poll. He would not comment on the levy rates.

In the 2009 WoolPoll only 14,246 votes were cast nationally, of which 34.2pc were from SA.

In the week before voting closed, only 2112 producers had voted from 6947 eligible woolgrowers in SA.

WoolPoll panel chairman Will Roberts said the panel would work hard to ensure that woolgrowers across Australia participated in the vote in what was an "important decision" about the future research, development and marketing funding for their industry.

Merino SA president John Daniell said he supported a continuation of the current 2pc rate.

"It seems to be serving the industry very well," he said. "We're giving Australian Wool Innovation the funds to deliver industry research and objectives at this current rate."