GENSTOCK NEWS

SPRING 2013

ANIMAL BREEDING & FLEECE TESTING SERVICES
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CIDRs

Controlled Internal Device Release

Intervet sponges are currently not available in Australia. We will be using all CIDRs this season. Genstock have predominantly used CIDRs with British Breed ewes due to the higher dose of progesterone. However, because they contain a natural progesterone (not synthetic like a sponge), the release can be variable. To overcome, this, it is recommended a slightly higher dose of PMSG is used. This does not necessarily mean more twins. Please discuss with the staff if you have any concerns.

Who would have predicted the rapid decline of the Aussie dollar in recent months, likewise the upturn in seasonal conditions for many areas in the central wheat belt. While most southern cropping areas are enjoying a decent season, much of the northern areas are desperately seeking moisture.

With the Australian dollar hovering around the 90 cent mark, the Australian manufacturing and exporting industries have received a much needed boost. None will benefit more than the Australian wool and sheep meat industries. The strengthening of the US economy coupled with strong demand from the middle class in Asia should give confidence to the Australian sheep producers.

World flock numbers continue to decline especially in New Zealand where Fontera's strength in the dairy industry is forcing sheep graziers to shift to dairy support. The Australian flock is near a 50 year low. Whilst implementation of ESCAS has slowed live export demand, it is anticipated that streamlining of the process should give greater access to Middle East markets.

Overall, this is good news for Australian sheep producers. There is increased demand for sheep meat from North America and Asia. While the wool market still is a bit erratic, AWI is doing a fantastic job through product development and marketing.

Back on the home front this season, you will once again see and hear the familiar faces of our highly qualified staff. We welcome back Ian Mcdougall for his 10th breeding season at Genstock. Ian has been specializing in sheep artificial breeding for over 25 years and has worked in most countries and is highly regarded worldwide. Pedro Bubis is also returning for his 2nd season at Genstock. Pedro is a wonderfully talented and dedicated sheep breeding specialist from Argentina.

If you have any questions regarding any aspect of sheep breeding or management, please do not hesitate to contact us.
Regards Craig

WORM FEC

GENSTOCK OFFER WORM FAECAL EGG COUNTING

Please contact us for more information

CONSISTENT CONCEPTION RATE RESULTS

Genstock have many clients whom consistently achieve very good results.

- Trent & Rachel Browne from the "Chirniminup Dohne" stud in Nyabing, have found by using teasers in October with their stud and commercial ewes and again in the AI programme, it optimizes their conception rates and tightens their lambing period. They achieve over 75% in late October. Using teasers is especially important whilst ewes are still approaching the breeding season & oestrus cycles are not regular.
- The Ledwiths from the Kolindale Stud in Kukerin, AI over 1000 ewes per year. They AI on a large scale to maximize their economic gain by using "their top ram genetics over large ewe numbers so they can improve growth rates, wool cut, fertility, wool quality and predictability". They consistently achieve 90% lambing rate with an 80% conception rate. To achieve this, the nutrition of the ewes is held back and they are then put on a rising plane of nutrition by feeding 220 grams of lupins per head per day for four weeks prior to AI. They always utilise teasers and use a dose rate of 1.8mls of PMSG for their large bodied ewes in November.
- Philip & Daniel Gooding of the East Mundalla Merino stud, Lake Grace found last year that by increasing the oats, they achieved their best result of over 75%. They have been Aling with Genstock for 25 years and routinely do over 1000 ewes. Philip strongly believes, the results are only as good as the effort you put in. "If you get the feeding right, then you will achieve the good results."
- Scott & Sue Pickering of Derella Downs Merino & Pyramid Poll Merino Studs, AI 1000 ewes per year. Scott has a large scale cropping programme in Esperance but spends considerable time, ensuring the diet and other management factors enhance the AI result and not interfere with it. They achieve over 75% and are always considering ways of improving this result.

GENSTOCK: FOR WHEN RESULTS REALLY COUNT

IMPROVING CONCEPTION RESULTS

There are many variables that can occur from year to year and it is paramount that you nurture your artificial breeding ewes and give them priority. Every year, Genstock analyses client's conception results with the majority of our clients consistently achieving well over 70% conception rate.

Ewes are short day breeders. Although merinos are usually referred to as "non seasonal", this is only because they have a longer breeding season (regular oestrus cycles) compared to British Breeds. The increasing day-lengths (after 21st Dec) stimulate melatonin production which in turn increases the reproductive hormones and oestrus cycles become regular. Ovarian activity increases gradually as a new breeding season approaches. This initial period sees a lot of variability in conceiving. Ensuring your ewes are cycling is paramount to achieving good conception rates.

Genstock strives very hard to ensure all clients achieve maximum results and we cannot emphasis enough, that the following guidelines are adhered to, as many factors can affect results:

1) All ewes must be on a RISING plane of **NUTRITION**. This involves the following steps:
   - Lambs must be weaned at least 6 weeks prior to AI.
   - After weaning, ewes should be on a MAINTENANCE DIET only. Please minimise the pasture, by increasing stocking rate, utilizing poorer pastures or smaller paddocks. The ewes should not be going backwards or stressed but they shouldn't be fat. It is advisable to separate poorer condition ewes (especially twin bearing ewes from the previous year) and give them some preferential treatment. Ewes must be on a RISING plane of nutrition at the time of AI and ideally minimum body score 3.
   - All management procedures such as shearing, back lining, fly treatment etc. should be performed at least 6 weeks prior. The majority of our clients, who obtain over 70% conception, shear 2 months prior to AI. This gives the ewes a boost and definitely increases conception. AVOID ewes with greater than 3 month's wool.
   - 3 – 4 weeks prior to AI, increase your nutritional level. This means any energy or protein source such as good quality hay, or oats / lupins. The feed MUST be introduced SLOWLY. No sudden changes of feed especially paddock changes should take place between then and 6 weeks AFTER AI.
2) Ensure ewes are **ISOLATED** from the smell and sight of **RAMS**. Rams produce pheromones which interfere with the hormone production of the ewes.
3) **STRESS** must be minimised. Stress interrupts the cyclic activity and ewes will not get pregnant. Reduce dog use. Don't change paddocks mid programme, no management practices prior to 6 weeks or after AI and no change of feed.
4) Use of **TEASERS** is recommended. This is especially important for the clients who AI in November and December whilst the ewes are still approaching the breeding season and oestrus cycles are not regular. Using the "teaser effect" 6 weeks prior to AI, ensures the ewes are cycling when the CIDR is inserted. Ewes that do not get pregnant after AI to backup rams are generally in anoestrus. By running the ewes with a teaser ram prior to AI, this stimulates their cyclic nature and improves their chances of getting pregnant to AI or to the backup ram. Using the same teasers again in the AI programme, helps synchronise the time to ovulation. Most ewes ovulate around 60 hours post sponge pull. We aim, to inseminate the ewes between 50 and 60 hours. The teaser affect will generally tighten that period to ovulation to ensure the semen is still alive and able to fertilize.
5) **CIDR PULL TIME**. The ewe needs to be inseminated before she ovulates or close to ovulation to maximize the viability of the semen. This requires the client to have all CIDRs out by the time specified on the programme. This is ESSENTIAL and altering this, will affect the result.
6) **PMSG DOSE**. So many farmers do not want twins so would prefer a lower dose of PMSG. HOWEVER, by reducing the dose rate, you can reduce the conception rate. The PMSG increases the synchrony to ovulation but it also stimulates number of eggs. It is disheartening to go out into the paddock and see dead lambs due to high number of twins, but it is more disheartening to have a poor conception rate. PLEASE ADHERE to the rate specified by your AI programme or in conference with Craig. Please be advised that feeding and good environmental conditions will also favour a higher ovulation rate. CIDRs require a higher dose than sponges..

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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SHEEP MEASLES

A MAJOR ECONOMIC CONCERN FOR ALL FARMERS

Taken from Dept of Ag "Ovine Observer no 62" and Farm Note 24/7/2013

Sheep measles are the larval, (intermediate or cystic) form of a tapeworm, *Taenia ovis*. The tapeworms cause no apparent ill effects in dogs. If sheep eat pasture contaminated by tapeworm eggs then the intermediate stage of the worm develops in sheep muscle, including the heart and diaphragm. The cysts usually degenerate to soft or gritty nodules up to 5mm in diameter. These cysts, commonly called sheep measles, cause no visible effects on live sheep but in the meat they cause objectionable blemishes which must be trimmed out.

Trimmed carcasses are not suitable for the export market. In severe cases the entire carcass may be condemned. Farmers who have consigned affected sheep to abattoirs may be notified that some carcasses have been affected with "ovis" and payments consequently reduced.

The payment for an affected lamb may be discounted by 50%. Nationwide, sheep measles is one of the major causes for abattoir condemnations. The ongoing National Sheep Health Monitoring Project has now looked at more than four million sheep processed in abattoirs in all states and territories over the past four years. They have found that W.A. is the **national leader of sheep infected with *Taenia ovis*.**

1. WA has a higher average percentage of sheep infected with sheep measles per line
2. We have more infected lines of sheep, and more infected PICs (Property Identification Codes) than any other state. More than 90% of all lines (or PICs) going through the abattoir have at least one infected sheep and on average 7% of sheep are affected.
3. A higher percentage of PICs in WA have at least one infected animal than anywhere else.

The adult *T ovis* tapeworm is carried by dogs. Eggs from this tapeworm are then shed in the dog's faeces. These are ingested by sheep grazing contaminated pasture and the eggs go on to form small cysts within the muscles of the sheep. Dogs then pick up a new infection by eating sheep meat and offal that have the infective cysts in the muscles.

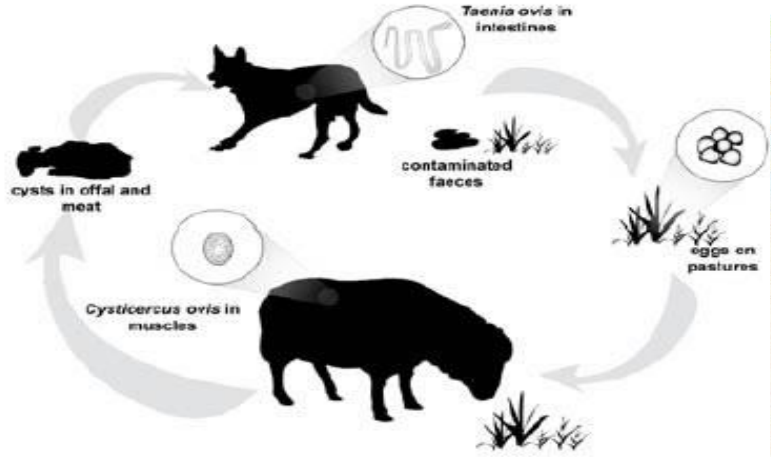
To control T ovis:

- do not feed uncooked offal or sheep meat to dogs. Raw sheep meat should be frozen for at least 7 days in order to kill tapeworm cysts prior to feeding it to dogs
- worm ALL dogs regularly (every month) with a wormer that contains the active ingredient Praziquantel. This includes the house dog!
- do not allow other dogs onto your property (visitors, contractors) unless they too have been wormed within the preceding four weeks
- ensure dogs are not able to scavenge from sheep which have died on the property
- work in collaboration with your neighbours to ensure everyone in the area is worming their dogs regularly.

Although it is tempting to blame foxes for the increase in the prevalence of sheep measles, it is still most likely that farm dogs (or feral dogs) spread the infection. Taeniid tapeworms in dogs have a tremendous potential for reproduction. If left untreated they can survive in a dog for up to 5 years and produce between 30,000 and 500,000 eggs every day. The eggs are hardy, can survive for months on pasture and can be distributed by wind, birds and insects.

Regular treatment of dogs for tapeworm infection every 4 weeks will not only protect the sheep from measles but also dog owners and their families from being infected with the potentially dangerous hydatid cysts.

GENSTOCK SELLS WORMING TABLETS (2 tabs for a 20kg farm dog) at $8 / dog OR a bottle of 100 tabs for $200.



Lifecycle of 'Taenia ovis'

GENSTOCK: FOR WHEN RESULTS REALLY COUNT

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2013/14 BOOKING FORM

Please complete this form and fax it back to (08) 9834 1062

Trading Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Fax Number _____

Mobile No. _____ Email address _____

Artificial Insemination Programme

Preferred AI Date _____

Number of Ewes to AI _____

(please be accurate as we will only send required amount)

REMEMBER TO START "NURTURING YOUR EWES, 2 MONTHS PRIOR TO THIS DATE

Embryo Transfer Programme

Preferred ET Date/s _____

Number of Donors _____

Lambed in 2012 _____

Number of ET Programmes _____

Recipients can be brought to Genstock for implanting on the day if less than 5 donors. Embryos can also be frozen and implanted at a later date. Please feel free to contact us for more information.

On Farm Brucellosis Testing

No. of rams over 10 months of age: _____

Date rams go into ewes: _____

Date rams come out: _____

Comments _____

_____

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