



GENSTOCK Pty Ltd

Animal Breeding Services

With a very promising break to the season it is somewhat ironical that this is probably the toughest times for sheep health.

The change from hard feed and dry pasture to the emerging green growth is often very stressful to our sheep flock.

As the emerging green growth is mostly water with minimal nutritional value, it is important to at least maintain and preferably increase supplementary feeding. In addition roughage like hay or cereal straw also helps the rumen remain active.

With many ewes approaching lambing, pregnancy toxaemia is a real threat. Pregnancy toxaemia commonly known as twin lamb disease is generally induced by nutritional stress. Heavily pregnant ewes, especially twin bearing ewes, require maximum nutrition during these current conditions.

The long dry summer has prevented any build up of parasitic worm numbers. However the good break will see rapid increase in larval ingestion. Monitor any young sheep or adult ewes that have not had a summer drench. Sheep in a lower body condition are the most susceptible.

The extended previous dry period has seen higher levels of vitamin E deficiency. Symptoms are very similar to Selenium deficiency but often animals can die if physically stressed. The green feed will restore Vitamin E levels, but if severally depleted symptoms may still be seen.

Johnes disease continues to spread across the state sheep flock. The insidious nature of this disease is virtually impossible to restrict long term contamination. All sheep producers should seriously consider vaccinating replacement stock with Gudair vaccine at lamb marking. Stud Breeders or any producer selling breeding sheep, should see increased value on approved vaccinated sheep