

## **BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Newsflash – 23/10/09**

This Newsflash email is funded by [Australian Wool Innovation](#) and [Department of Primary Industries](#).

Notes and the mp3 recording from the BWBL last phone seminar "To Cut or not to Cut" are now on the BWBL website under Events/Phone Seminar

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### [Sheep Lice & Animal Health](#)

**WHEN:** Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Nov09

**WHERE:** Benalla Saleyards, Saleyards Rd, Benalla

Session 1 - 8am - 9.30am will cover - Breech blowfly-strike prevention alternatives, Skin traction and early breech wrinkle breeding values with Geoff Lindon

Session 2 - 9.45am - 11.00am - Lice control options, eradication & resistance with Richard Keys - Diazinon and chemical handling update

Practical exercises (at the conclusion of the Benalla Annual Sheep Store Sale) will include \_ Lamb death investigations (post mortem) and internal parasites (sheep gut dissection).

Chemical company representatives will be in attendance - including information on new lice treatments.

**A free lunch will be provided - Register by Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov with Lachlan King on 5761 1532**

### [LiceSense To Kill](#)

AWI is helping growers make sense of the increasing problem of lice infestations with a new extension program known as LiceSense.

With the spread of resistance to some backliners and the removal of Diazinon as a sheep dipping agent, the wool industry's marketing, research and development body is stepping in to offer growers support.

After discussions with various state farm organisations, AWI is assisting with the cost of training growers, farm supply merchandisers and woolbrokers in the full range of options available for controlling lice, including the new test that uses shearing combs and cutters. Training can also be provided via farmer groups, through state departments of primary industries or in-store events.

Meanwhile, AWI-funded research in Queensland has found a naturally occurring fungus can act as a biopesticide to kill lice. Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries scientists have effectively used a strain of *Metarhizium* to control lice infestations, and the research has commenced registration trials. A different strain of the same fungus is widely used for the control of locusts.

However, AWI head of sheep technologies Geoff Lindon said for now many of the best ways to manage lice were still the old, tried and true methods. 'Looking for lice in at least 10 sheep in a mob, fixing fences, treating or isolating new sheep on arrival, working with neighbours, clean mustering and rotation of chemicals are still the best ways to combat lice.'

As part of the [LiceSense program](#), staff at farm supply outlets can be trained in problem solving, being able to tailor information according to a woolgrower's individual situation. The chemical treatment of stock is just one of the suite of solutions a reseller can supply.

Lice control may be no laughing matter but AWI has released a LiceSense cartoon calendar, illustrated by South Australian shearer Jed Dunstan. It highlights best practice through the lighter side of lice control and farming life. The free calendar is available to those attending training days, from participating resellers, or can be ordered with the manual via the [order form](#).

AWI has compiled significant technical knowledge to assist on-farm eradication of lice. To find out more, visit [www.wool.com/liceboss](http://www.wool.com/liceboss).

### [EverGraze Field Days](#)

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Wando Vale - 10.30am to 1.30pm (Lunch provided) - A Soil pit will be dug to look at the soil properties down the profile, Bernard Noonan will describe the soil profile and properties to a depth of 2m, Steve Clark will discuss the appropriate species given soil limitations, Bill Stonnill will be on hand to discuss what they can offer and Andrew Speirs will give a brief update of the site - contact Andrew Speirs on 0428 685 172

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Hamilton DPI - 9.00am to 12.00noon (lunch provided) - Michael Grant from Stephens Pasture Seeds will talk about Tall Fescue and where it fits and how to manage and establish, Michele Ryan will give tips and tools to ensure good quality hay and silage - contact Anita Morant on 0427 329 541 or 5573 0732

### [Managing Scanned Ewes Workshop](#)

**WHEN:** Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 09

**WHERE:** Maryborough

This is a 'hands on' workshop for sheep producers who pregnancy scan their ewes or who want more information on scanning.

To register for the workshop contact Matthew Ipsen on 0417 516 640 or [Chris Shands](#) on 02 6730 1928 or 0411 139 702

AND

**WHEN:** Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 09

**WHERE:** Underbool Recreation Reserve, North West Vic

Contact Ian Willersdorf on 0438 268 402.

### [Pasture Cropping](#)

**WHEN:** 10<sup>th</sup> Nov at 10am to 4pm and 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 09 at 9am to 4pm

**WHERE:** DSE/DPI Office Lecture Theatre, 89 Sydney Rd, Benalla

Keynote speakers Dr Christine Jones and Colin Seis will cover the following topics - Building soil carbon for all the right reasons, The importance of groundcover and biodiversity, Farming practices that influence soil carbon dynamics, Low inputs for better profits, Increasing the long term sustainability of your farm, Rejuvenating pastures and the economics of re-sowing, Better utilizing rainfall to increase profits, Efficient use of fertilizers, Benefits of perennial pastures and native grasses, Pasture cropping and grazing management, Machinery for pasture cropping.

Lunch and morning tea provided - Cost \$20 - Register by 30<sup>th</sup> Oct

For further information or to register contact Irene Ham on 5764 1282 or 0409 756 412

### [Safer Bale Fastener](#)

The wool industry does not get a lot of mentions on the ABC television program "The New Inventors". The other week was one of the occasions that it did get a mention when Shane Rees, an 18 year old wool grower from Ivanhoe in Western New South Wales appeared on the program and his invention received the top votes from the judges. His invention is a semi-automated bale fastening device which is both safer and faster to use than the traditional method of stretching the bale cap and fastening the clips with a bale hook. The hand held device holds seven fasteners at a time in a magazine. Each fastener is progressively protruded from the device, hooked into the flap, the flap is stretched by pulling the device across the top of the bale with the bale fastener device and releasing the other end of the fastener into the other bale flap. If you are interested in seeing it, it can be found at [www.abc.net.au/tv/newinventors](http://www.abc.net.au/tv/newinventors)

### [Sheep CRC's Pedigree Matchmaker](#)

The ABC New Inventors program then featured the CRC's Pedigree MatchMaker product this week. Steve Semple from the NSW Department of Industry and Investment and Mark Mortimer from CentrePlus will present this new product. It is being used by more and more studs recognising the significant increase in genetic gain by using pedigree information.

For more information on Pedigree MatchMaker please [click here](#).

<http://www.sheepcrc.org.au/industry-tools-and-information/precision-sheep-management/pedigree-matchmaker.php>

### [Energy Futures in Regional Australia](#)

An exciting program has now been finalised for the Energy Futures in Regional Australia conference but registrations are closing soon. The conference will be held in Bendigo from November 8 to 10 and will feature eight keynote speakers, 36 Concurrent sessions and industry tours. Don't miss your opportunity to hear from Australia's leading experts and practitioners in the energy sector - register by October 30, 2009.

To find out more and/or to register for the Energy Futures in Regional Australia conference, please visit [www.energyfuturesconference.com.au](http://www.energyfuturesconference.com.au) or call (03) 5434 6002.

### [Talking About the Loddon](#)

You are invited to attend a community meeting to discuss the Loddon River, your views, and to find out about the Loddon Stressed River project and how you can be involved. North Central Catchment Management Authority and Department of Primary Industries are keen to hear community views about the Loddon, as well as hear your issues and concerns about the river. These meetings will be an opportunity for you to find out about what has been happening with the Loddon Stressed River project, which has been running for the past six years, as well as an opportunity to find out how you can get involved in the project.

**Benjeroop - When:** 6pm to 8.30pm on Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Oct09 - Benjeroop Community Hall, Benjeroop

**Kerang - When:** 6pm to 8.30pm, Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Oct09 - Kerang Memorial Hall, Nolan Street, Kerang

Each community meeting will start with a barbeque/refreshments and a chance to catch up with neighbours.

There will be guest speakers presenting at each meeting.

For catering purposes, please RSVP to reception at North Central CMA one week before the meeting that you plan to attend. Email: [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au) or telephone: (03) 5448 7124

### [Soil Moisture Monitoring Field Days](#)

A series of field days which will demonstrate the use of soil moisture monitoring equipment for scheduling irrigation will be held in northern Victorian.

Soil moisture monitoring equipment can help irrigators make more informed decisions about the amount of water required for different crops and correct times to refill the soil profile of the root-zone. This can result in more efficient water use and increased productivity.

Field Days will be held at

**WHEN:** Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Oct at Horefield Hall, Leitchville - Kerang Rd, Horefield at the property of Steve and Deanne Hore from 11.00am to 12.30pm

**WHEN:** Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Oct at 287 Hendy's Rd, Katunga at the property of Ross and Keith Nicoll from 11.00am to 12.30pm

**To register for the field days contact Brian Holmes or Dale Boyd at DPI Echuca on 5482 1922**

**Fire Ready - Are You** *Siobhan Connell, Farm Services Victoria*

The Victorian State Government launched Fire Action Week, 11 to 18 October to encourage residents to focus on preparing for the fire season. The week provides us with a timely reminder to ensure that we are personally organised for a fire and ready to act so that we can survive. To help us prepare, the Country Fire Authority has [FireReady Kits](#) that are available online.

**A Fire Plan for Livestock is Essential**

DPI is highlighting stock safety measures that producers should have in their sights for the impending fire season. DPI Senior Veterinary Officer Rod Badman said in the event of fire, a comprehensive bushfire plan that is enacted early will help to prevent stock losses and reduce risks to personal safety. "Recent fires have highlighted that good preparation and early action are essential to prevent losses during fire. Your life must be paramount," Dr Badman said. "One of the key factors in minimising risk to stock during a bush fire is to identify the safest areas on the farm where livestock can be moved. "The area you choose will depend on the type of livestock you are farming and their expected behaviour during a fire as well as the possible behaviour of a fire. "On either the day before, early on the day of predicted code red (catastrophic) fire danger or when there is a fire alert in your district stock should be moved into these lower risk areas. "You should also listen to weather forecasts and observe your own environment to help you decide when to put your plan into action." Examples of safe areas include paddocks with green summer crops or lucerne; bare paddocks with no dry feed; or a ploughed paddock. Areas where there are dams or swamps are also safer.

"Stockyards have been known to successfully hold stock during a fire and if this is your preferred option you need to consider using a sprinkler system as stock held together on a hot day can suffer heat stress," Dr Cave said. "A firebreak of some sort is imperative, bare laneways and ploughed breaks can be effective firebreaks as can heavily grazed paddocks with low-level vegetation. "Horses should not be locked up in small areas or stables but be moved into an open paddock with minimal vegetation so they can move freely. "Horses are known to be capable of moving themselves to safer open ground and suffer minimal burns if left to do so." "If equipment such as rugs, halters and flyveils remain on horses the plastic may melt, however a halter will leave a horse easier to manage so discretion is needed depending upon the circumstance. "It is not recommended to allow stock onto public roadways as in smoky conditions they will be a hazard to vehicles. "Having an action plan that can be quickly executed during a fire would ensure the risk to stock is minimised," Dr Badman said.

For further advice please contact the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or your local DPI Veterinary or DPI Animal Health Officer.

Have a good weekend, Annette  
BESTWOOL/BESTLAMB Administrator