

Sheep drenching & Flystrike protection

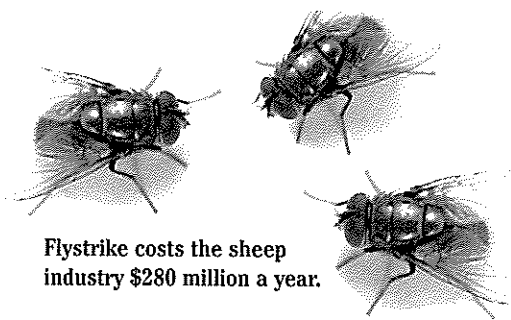
FLYBOSS HELPS CUT FLYSTRIKE

More than 2000 producers have logged on to the FlyBoss website since its launch four months ago, in the lead up to the 2010 fly season.

FlyBoss, a specific internet based resource, was launched via an industry webinar in June this year. It allows sheep producers to easily and quickly obtain proven information about breeding and managing sheep to reduce the risk of flystrike, just by going to flyboss.org.au.

The Sheep Cooperative Research Centre, along with its partners – Australian Wool Innovation, Meat and Livestock Australia and the state departments of primary industry – and Sheep Genetics, developed FlyBoss.

Senior veterinary parasitologist **Brown Besier** said FlyBoss draws on the latest research information and the successful experiences of researchers and producers.



Flystrike costs the sheep industry \$280 million a year.

“Sheep can be affected by breech strike and/or body strike. Reducing the risk of flystrike requires an integrated, planned approach,” he said.

“This involves combining a management program of shearing, crutching, chemical application and perhaps breech modification with the breeding and selection of less susceptible sheep. The chosen mix of strategies will vary between producers, depending on type of sheep, location and enterprise.”

Dr Besier said it is widely appreciated that breeding sheep with less susceptibility to flystrike takes time.

“An integrated approach provides ongoing protection whilst the breeding program delivers the necessary changes to the flock,” he said.

“With a plainer bodied but still productive flock, the reliance on mulesing as a management practice can be reduced.

“Flystrike prevention is a complex issue. However, there are many people who have successfully changed their approach or are planning to; the FlyBoss website provides the background and the techniques, and the stories from producers who have made the change.”

Flystrike has been a major concern for sheep producers for many decades, ever since the *Lucilia cuprina* blowfly arrived in Australia in the early 1900s. Recent estimates are that each year treatment and lost

STAY COOL UNDER WORM PRESSURE

With extensive rainfall and favourable climatic conditions throughout many of the sheep producing regions of Australia, worm burdens are expected to be on the rise this spring.

To help resellers pull through drench sales onto farm, Coopers has a great deal. Every four drums of either Scandamax or Colleague purchased during the summer drench season will be eligible for a Bonus 108 L Coopers Esky (while stocks last).

Scandamax is a cost effective, triple combination drench for the oral treatment and control of gastrointestinal nematodes in sheep and lambs (including macrocyclic lactone, levamisole or benzimidazole resistant strains).

Colleague is a ready to use oral drench for the control of sensitive gastrointestinal roundworms (including strains that have single or multiple resistance to benzimidazole, levamisole, closantel and macrocyclic lactone drenches). No resistance to Colleague has been recorded and being a combination drench it has the potential to help slow resistance development.

It is timely to remind producers of the following guidelines:

1. Determine the need to drench by conducting a worm faecal egg count test.
2. Choose an effective drench.

While many farmers might think that conducting a faecal egg count reduction test (FECRT) is very expensive and time consuming, a little bit of effort now to determine which drench groups are effective on a property can save a lot of expense and heartache later on.

What drench should be used if the drench resistance status of a property is unknown?

Depending on the previous drench history of the property, Coopers Animal Health recommends that producers with an unknown drench resistance status consider the use of either a triple combination drench such as Scandamax or an organophosphate/benzimidazole combination such as Colleague.

Producers should conduct a worm egg count test on the mob 10-12 days post drenching to ensure that the selected drench has been effective. ■

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