

Lice

Strategic prevention

Consult the LiceBoss website to develop a biosecurity plan. Key elements of a biosecurity plan may include:

- prevent sheep straying with stockproof fences and clean musters.
- work cooperatively with neighbours.
- eradicate current infestations.
- assume introduced sheep (including strays) are lousy and manage accordingly with treatments and quarantine.
- avoid split shearings.
- apply treatments effectively.
- monitor regularly.
- shearing is the best time to attempt eradication.

Tactical response

Consult LiceBoss and/or seek professional advice on actions required for treatment. Steps to consider include:

- choose a treatment application method that can be done effectively on your property.
- ensure equipment is suitable and set up correctly.
- ensure the operator is trained.
- choose the appropriate chemical to suit the application method.
- treat every sheep correctly.
- follow safety recommendations.

Likelihood

Lice infestations cost Australian sheep producers more than \$107 million per year in lost wool production, reduced quality and treatment.

Likely triggers for lice infestation:

- boundary fences that are not stockproof.
- introduction of purchased rams and ewes.
- sheep returned from agistment or stray sheep returned from neighbours.
- neighbours having lice-infested sheep.
- travelling stock moving along boundary fences.
- when past treatment has been poorly applied.
- when lice-resistant chemicals have been used for past treatments.

Impact

- Sheep bite at flanks, scratch head with back feet, rub against posts, trees and fences.
- Pulled and rubbed wool along sides and flanks, and matted and cotted wool.
- Fleece value reduced by \$3–10/head due to:
 - lower weights and yields
 - yellowing and dullness
 - decreased processing performance.



TIPS AND INFORMATION

- Aim to eradicate rather than control by choosing the appropriate chemical, application method and timing that is effective on your property.

Resources

LiceBoss About lice

LiceBoss Preventing new lice infestations

LiceBoss Resistance, residues and safety

LiceBoss Tools

LiceBoss Treating sheep for lice

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