



GENSTOCK NEWS

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ANIMAL BREEDING & FLEECE TESTING SERVICES

PO Box 21 Kojonup Western Australia 6395

Phone (08) 9834 1038; Fax (08) 9834 1062

EMAIL info@genstock.com.au

WEBSITE: www.genstock.com.au

EXCITING NEW DRENCH RELEASES

Two new fully effective anthelmintic drenches should soon become available to Australian Sheep producers.

Zolvix® (active monepantel, Novartis) and **Startect®** (combination of derquantel and abamectin, Pfizer) are currently undergoing registration prior to release.

Zolvix was released in New Zealand in April 2009 and is currently marketed at over \$1.00 per dose.

Both drenches attack the parasitic nervous system although at different sites and are 100% effective on all major sheep worms, including Trichostrongylus and Ostertagia species.

When released it is strongly recommended that these products are not over-used, and this may be only once a year.

BOOM TIMES FOR SHEEP PRODUCERS

The Australian sheep industry is currently seeing record prices being paid for all grades of sheep. Currently finished Lambs are making around 500c/kg dressed weight, Mutton over 300c/kg and Wethers making in excess of \$100/head.

Worldwide decline in sheep numbers coupled with strong National and International demand for sheep meat has tipped the supply/demand scenario in favour of producers. It is also likely that this situation should continue in the short to medium term. Indeed ABARE has predicted a further 6% decline in sheep numbers in the current year.

Strong demand from both Live Exporters and processors has tempted some producers to cash in on the buoyant prices placing further pressure on the declining sheep population. It is somewhat ironical that the Western Australian sheep industry faces a greater threat from lack of numbers rather than oversupply.

Tight supplies and record prices are placing increased pressure on processors to achieve a profit margin. It would be extremely detrimental to the overall industry if a major processor was to close their doors due to lack of profitability.

Breeders should be encouraged to maintain their ewe flock and ensure those ewes are as productive as possible.

EAST STRATHGLEN REIGNS SUPREME

Congratulations to the Sprigg Family on their success at the recent Australian Sheep and Wool Show at Bendigo. The Sprigg's team ALL BRED BY EMBRYO TRANSFER won Supreme Exhibit, Grand Champion Ram, Grand Champion Ewe as well as several other major awards.

Other Genstock clients whom also performed very well were Angenup, Coromandel and Te Rakau who took out the Supreme Texel award.

TRI-SOLFEN

Genstock is currently WA's largest supplier of Tri-solfen®. Tri-solfen® is a local anaesthetic and antiseptic spray for use on lambs to provide pain relief following mulesing. It has also been developed to reduce blood loss and infection in order to improve wound healing. 99% of clients are very happy with the results and are continuing to use the product from year to year. Less bleeding, faster re-mothering and ease of movement post mulesing are typical reports of the advantages of Tri-solfen®. The product contains two proven topical local anaesthetics. Fast acting Lignocaine has been shown to reduce pain immediately after application, while long-acting Bupivacaine works to keep post-operative pain at low to mild levels for hours. Adrenaline is also included in the formulation for its ability to reduce the shock and stress of blood loss whilst prolonging anaesthetic action.

Genstock is currently supplying discounted Tri-solfen® at less than recommended retail price.

GENSTOCK: FOR WHEN RESULTS REALLY COUNT

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ANOTHER TOUGH START TO LAMBING

The early rains in March/April that gave rise to great early feed supplies unfortunately did not carry on in many areas. This has led to low levels of paddock feed through to July.

It is in these tough Autumn/ Winter periods that Pregnancy Scanning becomes an even more valuable management tool to enable productive ewes to receive adequate nutrition and dry ewes can be sold off on the buoyant mutton market.

Previous work by Rob Davidson (WAMMCO) and Keith Croker (AgWA) has proven that providing twin bearing ewes with extra energy at lambing not only increases lamb survivability but can increase weaning weights by up to 2kg / lamb - approaching that of single bearing ewes.

Wet/Drying ewes at lamb marking can remove any ewes that have lost lambs. Ideally these ewes should be culled as there are a percentage of these that will never rear a lamb.

Many clients utilising pregnancy scanning are now remating their dry ewes however late lambing presents new challenges, both in carrying over late lambs and also having ewes in a suitable condition for the next mating.

A very useful management practice being used by a number of clients is to place a back up ram in each mob 2 weeks after the end of mating. These rams are then removed at pregnancy scanning time - 6 weeks post mating, and the dry ewes are rescanned in a further 6 weeks.

This practice reduces the time period between lambing and increases overall lambing percentages through better ewe utilisation.

JOHNES DISEASE UPDATE

HOGGET LAMBING

Mating ewe lambs at 7 - 10 months of age is common practice for New Zealand sheep producers.

With current buoyant sheep prices, Hogget lambing can drastically increase profitability of lamb production enterprises. Ewe lambs need to be a minimum of 40kg and average 45 kg. At 50 kg conception rates of 90% can be achieved.

There are several aspects of hogget lambing that need extra attention:-

Worm control needs special care. Young sheep are more vulnerable to parasitic infestation and when burdened with the peri parturient relaxation in immunity, worm burdens can rise rapidly.

The resulting lambs should be weaned early to ensure their hogget mothers can replace body condition to enable adequate conception rates at their next mating.

IMPORTANCE OF PMSG

Folligon® is a product derived from pregnant mare serum ie PMSG, containing Lutenising and Follicle Stimulating Hormones. It is the affect of the Lutenising Hormone, when combined with an intravaginal sponge, that tightens the synchronising time of ovulation. As laparoscopic AI is only performed once, we need to minimise this variation in order for the ewe to conceive. By injecting PMSG at sponge removal, we are increasing the chances for conception. The FSH component can have the effect of increasing the ovulation rate (ie producing more multiple births). Environmental and nutritional conditions (such as feeding high protein eg lupins just before mating / AI) also increases the chances of multiple births. It is important to discuss the dose rate of PMSG with your vet or Julia, to maximise your success.

Johnes Disease is a mycobacterium that infects the gut wall, restricting the uptake of nutrients. Infected sheep waste away to an emaciated state and eventually die. An infected animal may take several years to show clinical signs and therefore it is only symptomatic in older sheep.

Current abattoir surveillance has detected a number of new properties being infected with Johnes Disease.

Due to the insidious nature of the disease, it has probably been on an individual property for approximately five years before it can be detected. This increased detection may lead to a change in status for WA, lifting from low to medium.

Genetic suppliers may choose to vaccinate their sheep with Gudair® vaccine to protect their clients from potential infection.

Genstock continues to offer very competitive pricing for Gudair® vaccine. Please note that to comply with the National Livestock Identification Scheme, all sheep vaccinated must receive an approved ear tag containing the owners brand plus a "V" in a circle.

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