

AN INITIATIVE OF
Making More From Sheep



Healthy and Contented Sheep

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EVENT
PARTNERS:



Ruralco
HOLDINGS LIMITED



EVENT
SUPPORTERS:



STATE
PRIMARY
INDUSTRY
AGENCIES

Overview

- Animal health is important \$\$
- Management /season interacts with health
- Key issues:
 - worms
 - trace elements
 - biosecurity
 - foot abscess
 - flies/lice
- Key points
- Sign posts



What is important for healthy sheep

- Nutrition, nutrition, nutrition
 - Worms, flies and lice
 - Everything else!
 - Interaction between health and management
 - Often need to change management OR
 - Watch when change management
- 1. Almost all health problems associated with management**



Effect of Season

- Most diseases seasonally based
- Warm, moist conditions favour
 - Pasture growth
 - Bacterial survival
 - Worm, fly development



So if dry, nutrition is real issue (ENERGY)

2. If good season, diseases the problem!
(Farming is FUN)

Relative disease importance

2006 H&S Review

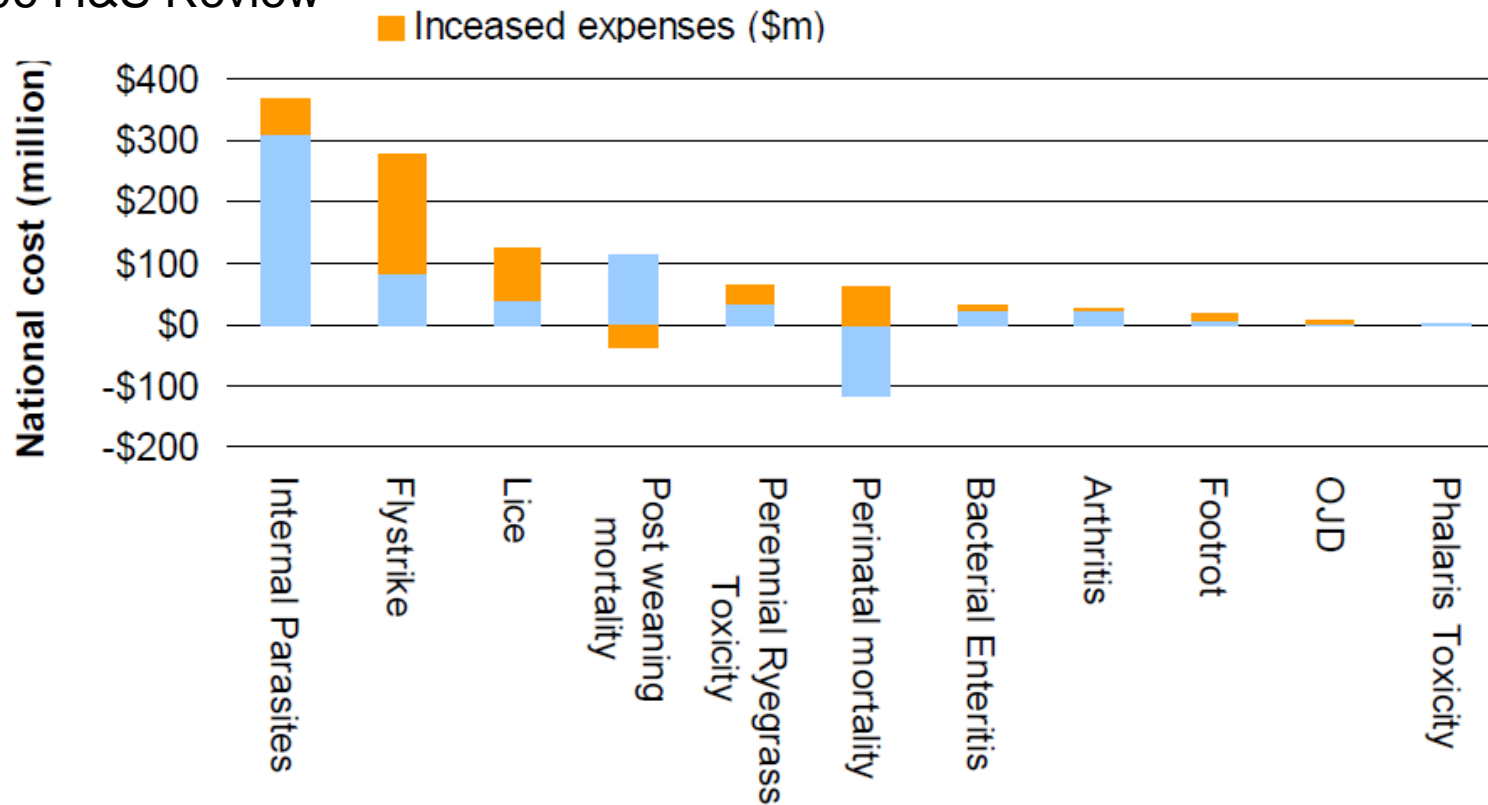
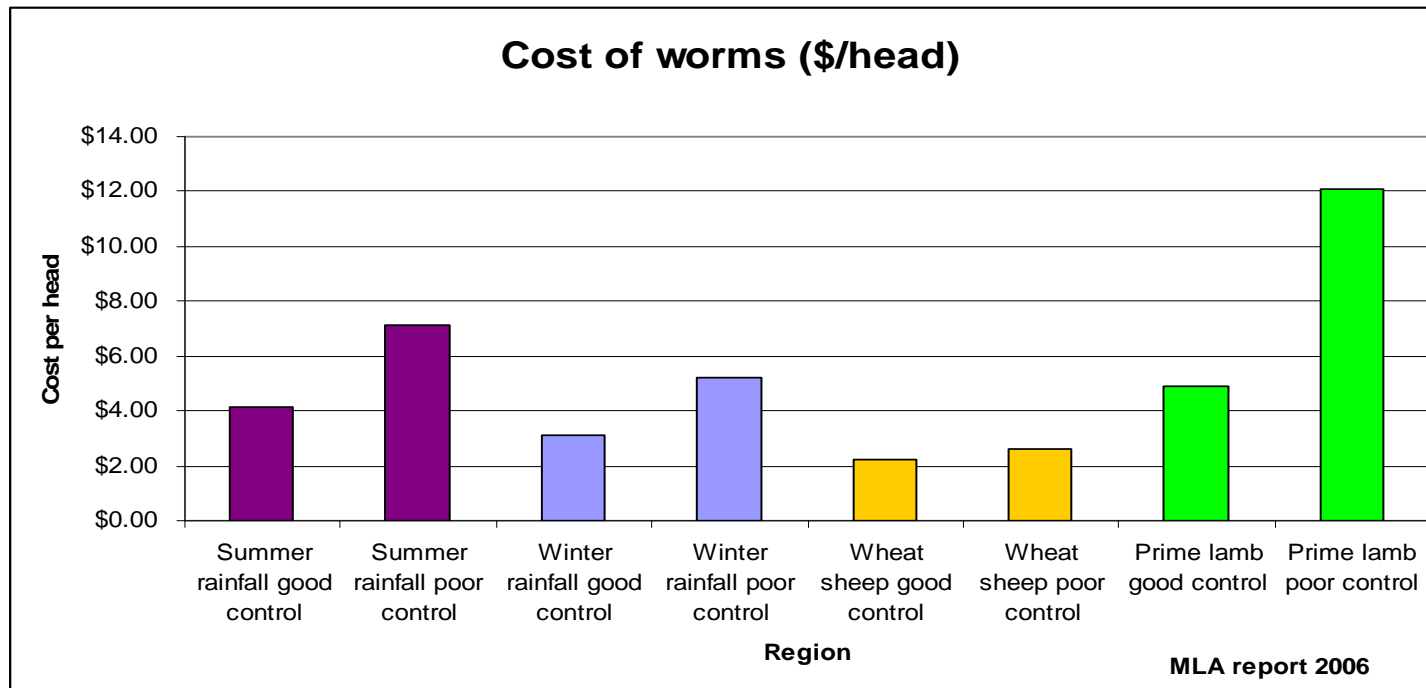


Figure 2 National cost of diseases to the sheep industry

Worms have a major financial impact



- 80-90% of loss associated with lower production
- Lower liveweight and yield ~ 2 kg carcass weight 2006 prices!
- Higher death rate and lower fertility
- Lower fleece values

Worms

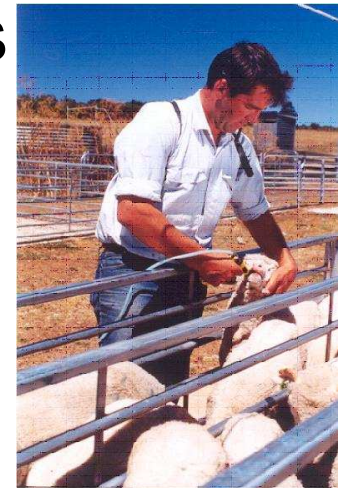
- Main + major cost to sheep producers
- Pasture survival favoured if mild, cool, wet
- Balancing act- worm control + drench resistance
- Need to control worms!



Worm Control – The System

- 2 summer drenches – all ewe and lamb Merino flock
- If prime lambs, cropping, cattle, may have different needs – eg pre-lamb drench, depending on season, time of lambing
- Most lambs need a drench by 12-16 weeks
- Monitoring is best way to know

3. Monitor young sheep for worms



Monitoring (WFEC)

- Takes 17-21 days for ingested worm to lay eggs
- So WFEC tells you what was happening 3-4 weeks ago
- Best in younger sheep, or to assess contamination
- Not very useful in adult sheep (unless there is a problem or with Barber's Pole (*Haemonchus*))

Drench Resistance

White (BZ)	>90%
Clear (Levamisole)	>80%+
Combinations	>60%
MLs (mectins)	30-80%

- Widespread
- Individual flock test (FECRT) only way to know
- Can check 10-14 days post drenching
- Drenching when low pasture contamination is real problem
- No ideal answer (dose to correct weights, check gun etc)
 - leave some sheep undrenched
 - Leave some mobs undrenched

4. Think when drenching what the effect is!

Which drench to use?

- Effectiveness, cost, time of year
- Long-acting versus short acting
- Capsules
- Long duration drenches
- **NZ work shows sensible use of effective drench is key**



Trace Elements

- Usually not a problem, easy to fix
- Se now in most drenches (watch dose in vaccines)
- Test in winter (copper), spring (cobalt, selenium)
- Se test usually mimics status 90 days earlier – blood
- Energy (+protein) and worms more likely or spread joining!

5. Monitor for trace elements in winter / spring

Biosecurity

- Lice , Footrot
- OJD, liver fluke(?), Drench resistance (?)
- Brucellosis
- Look at what you have and control/ eliminate them
- Look at what you don't have – avoid them



6. Keeping out diseases is always cost effective!

Biosecurity: Keep important diseases out

- Assess the disease risk: sheep health statement
- Drench new arrivals with a triple combination drench
 - WEC plus fluke
- Run new sheep in quarantine over spring
- Invest in secure boundary fences

NATIONAL SHEEP HEALTH STATEMENT (Version 2 - May 2009)

Attached to accompanying NVD/Waybill No.

SECTION 1 – CONSIGNMENT INFORMATION

Owner of sheep:

Property/place where the journey commenced (full address)

State:

Property Identification Code (PIC) of this property:

Number	Year born (month, if known)	Description (e.g. Breed, sex, tag type)	Identification (e.g. PIC/brand on ear tag if different to above)

Please attach a list if more information is required.

SECTION 2 – OVINE JOHNE'S DISEASE (OJD)

1. This consignment has an ABC score of. (refer and complete overleaf)

Category A Category B Category C Category D = TOTAL ABC SCORE
(Assess flock credits) (Test credits) (Vaccine credits) (Cert. low risk credits)

2. Were all these consigned sheep born on the above property? Yes No

If no, date introduced: ABC score at time of introduction: (if known)

3. Have sheep of a lower ABC score than the consigned sheep been introduced into the flock in the last 2 years? Yes No

If yes, what is the lowest ABC score of introductions?

4. How many different sources of sheep have been introduced to the consignee's property in last 2 years? None 1-5 6- Rams only

5. Are any of the sheep in this consignment terminal 'T' tag lambs? Yes No

6. Are these consigned sheep from a SheepMAP flock? Yes No

Status: Expiry date:

SECTION 3 – FOOTROT

7. Have the sheep in this consignment been observed for, and any suspect sheep examined for, signs of FOOTROT during the past 14 days? Yes No

8. To the best of your knowledge, are the sheep in this consignment free of VIRULENT FOOTROT? Yes No

9. To the best of your knowledge, are all sheep and goats on the consignee's property free from VIRULENT FOOTROT? Yes No

SECTION 4 – OTHER HEALTH INFORMATION

10. Is the flock accredited under a government administered OVINE BRUCELLOSIS accreditation scheme? Yes No

Flock Accreditation No.:

Expiry Date:

11. Has there been any evidence of sheep LICE at, or since, the last shearing? Yes No

Date of last shearing (if known):

12. Treatments:

Product	Date of last treatment
External Parasite Treatment:
Drench:
Vaccination other than OJD:
Other:

SECTION 5 – DECLARATION

As the owner and/or person responsible for the husbandry of the sheep in this consignment, I declare that the information in this statement is true and correct.

Signed: Date:

Name (print):

Contact phone:

Persons making false statements may be liable under fair trading and other relevant state legislation.

Ectoparasites

Flies

- Timing of crutching
- Be aware of conditions – warm, moist
- Early treatment most effective

Lice

- Mustering, treating, monitoring!



Long term management: Genetics

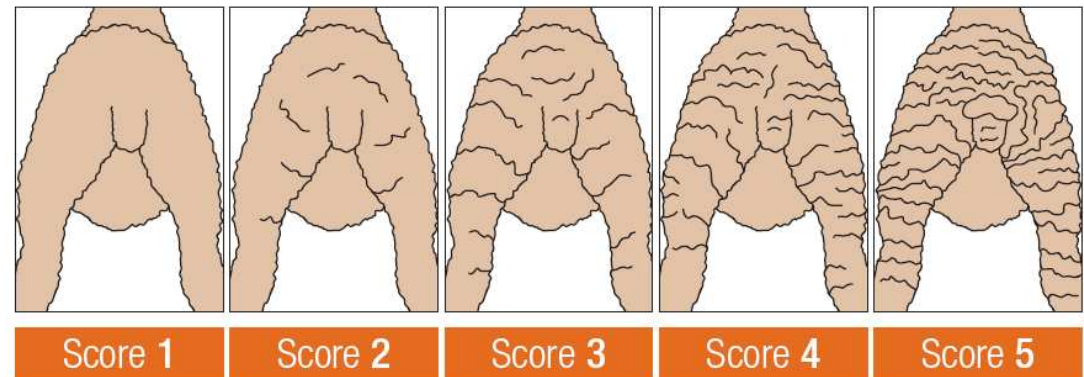
Making More From Sheep



- Worm egg count
 - Lower worm egg counts
 - Less drenching

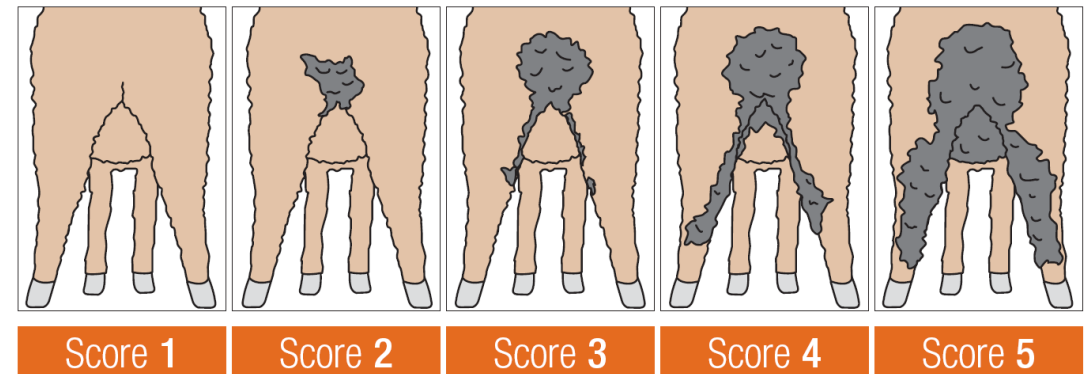
- Breech wrinkle
 - Reduce below score 2
 - Reduce breech strike

Breech Wrinkle



- Dag score
 - Independent of WEC

Dag



Long term management: Genetics

- Include as part of your selection criteria
- Slow progress but cumulative gains
- Most progress dependant on ram supplier
- Must balance important economic traits
 - Meat production traits
 - Wool production traits
 - Incorporate in selection index

SHEEP GENETICS



Foot abscess

- Heavy twin bearing ewes, rams, ram hoggets
- Wet muddy conditions
- Think about prelambing treatments!
- Interdigital skin, not horn
- Treatment OK??? if early
- Avoid yarding late pregnant ewes
- Major issue- preg tox



Key points

- 1. Almost all health problems associated with management**
- 2. If good season, diseases the problem!**
- 3. Monitor young sheep for worms**
- 4. Think when drenching what the effect is!**
- 5. Monitor for trace elements in winter / spring**
- 6. Keeping out diseases is always cost effective!**
- 7. Prevention is better than cure.**
- 8. Genetics for long term cumulative gains**

Sign posts

- Making More From Sheep
 - Module 11 Healthy and contented sheep
- Wormboss
- Liceboss
- Flyboss
- MLA and I & I websites
- Your network of advisers

