

Merino Matters



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SHEEP PARASITES – THE BIG THREE WHAT'S NEW

AS many producers are gearing up for joining soon, it is wise to carry out the stressful events (shearing, crutching, horn trimming etc) on rams eight weeks before joining.

This is also a good time to review the sheep parasite program for your enterprise as good health complements good nutrition when trying to have ewes at body condition score three for joining and lambing.

If you are not up to date with the latest best practises, new chemicals or techniques available, the big three parasite problems of flies, lice and worms could be costing you in lost production and financially.

It is important to review your program regularly to avoid chemical resistance and to incorporate new information and management strategies.

There are some great resources available online now including the ParaBoss website and the DAFWA website.

These sites enable you to subscribe to have information emailed to you.

This way you will be kept up to date of any current health issues that may impact your sheep production and findings from current research.

The DAFWA 'WA Livestock Disease Outlook enewsletter' is a good example of this.

ParaBoss consists of the main ParaBoss website and the big three para sites WormBoss, FlyBoss and LiceBoss.

The sites contain the latest information to help:

LiceBoss <<http://www.liceboss.com.au>>

- Prevent new infestations;
- Detect infestations through structured monitoring; and
- Eradicate infestations in short and long wool sheep and manage chemical residues in wool.

WormBoss <<http://www.wormboss.com.au>>:

- Solve your current worm problem;
- Implement an effective integrated worm control program; and
- Manage drench resistance.

FlyBoss <<http://www.flyboss.com.au>>:

- Predict fly strike occurrence and identify the best management options to reduce risk;
- Deal with fly strike outbreaks and better understand all matters pertaining to fly strike and its control.

Some of the features include interactive tools to help identify the correct treatment and detailed management information including lists of current chemicals with their active ingredients, appropriate withholding periods and application techniques and rates.

The most important point to remember is to read the label for each chemical that you are using to ensure the correct application technique, dose rate and timing of treatment.

Misuse of chemicals can be a risk to the user and the end user with unacceptable residuals or in the case of under-dosing, the development of resistant parasites.

The DAFWA and ParaBoss websites also offer other management strategies to help reduce the risk of parasites.

This includes preparing low worm-risk paddocks, calendars to see how changing the timing of different activities can reduce risks of parasite attack and other information.

There are also State specific updates by veterinarians to highlight relevant issues.

Refer: www.agric.wa.gov.au and go to livestock – sheep
www.paraboss.com.au



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