

AN INITIATIVE OF
Making More From Sheep



Healthy & Contented Sheep

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EVENT PARTNERS:



EVENT SUPPORTERS:



STATE
PRIMARY
INDUSTRY
AGENCIES

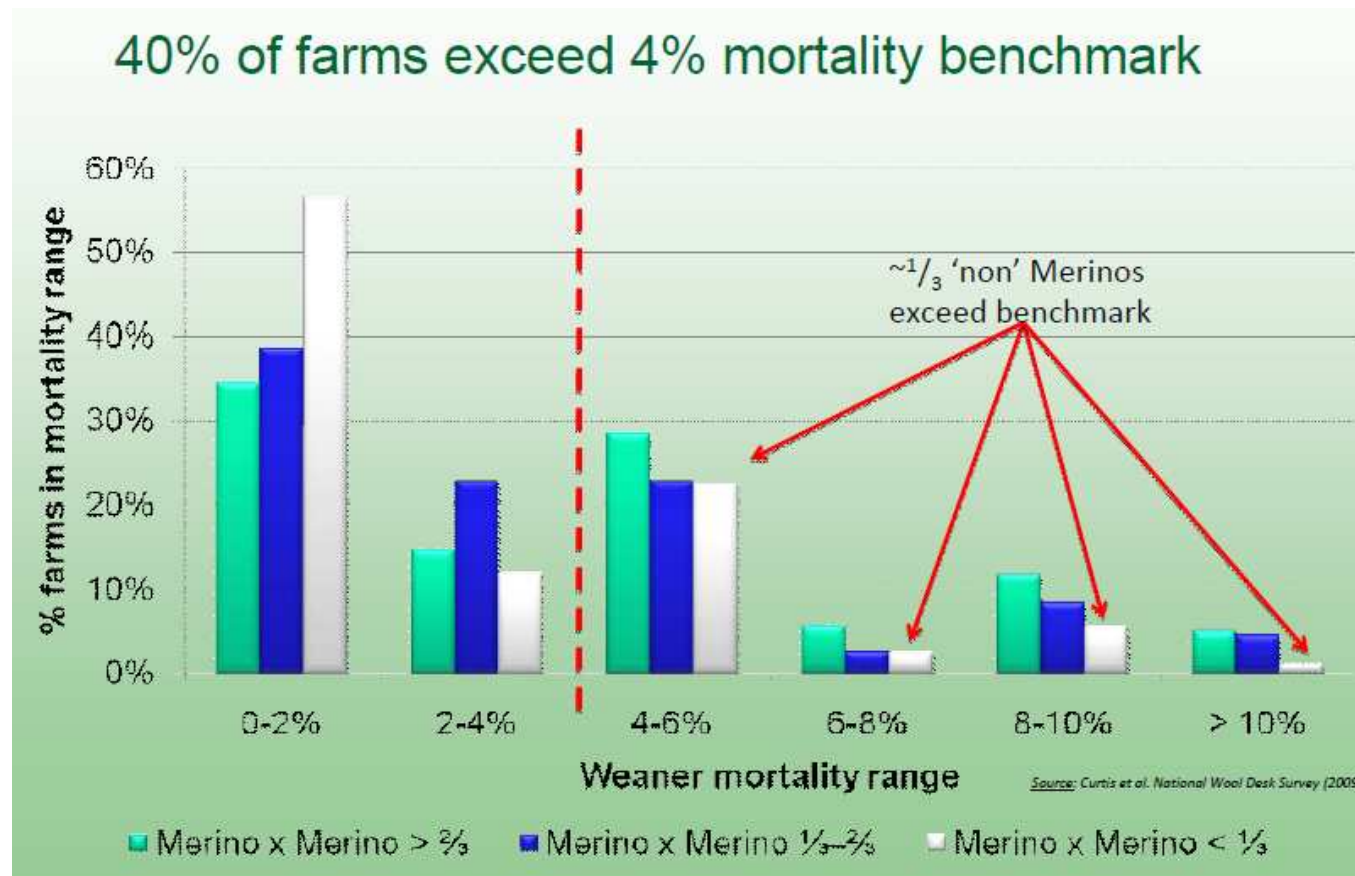
Animal Health (healthy & contented sheep)

- Investment in AH offer excellent returns
- Evidence suggests that many producers achieve less than ideal AH targets
- Poor animal health leads to reduced profitability

Agenda

- Flock survival rates
 - Critical diseases
 - Discuss the importance of management of the sheep's condition score
 - Discuss role of management calendars
-

Survival rates remain an issue for many producers



Mortalities impact on profit (\$GM/dse)

Mortality rates

Clean
wool
prices
(c/kg)

	1%	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	20%
700	\$20	\$18	\$15	\$12	\$8	\$5	-\$10
900	\$30	\$28	\$25	\$21	\$18	\$15	-\$2
1100	\$40	\$38	\$34	\$31	\$27	\$24	\$6
1300	\$50	\$48	\$44	\$40	\$37	\$33	\$14
1500	\$60	\$58	\$54	\$50	\$46	\$42	\$22
1700	\$70	\$68	\$64	\$60	\$56	\$51	\$31
1900	\$80	\$78	\$74	\$69	\$65	\$61	\$39
2100	\$90	\$88	\$84	\$79	\$74	\$70	\$47
2300	\$101	\$98	\$93	\$89	\$84	\$79	\$55

Risk periods affecting flock survival

—Weaners

- From weaning to first wet season
- Thru first wet season

—Ewes

- Late winter to early wet season
- Lambing in dry seasonal conditions

—Wethers!

—Predation

—Accurate records, difficulties of knowing numbers

Weaner ill thrift/management

- Common issue in pastoral/rangeland regions
 - Why
 - Poor quality pastures for long periods of the year
 - Difficulties of management
 - Lack the expertise/equipment/experience to supplement <20kg weaners
- Important knowledge from southern Australia
- Steps we can take to improve our weaner management

Similarities

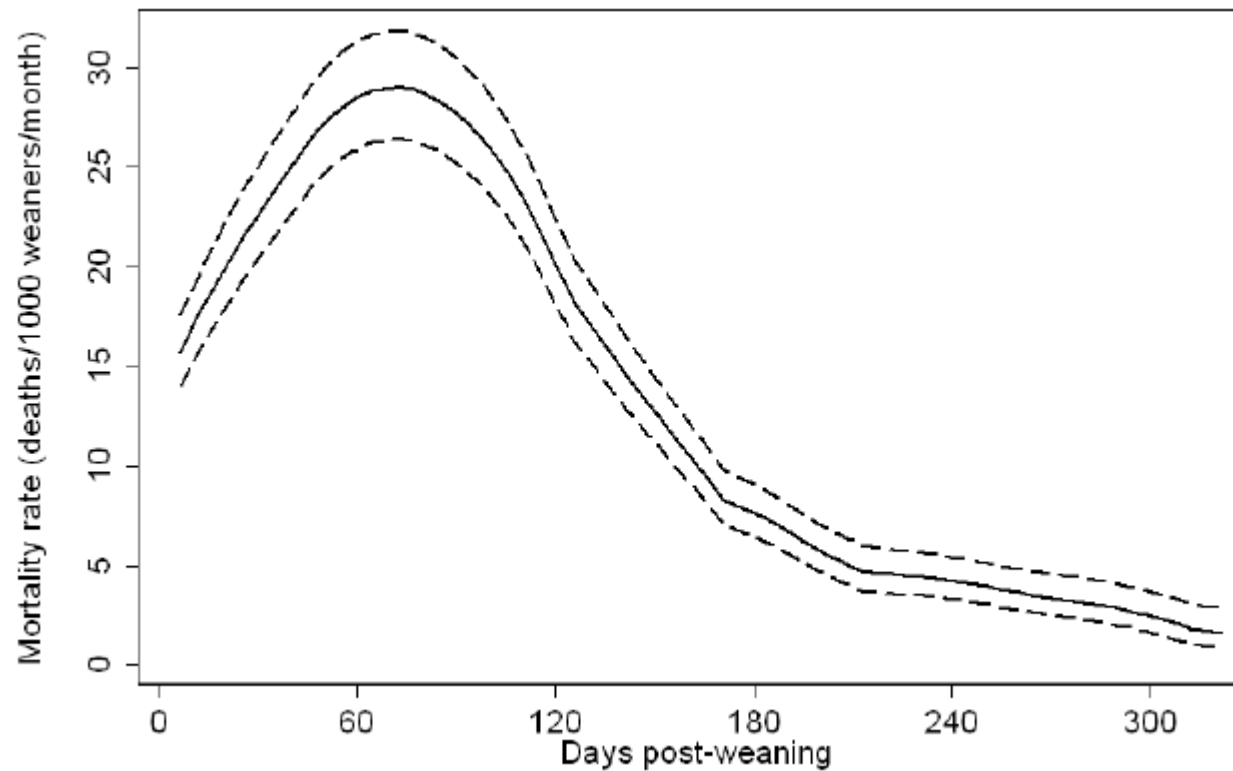
Southern Victoria



Western QLD

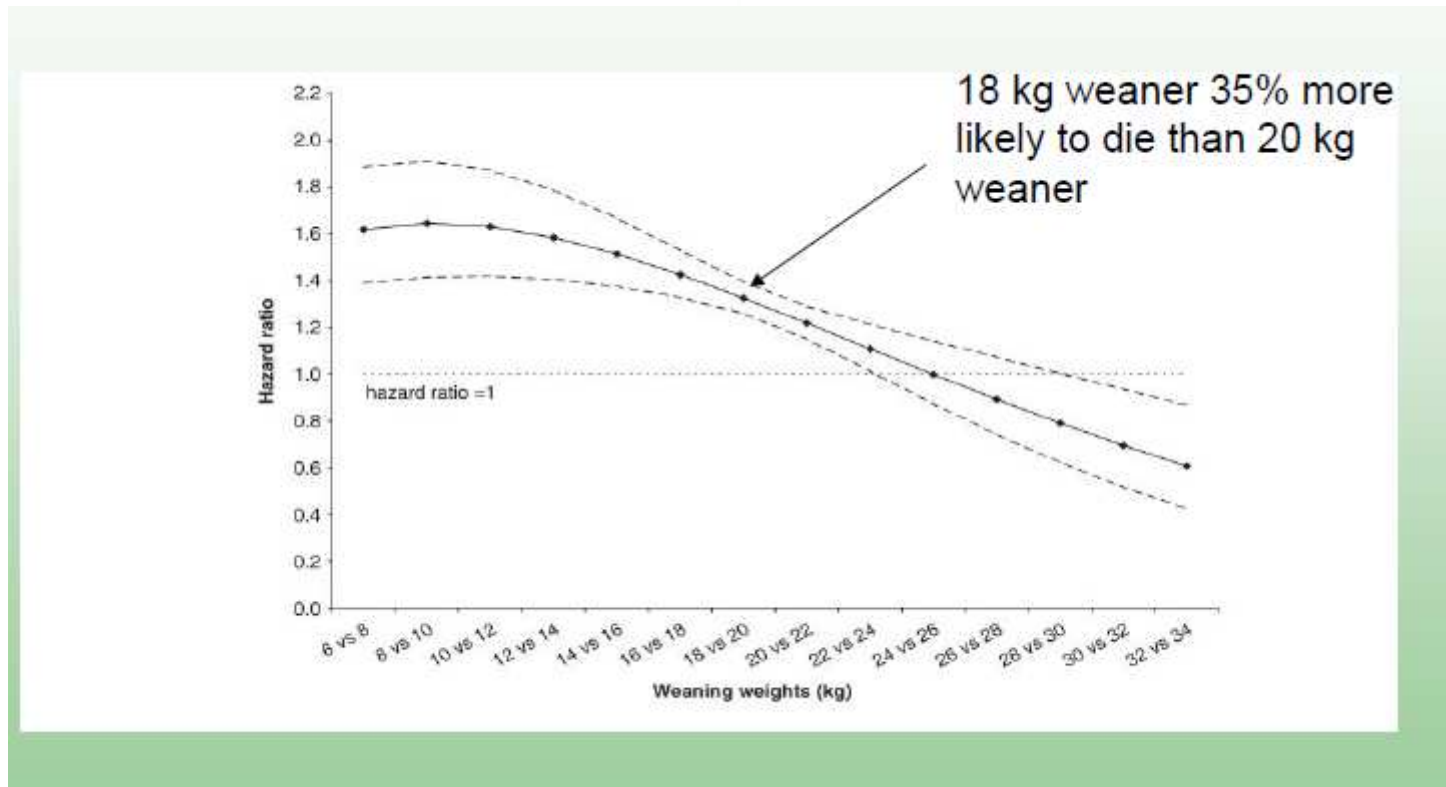


Weaners face high risk following weaning



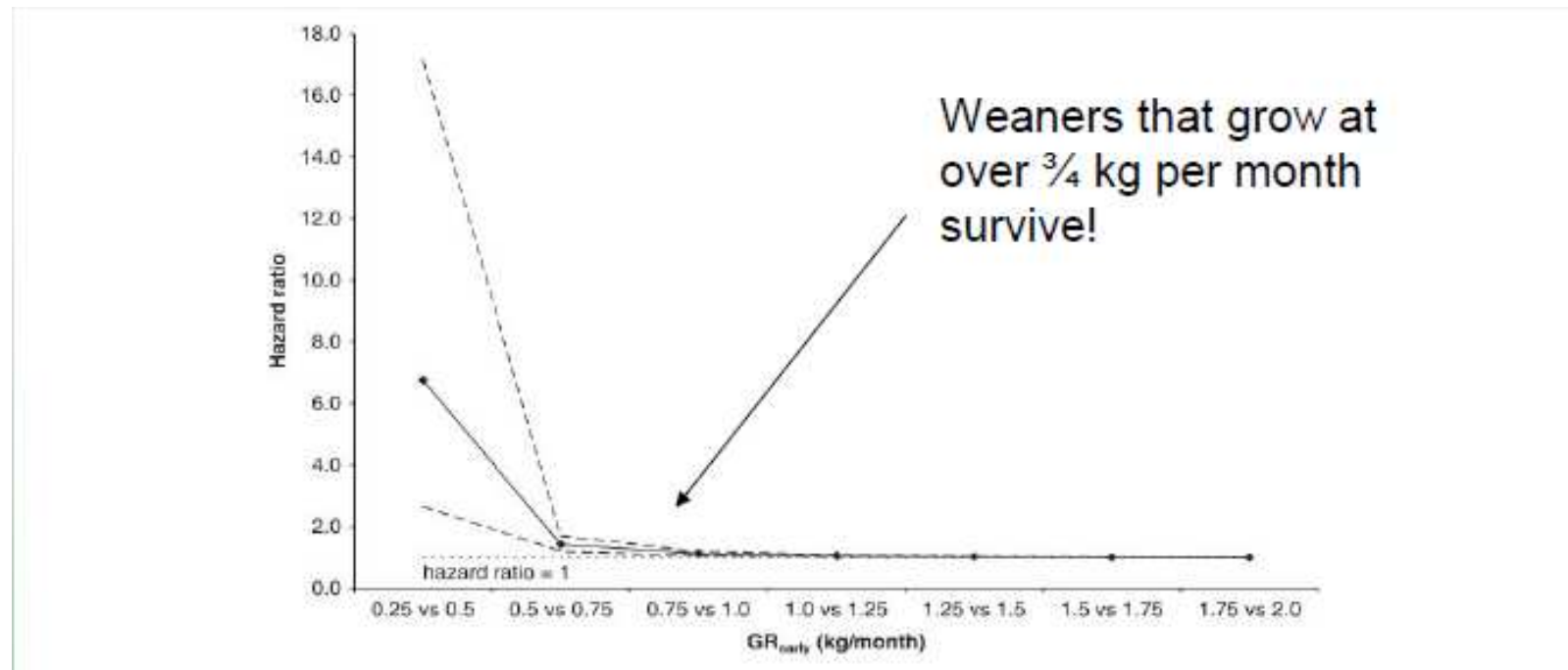
Source; Campbell 2007

Achieve high weaning weights



Source; Campbell 2007

Positive post weaning ADG critical to high survival rates



Source; Campbell 2007

Weaner management

- Weaning is critical to ewe production/fertility/survival
 - Must wean on time (12-14 wks from start of lambing)
 - Wean earlier in tougher years
- Management Calendar
 - Prior to weaning, imprint feed
 - At weaning, vacc' 5:1, apply fly T#, drench, weight & draft on bodyweight
 - Post weaning, weight regularly & supplement to achieve ADG targets (WDI)
- Precision Sheep Management
 - Use NLIS tags to follow ADG/survival

Other management issues

**Manage small & big
weaners separately**



Vaccinate with 5:1



MWOW – mob based walk over weighting



Achieving high annual survival rates in adult sheep

- Low condition scores:
 - Lower conception rates and lamb survival
 - Lower lamb growth: weaner ill thrift, lower survival rates and failure to meet marketing targets
 - **Increase disease risk**
 - **Reduced survival during tough seasons**
- High profit flocks reflect good management of ewe condition scores (CS)
- Survival rates are generally related to CS entering periods of low/poor nutrition

Managing ewes to CS targets

- See *LTEM* website for targets to achieve fertility
- Condition score targets for survival
 - Wethers 1.5, Ewes 2.0, Weaners **x.x**
 - Consider recovery period
- Assess CS (weight) changes regularly during dry times
 - Use of MWOW
- High sheep/wool prices change cost:benefit ratios of supplementing for production/survival targets

FUTURE

- MWOW into joining
- Draft ewes on CS at weaning & supplement
- Paddock autodraft on CS or wgt change

Predation & wild dog impacts

- *Leading sheep website – Traps and Tracks*
- Wild dogs
 - Be aware of key signs that predation is occurring
 - Sand traps to monitor for presence of dogs particularly
 - Seasonal program involves 4 baits a year, bait lambing paddock every 2-4 weeks with pig strength baits

Important diseases affecting production

- Lice (\$1.44)
- Blowflies (0.94c/hd & 0.32 body strike)
- Worms (unassessed)
- Peri-natal mortality (\$1.12)
- Post weaning mortality (\$1.08)
- Other miscellaneous diseases/events

Lice



Traditional extension messages

- *Eradicate at shearing time –*
 - *Treat all sheep*
 - *Dip/drench to the heaviest sheep*
- *Follow chem. application instructions*
- *Achieve clean musters*
 - *Straggler sheep*
 - *Return neighbour sheep via front gate*
 - *Shear all sheep at one shearing*
- *Base decisions on early diagnosis*
- **LICEBOSS website**
- **LICETEST**

Lice

- Situation worsening (exacerbated by recent floods)
 - Many properties affected
 - Increasing on-property prevalence (more mobs affected and more signs of wool rub, etc)
 - Fewer and more expensive chemical groups
 - Good example of impact of chemical resistance
 - No neighbours with sheep
- Why
 - IGR resistance
 - Fences aren't sheep proof
 - Diligence of chem application!
 - Lack of regard for protective period

CW QLD focus (IPM approach)

- View, that some or all mobs on property are lousy (undiagnosable but present)
- Objective
 - Minimise the cost of lice thru control costs and production losses whilst preserving chemical efficacy
 - Minimise number of lice exposed to chemical
 - Minimise number of sheep exposed to lice

Property bio-security plan

- Create sheep proof barriers within property
- Isolate mob areas within property, commence at shearing
- Don't send sheep around property, if necessary, do closer to shearing, use tags/Siromark
- Consider protective periods with new chemical groups
 - Lamb/ewe and stragglers
- Get a diagnosis ASAP
- Diagnose cause of lice break-downs
- Plan for leakage at weaning time
- Treat sheep that have to be moved into other mobs

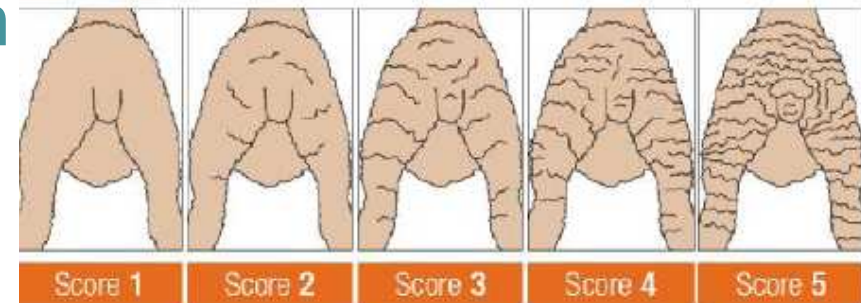
Blowfly

- Mulesing provides good protection but consider political risk
- Many producers now ceased mulesing, surviving & thriving
- Strategies of reducing risk are multi-factoral
- Blowfly workshops in Muttaborra (26th Aug)

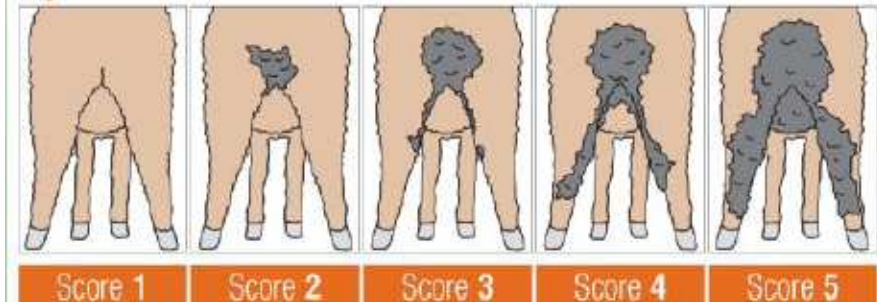
Messages from research

- Reduce breech wrinkle score to <2.0
 - All wrinkles count
 - ASBV's
 - Impact on other production traits
- Then focus on breech cover
- *Reduce dag scores using worm control and genetics*

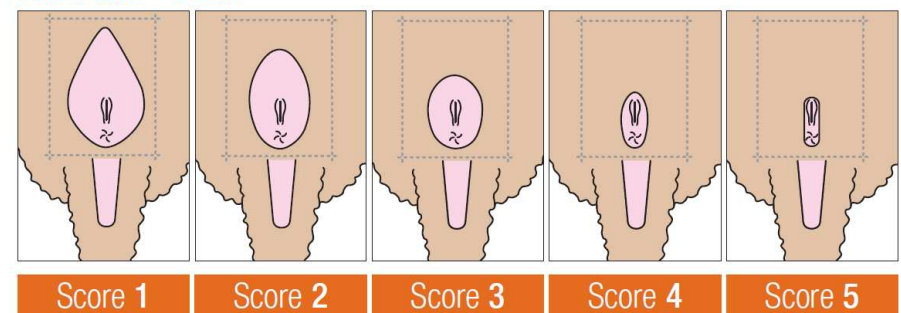
Breech Wrinkle



Dag



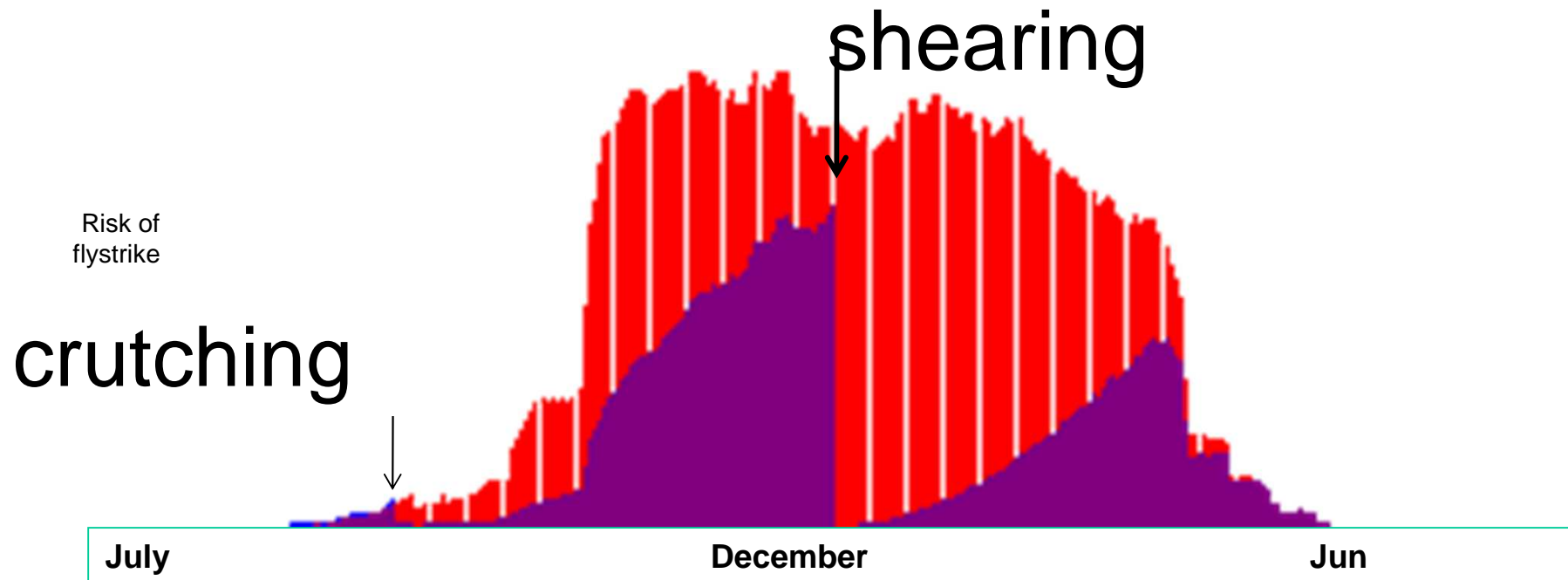
Breech Cover – Lambs



Flyboss.com.au

- Website allows you to; -
 - Wide range of up-to-date information concerning flystrike
 - Summary of all effective chemicals, costs, protective periods and dose rates
 - Understand your flock's fly strike risk and,
 - Test several management scenarios to reduce fly strike risk such as;
 - Change in shearing/crutching dates
 - Different chemical scenarios

Shearing changes breech strike resistance (winter versus summer shearing)



Internal parasites

- Set scene for past summer
- <http://www.makingmorefromsheep.com/presentations-Goondiwindi>
- Where southerners are going, concerning worm control programs

Key Messages (Maxine Lyndal-Murphy)

- *Track the buildup of barber's pole & act quickly*
 - *Use a drench that will kill (100%) worms*
 - *Develop a grazing rotation for weaners & remove tail as soon as possible*
-

Southerners – it is all strategic

- Worm control is about management & planning
 - Worm safe pastures
 - Strategic summer drenching programs
 - Monitoring before drenching
 - Resistance
 - 10% of producers are aware of their drench resistance status
 - M# of drench resistance
 - Leaving some sheep undrenched
 - Refugia
 - Drench combinations
 - Short acting versus long acting

North (CW QLD) - it is all tactical

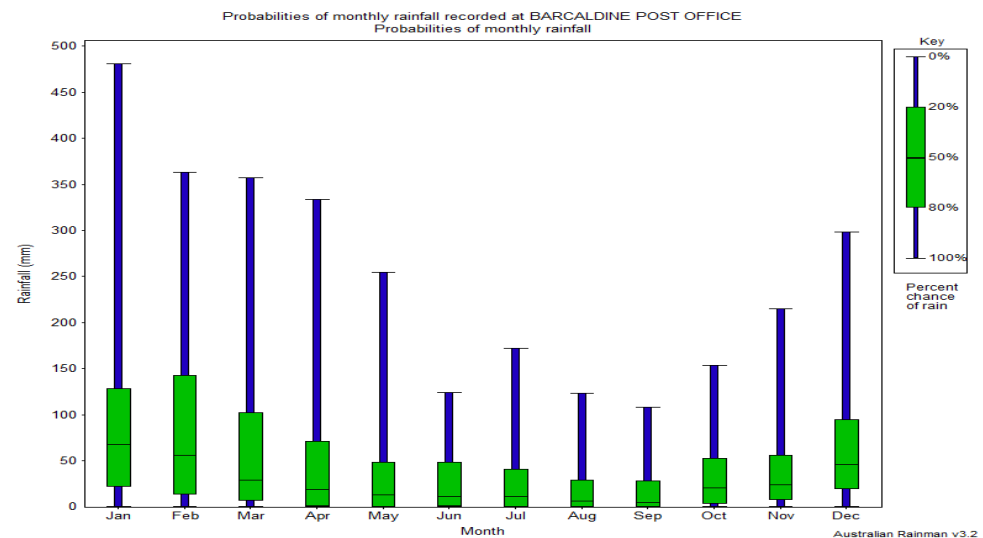
- Adopt a reactive program, no evidence for drenching every year
- Meat sheep systems more sensitive to impact of worms
- Weaners most sensitive sheep
- Drench resistance probably minimal, test cheap drenches
- Use NLIS/MWOW to test benefit of drenching

Making the decision to drench

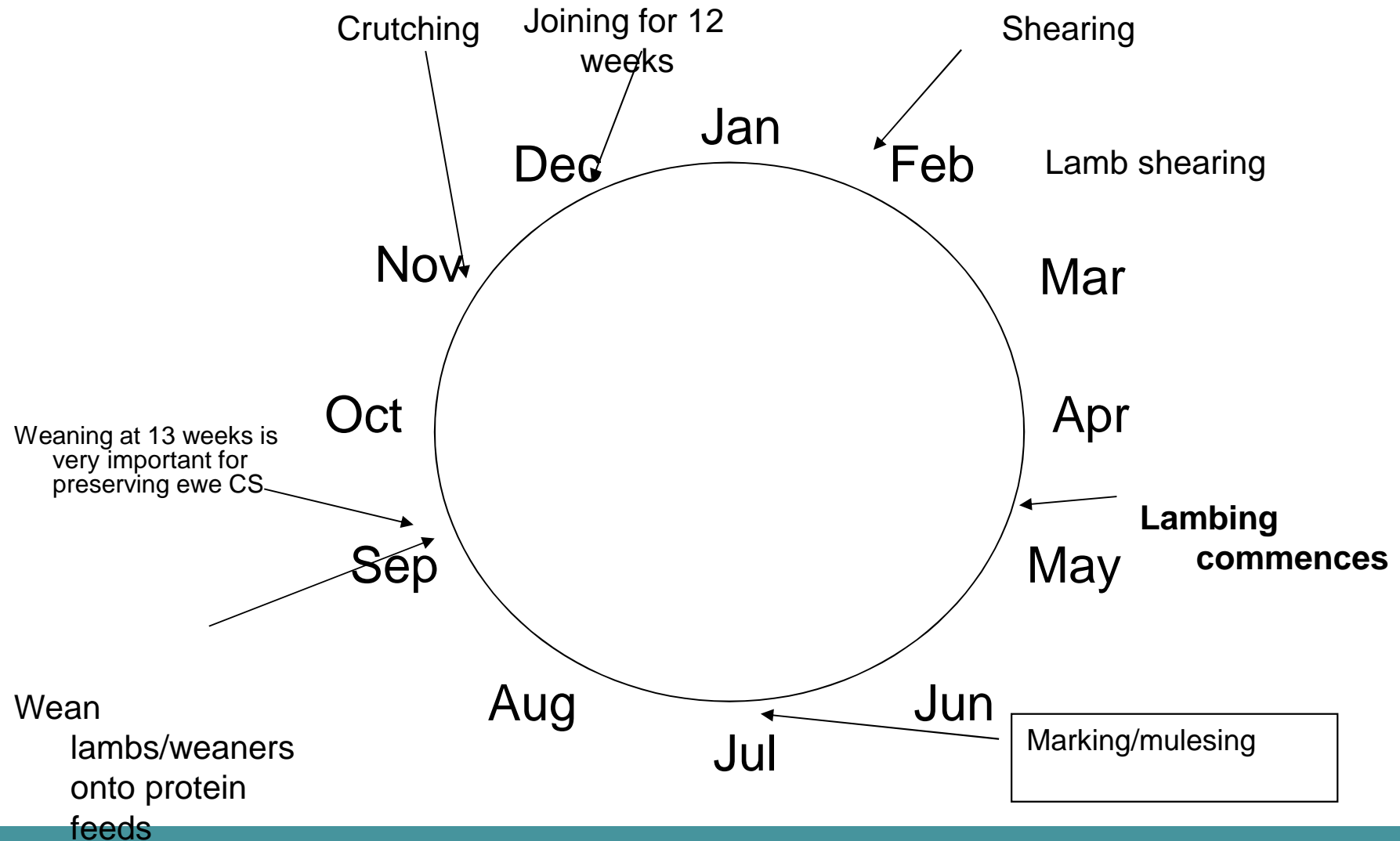
- Consider the sheep before drenching
 - Condition score and whether gaining or losing weight
 - Pregnant , lactating or dry
 - Age
- Consider pasture before drenching
 - Pasture length and quality
 - Stocking rates
- Use FEC testing before drenching
 - Consider trendlines, not just one FEC result
- FEC's aren't a bullet proof technology i.e.
 - Large no's of immature worms
 - Low counts but evidence to the contrary

Management or Operations Calendars

- Lambing date is the most critical date in Management Calendar
 - Match feed demand to feed supply
 - Match **feed quality to flock requirements esp lactating ewes**
 - Herbage versus ashy downs



Management Calendar



Your Calendar

Customised Flystrike risk graph from FlyBoss



Month	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Shearing	X . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
Crutching	X . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	X . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
Monitoring	X . .	X . .	. . .	X . .	. . .	. . .	X . .	X . .	. . .	. . .
			trap	trap		sheep			sheep	sheep		
Risk - Breech	M.M.M.M	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
- Body	M.M.M.M	. . .	. . .	. . .	M. →	→	. . .	. . .	. . .
Breech modification
Dag management
Chemical application	X . . .	→	→	. . .	. . .	. . .
							Cyrom	→	→	. . .	. . .	. . .
Breeding and Selection	. . .	X . .	. . X	. . .	. . X .	. . .	. . .	X . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
		Lamb	Mark & WS	WS ewes & cull				Join -Sc1 sires				

Chemical effect

Withholding period

Management Calendar example

	Management Calendar <input type="checkbox"/> Shearing, Weaning <input type="checkbox"/> Joining, <input type="checkbox"/> Crutching <input type="checkbox"/> Sales of cull for age animals	Production (Animal) targets	Production (Pasture) targets
JUN	Lamb marking/mulesing - 2 weeks from end of lambing or as soon as possible (2-3 weeks, every 2nd day) Consider delaying marking until after YARD weaning in dry years.	Ewes/lambs: - pre-weaning imprint feed for 3-5 feeds	<i>Where does the SOI fit in as a weather predictor?</i>
JUL Y	Fire-ploughing - (2-5 days)	Adult ewes: check condition score in case of need for supplementary feeding, commence assessing the cow manure indicator for starting urea supplement – (see snaps of cow poo)	Ensure all ewes are feed some dry lick to train lambs. Imprint feeding)
AUG	Weaning (10 days work) – see comment on imprint feeding	At weaning - draft ewes into lite and heavy condition scores so that lite ewes can be lifted in condition score. Draft weaners into big and small.	Annual assessment of all pasture monitoring sites. Assess ground cover, % bare ground & Mitchell grass utilisation rates if required. Target is not less than 700 kg/ha.
SEP	Rams: do the 5-t TEST (1 day) and assess ram conditions scores. Determine numbers of rams to purchase, prior to ram sales Shear Rams (second time for the year) <i>(Consider only shearing rams once.</i>	Ewes in CS 2.0+ ready for joining Continue urea supplement program	Assess ground cover, % bare ground Summer Grazing Rest - Plan the summer rest paddocks for when the wet season gets there. Plan all the relevant paddock locations of the flock.

Signposts

- www.makingmorefromsheep.com
- www.lifetimewool.com.au
- <http://www.makingmorefromsheep.com/presentations-Goondiwindi>
- http://www.leadingsheep.com.au/tracksandtraps/TaT_01%20Start.pdf
- www.flyboss.org.au
- www.mla.com.au
- www.wool.com.au
- www.wormboss.org.au

Summary

- Make sure you achieve high flock survival rates
 - Understand the key risks & manage accordingly
 - Set benchmarks prior, manage, record results, review & re-set targets to improve
- Minimise impact of diseases that affect production
 - excellent website resources exist, use them to your advantage
- Use Operations/Management Calendar to plan
- Preserve efficacy for chemical groups

Making More From Sheep



Questions

