

## **Flocknews November 2021**

### **1. Fly management!!**

Fly season is well underway with the well known blowfly *Lucilia cuprina* causing concerns for flystrike. Monitor your mob and make sure to take measures to protect them from being flystruck. It is important to remember fly control chemicals should not solely be relied upon. It is also important to reduce your mob's susceptibility to flies by performing husbandry activities. If your mob is gathering wool around the back end it is important to crutch them. Managing dag is important this time of year. If you are in the process of lamb marking do not forget to add a fly preventative product to your checklist. If sheep do become struck it is important to take several steps to treat and prevent further strike. Do not hesitate to contact us at the clinic if you require any assistance.

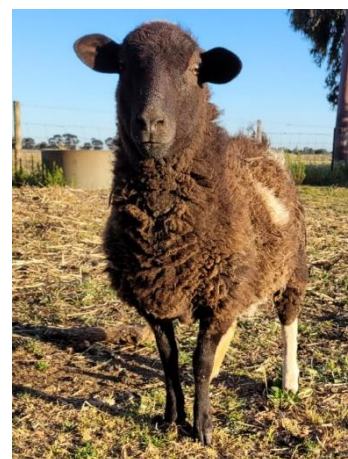
Management tips:

- i) Make sure to follow the maggot tunnels and expose the struck site by shearing away the wool at this region
- ii) Place the maggots in a bag and seal it to prevent them from pupating
- iii) Apply a dressing product to the area that will KILL the maggots (an example is an approved ivermectin based product). It is also important to apply a preventative treatment if the dressing product does not act as one.
- iv) Make sure nutrition is adequate to support healing
- v) Severe cases may need antibiotic treatment – consult our team ☺

### **2. Feet.....footrot ..... are your sheep lame?**

Footrot is caused by a bacterium that requires warm, moist conditions for spread and clinical disease to manifest. It is now the perfect time of year for footrot to be about. Footrot can be tricky to control and eradicate. It is therefore important to monitor your mob and be careful when buying in sheep.

It has been a year for lameness with extended wet periods making foot management important. We can discuss foot management options for your farm including footbathing - remember not to use formalin (carcinogenic and environmental hazard) and copper sulphate (may lead to toxicity in your sheep if ingested) and to only use zinc sulphate. If you have any lame sheep and would like assistance with examinations, do not hesitate to contact us at the clinic.



### 3. Johnes

Johnes is caused by a bacterium that enters the body via the faecal oral route (eating faeces whilst grazing). It is a slow progressing disease that thickens the gut making it inefficient at absorbing nutrients. As a result, sheep waste away. It is a common disease that usually presents in sheep older than 2 years of age. However, if there has been high exposure to the bacterium, cases can present earlier. It usually presents as a few sheep each year that will waste away in the mob. It can be managed with a once off vaccination. It is recommended to vaccinate at marking rather than weaning to limit exposure. When using the vaccine it is important to discuss it with our team as there are human and animal safety requirements. When buying in sheep it is recommended to check your vendor declaration as this vaccine is important for the biosecurity of your farm. Do not hesitate to contact our team if you have any questions about Johnes.



### 4. Reducing stress for new arrivals on farm

The sheep industry has been busy with recent sales of sheep both online and in the saleyards. The transport process can be very stressful for the animals making them prone to illnesses. We have attended many farms with sick animals with recent histories of transport. This experience places the animals under considerable pressure - being off feed and water prior to trucking, possibly going through saleyards, being trucked to new properties and introduced to new environments. Some of these sheep have been transported in lower body condition and have lower reserves to survive on. It is important to have good quality food and water on arrival to help boost their reserves and alleviate stress. Make sure to SLOWLY transition the mob onto grain if supplementary feeding is required and always have roughage available.



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