

GENSTOCK NEWS

ANIMAL BREEDING & FLEECE TESTING SERVICES

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125 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

We are thrilled to announce Dr Michylla Seal has accepted a permanent position with Genstock as a partner. Dr Seal who contracted for us last season, brings a wealth of international artificial breeding knowledge and experience to our established team. She is extremely keen to develop close relationships with clients to ensure the most professional service available.

In addition we have welcomed back Hannah Matthews, who has been working full time in the semen collection shed, ensuring client's rams are collected and returned home as quickly as possible. She also closely monitors & provides the nutritional requirements of all "on-centre" embryo transfer donors. Hannah has a Bachelor degree in Agricultural Science majoring in Animal Production, from the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester, England. She is passionate about animal handling and welfare and providing our clients with valuable feedback.

Trevor Gutsell who has pregnancy scanned for Genstock for 14 continuous years was back again this season and along with Liz Barby provided our clients with a highly accurate and efficient pregnancy scanning service. In addition Julia Overton-Guidi continues to provide outstanding programming and general client support.

We are very proud of the Genstock team & are really confident that given there is 125 years of combined experience within our permanent staff, clients are guaranteed a quality, first class service unmatched anywhere in Australia.



VASECTOMISING RAMS FOR USE AS TEASERS

The importance of teasers has become increasingly important with artificial breeding programs. We are now recommending that vasectomised rams provide a better "ram effect" pre-programming thus establishing the ewes to cycle prior to CIDR / sponge insertion.

Vasectomisation is a quick, simple Veterinary procedure whereby the ram is lightly anaesthetised and the Vas Deferens ligated.

Unfortunately the drug Ropel (ie testosterone) that stimulates the teaser wethers is becoming harder to source because of problems with inappropriate use and has also markedly increased in price.

We would encourage our clients to think about vasectomising some cull young rams, so they are ready for service next breeding season. Please give Michylla or Julia a ring to discuss.

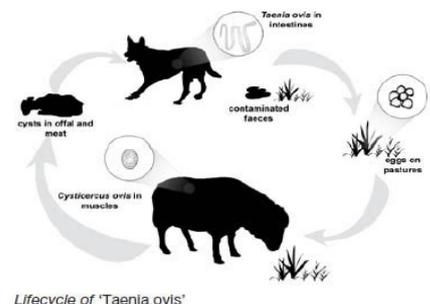
SHEEP ALLIANCE Dr Craig Heggaton

The Western Australian Sheep Alliance was formed last year to replace the Sheep Industry Leadership council, with the mandate to reduce the decline of the Western Australian sheep population.

To date we have managed to secure the Lamb-Ex conference back to Western Australia in August 2018 and continue to develop a large scale sheep project which will hopefully address the issues facing our current industry.

Priority topics the project will focus on:-

- Increasing lambing survivability
- Increasing pasture production utilisation
- Developing farming systems that will allow profitable sheep enterprises in the Eastern Wheatbelt
- Involvement in the development of a vaccine to prevent Sheep Measles 'Taenia ovis'
- Continuous consultation with the Research and development Organisations (MLA & AWI) to ensure funding for WA projects is secured.



GENSTOCK: FOR WHEN RESULTS REALLY COUNT

SHEEP HEALTH

TIGHT SEASONAL STRATEGIES

While most parts of the state have now received a break to the season, the south coast and Lakes district are still struggling for moisture. Pasture availability is still quite sparse in many areas with producers still heavily supplementary feeding. It is imperative that diminishing stocks of supplementary feed be given to priority mobs. Twin bearing ewes are obviously first priority while dry sheep (hoggets, wethers & dry ewes) could be sold or placed on a maintenance ration.

Wet/drying of ewes at lamb marking can remove a percentage of ewes that do not require feeding. This procedure can also identify abnormal udders / damaged teats etc that although rearing a lamb at the moment should be culled post weaning. If the udder is uneven in size, lumpy or has enlarged teats, it is unlikely the ewe will rear lambs in the future. Culling these ewes will increase overall lamb survival the following year.

CAMPYLOBACTER

Extensive serological testing for Campylobacter of young ewes has shown that the presence of this disease is widespread throughout WA with sheep producers throughout the state experiencing reproductive losses. The disease results in late abortion or birth of weak lambs with low early survivability. Campylobacter bacteria reside within the gastrointestinal tract of sheep, in their faecal material and surface/sub-surface water. Scavenging birds and flies can facilitate spread.

Sheep can intermittently shed Campylobacter with increased shedding known to occur at times of increased stress, such as lambing, weaning and movement onto new pasture. The bacteria is also the commonest cause of food poisoning in humans. Once a ewe has become exposed to the bacteria she will develop an immunity for life, however young ewes that are initially exposed during their first pregnancy can have a disastrous effect on lamb marking percentages. There are numerous cases around WA where maiden ewes have only achieved lambing percentages of around 50 – 60% from positive pregnancy scanned ewes.

While the results of vaccination for Campylobacter have shown a positive economic response in 2/3 of flock's, further investigation is still required. It is our opinion that unless serological testing on a particular property is negative for Campylobacter we would thoroughly recommend a vaccination program.

JOHNES DISEASE (OJD)

Ovine Johne's disease is an infectious fatal wasting disease of sheep that is caused by a strain of the bacterium *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*. The insidious nature of this disease cannot be emphasised enough and we strongly recommend that if you are not already vaccinating you should commence a program immediately.

As predicted the disease continues to spread throughout the state and is leading to significant economic losses to sheep producers. Contrary to initial thoughts that it only becomes evident in older sheep, many producers are stating that middle aged sheep are being affected. The disease is NOT restricted to higher rainfall zones. Several producers in the medium rainfall areas are recording significant losses.

The vaccine – Gudair, costs approximately \$2.75 / dose and is a once only sub cutaneous application.

From an occupational health and safety aspect it is very important that it is administered to sheep in a well restrained position. Several reports of producers having suffered needle stick injuries has resulted in severe medical complications with an extended recovery period. By far the easiest, safest and most effective administration is to vaccinate over the lamb marking cradle. Only replacement stock ie rams, breeding ewes or wethers that will be retained for several years, need to be vaccinated. Any imported breeding stock that have not been previously vaccinated, will also need to be vaccinated immediately on arrival and prior to going out onto pastures.

OVINE BRUCELLOSIS

Ovine brucellosis is an infection of sheep caused by a bacterium, *Brucella ovis* (*B. ovis*). In rams the disease causes inflammation of the epididymis (the vessel which transports semen from the testes). One or both ram testes may be affected. The epididymides may become completely blocked, causing sperm to build up. Obvious swelling, hardening or differences in size can often be seen and palpated through the scrotum. Rams with chronic infection may have a grossly enlarged tail of the epididymis at the lower end of the testis and a shrunken testis.

When clinically affected rams are used at mating the lambing percentages may be reduced and if brucellosis continues in the flock, lambing percentages will progressively reduce. The prevalence of Ovine Brucellosis in this state has increased over recent years and we recommend all seed stock producers be involved in the accreditation program run by DPIRD. In addition a vigilant approach to bio-security with any introduced rams onto your property is paramount.

We routinely test for Brucella Ovis in our semen freezing centre with every ram tested on arrival regardless of the client's accreditation status. Genstock offers full accreditation for Brucellosis from bleeding to bio-security advice.

FAECAL WORM EGG COUNTS (FWEC)

Because of the tight seasonal conditions this year, there will be an increase in worm burdens in many flocks with some reports of significant sheep losses with extreme infestations during the winter period. We highly recommend sending faeces off for "Faecal worm egg counts" prior to drenching with any suspect mobs. This will reduce worm egg burdens through the Summer and early Autumn.

It is equally as important to be drenching with an effective drench and therefore we highly recommend a drench resistance test be performed if this has not been done in the previous three years. **The use of Effective drenching is paramount to controlling parasite levels.**

A trial testing different drench resistance test methods is currently under way. Funded by Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) and conducted by Dawbuts, the free trial is now calling for woolgrowers to get involved.

Australian sheep producers spend an estimated \$93 million per year on sheep drenches. However most of the time, they don't know if the drench is working. One of the reasons why farmers do not drench test is because the traditional test is based on low-sensitivity counts that require a mob average of 300 epg before it can begin. This may be hard to achieve, especially if the sheep are being managed for low worm burdens. The second problem is that leaving sheep until they have higher worm burdens exposes them to the risk of sickness, low production and increased paddock infestation.

There is no cost for participating in this trial. Plus, you will find out what drenches and combination of drenches still work on your property. Please contact us for more information about obtaining the free kits or contact Dawbuts on admin@dawbuts.com

GENSTOCK: FOR WHEN RESULTS REALLY COUNT

zoetis RAMPING UP REPRO WORKSHOP DAYS

It is extremely important in late Winter / early spring to check your rams for suitability to mate during summer. Ensure all rams receive a health check at least 8 weeks prior to joining.

- Ensure rams are a minimum 2.5—3.0 body score.
- Lupin supplementation minimum 250gm / head / day for 6 weeks
- Jet the poll area with a long acting fly treatment and check regularly for fly strike leading up to joining
- Treat for internal and external parasites
- Inspect hooves and trim if necessary.
- Rams should be shorn 8 – 10 weeks before joining
- Check the penis, pizzle and testes - testes should feel firm, springy and be free of soft or hard lumps
- Poor teeth will interfere with grazing and overall body condition

Finally, if purchasing rams this year, buy from an accredited brucellosis free flocks or flocks that have had a recent blood test.

In Conjunction with AWI and Zoetis, Dr Michylla Seal will be involved in the "RAMPING UP REPRO DAYS".

Esperance - 26th July—details to follow. Michylla will be available for sheep health queries and to vasectomise some rams to use as teasers. Please call to organise a farm visit.



In conjunction with Kojonup Feeds and BreedersBest Genetics, Genstock will have a stand at the Lambex Conference 5th to 7th August in Perth. Please come and see us.

Dohne Breeder tour of South America



Rachel Browne from the Chirninimup Dohne Stud in Nyabing, recently completed a 10 day tour of South America with 25 other breeders from around the world. Of particular interest to Rachel (and Genstock) were the progeny of the 100 embryos sent to Chile in 2015 from Chirninimup. The group of breeders all agreed, that Patagonia Dohnes in Chile had some of the best examples of the breed they had seen. Genstock sent another 100 embryos in April frozen from the highly fertile Chirninimup Maiden ewes. The ewes averaged 14 grade one embryos per ewe flushed. Genstock is the only accredited centre in WA eligible to export small ruminant genetics to Chile.



WORLD MERINO CONFERENCE by Dr Michylla Seal

In April 2018 I had the pleasure of attending the World Merino Conference and the post Conference tour of Uruguay and Argentina prior to performing my annual artificial breeding programs in South America. Australian genetics are performing and excelling in South America. including Coromandel, Clayans, Olinda, Barloo, East Strathglen, East Mundalla, Belmont Park and Wiringa Park Studs. The Patagonia is an amazing environment with a complex structure. Most of the artificial breeding performed in South America is cervical AI, hence the desire of a lot of producers to import live animals. The landscapes and the farm structures varied vastly between all the properties visited, from corporate owned to family owned. The main concerns in their enterprises are nutrition, seasonal variations affecting their native pastures, and predators. The discussions and experience was fantastic. I look forward to discussing the conference with clients this coming season.



GENSTOCK: FOR WHEN RESULTS REALLY COUNT

WORKING DOG VACCINATIONS

Canine parvovirus is a highly contagious viral disease that can produce a life-threatening illness in dogs. The virus attacks rapidly dividing cells in a dog's body, most severely affecting the intestinal tract. Parvovirus also attacks the white blood cells, and when young animals are infected, the virus can damage the heart muscle and cause lifelong cardiac problem.

Most working dogs are not vaccinated which contributes to the ongoing outbreaks that are often seen around the country.

Genstock offer discounted vaccination to our clients whom have working dogs/puppies. We can also microchip your dogs AND provide WORMING TABLETS for prevention of sheep measles.

Please contact Genstock to organize this service. PLEASE REMEMBER, if your dog is showing any unusual symptoms, you MUST contact your local vet.



Artificial Breeding Results 2017/2018

Results are filtering back to us for last year's programmes. Once again, clients who achieve the 70% above conception rates are preparing their ewes well in advance of their artificial breeding work. We strongly recommend to achieve this average:

1. Ewes must be on a rising plane of nutrition at AI. Two to three months prior to AI, maintain the ewes on low quality pasture/straw until condition score 2.5 to 3. One month prior to AI, move ewes to good pasture/stubble. One week prior to CIDR insertion, increase nutrition by introducing a high quality ration such as lupins. Ensure ewes are on a minimum of 150gm / head / day by CIDR insertion. Ewes must be 3 to 3.5 score at AI. Maintain ewes AFTER AI on good pasture/hay but reduce high quality rations. DO NOT MOVE for six weeks. Refrain from any procedures such as drenching or shearing that would cause stress on the ewes.
2. USE vasectomized rams or testosterone primed wethers, four weeks PRIOR to AI. Remove teasers at CIDR insertion. Keep ewes totaly away from the teasers until CIDR pull where they can be reintroduced to help with synchronization.

SYNCHRONISING DRUGS HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED IN PRICE SO UNFORTUNATELY WE NOW HAVE TO CHARGE FOR ANY EXCESS USED. PLEASE ONLY MIX UP WHAT IS REQUIRED AND RETURN UNUSED PMSG & CIDRS TO THE VET TEAM ON AI DAY.

GENSTOCK SPONSORSHIP

Genstock is grateful for our clients business and are pleased to sponsor events such as the upcoming Merino Long Wool Day in Narrogin. We'd like to say congratulations to the following 2018 winners.

Woolorama

- * Most points, Merino ewes – Woolkabin Stud
- * Most points in Sheep & Wool – Angenup Stud
- * Interbreed Champion pen of 3 – Golden Hill White Suffolk Stud

Katanning

- * Most Points in Show – UPCOMING

Good luck to our clients making the trek to the Australian Sheep Show in Bendigo.



GENSTOCK PTY LTD
ANIMAL BREEDING SERVICES



EXPORT ACCREDITED FOR EMBRYOS AND SEMEN

Genstock specialises in small ruminant:

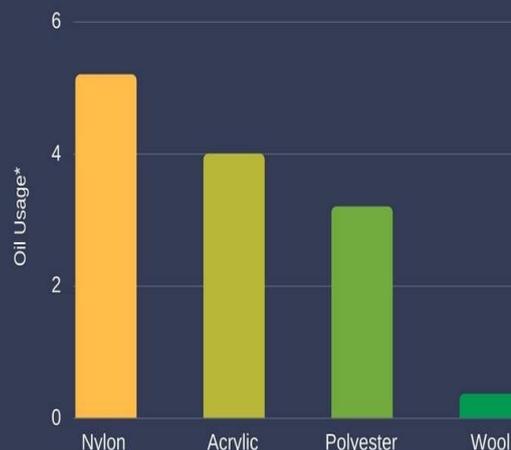
- Laparoscopic artificial insemination
- Embryo transfer and freezing
- Ram fertility tests, semen collection, freezing & storage
- Collection of genetic material for export
- Pregnancy diagnosis - singles and multiples
- Fleece testing utilising O.F.D.A. technology
- On farm ram Brucellosis testing
- On farm ruminant health services, including disease investigations
- SheepMAP accredited OJD veterinarians
- AAV accredited vet for preparation of livestock for export
- Working dog vaccinations, microchipping & worming.

GENSTOCK is Australia's longest serving sheep artificial breeding company. Our experienced team has more than 125 years of combined knowledge, unmatched anywhere in the world.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE www.genstock.com.au

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Energy Used in the Production of Textiles



*kg of oil used to produce 1 kg of final fabric

Source: IWTO

