

Flocknews Decemeber 2024

Sheep scanning – Now is the time to book in! Ring us the day you put your ram in!

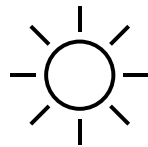
Towards the end of last season some of you may have met Dr Sam Byrnes our new sheep scanner! Sam graduated from Charles Sturt Vet School 2023 (Wagga Wagga) and has been working with us for over a year now. He has been learning the ropes with Frankie and has been busy in Canowindra this week honing his skills and perfecting multiples.

We are ready to book you in for your upcoming sheep scanning so make sure to ring through to reception and let us know some important details such as when the ram was put in with the ewes, when he will be removed, how many ewes and whether you are after singles or multiples. We will then be able to book you in.

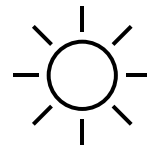


On the day of scanning, we need some extra help to make the process run smoothly:

- Please have the yards watered down the day before if it is hot and dusty.
- Make sure to have an extra helper present. We need someone to help push the sheep up the race as well as being available to help at the crate position.
- Make sure the sheep have been off feed from the day before so we can visualise the foetal images more clearly without a full rumen. In this hot water having access to water is ok.



HOT WEATHER preparation



There is a lot of research coming to light about heat stress and how this can impact on sheep welfare and reduce performance. The temperature does not need to be in the heat wave category for this to be seen – it has been noted that when temperatures are above 25°C sheep may start to compensate their activities to keep cool.

One big way that sheep will reduce their heat load is to reduce their feed intake as the fermentation of the feedstuff can be responsible for up to 8% of the heat load. With reduced feed intake there are many other concerns attached including reduced growth or body condition, reduced immunity and reduced milk production. Providing ways to help keep sheep cool is extremely important otherwise their core body temperature will rise, and organs will start to dysfunction. Such means include adequate cool, clean, fresh water and shade most importantly. This is very important to remember in all sheep enterprises whether you have lambs in feedlots or managing sheep post shearing. Having shade available to sheep post shearing can be particularly important to help reduce cases of sunburn. In hot weather it is important to try and shear sheep in the cooler parts of the day and to also look after the shearing team as they are just as prone to heat stress as the sheep are!!

Feedlot visits

Frankie has been performing feedlot and containment yard visits to help producers with important aspects such as induction and feeding management. There are also some important topics related to the above heat stress topic at the nutrition level that can help. Make sure you have enough bicarb in the diet to help as excessive panting can lead to a loss of bicarb in saliva. Something else to consider is feed additives such as natural betaine which can help mitigate heat stress by several mechanisms including maintaining cellular fluid balance. If you are feedlotting lambs over summer or would like some ideas on improving your heat stress management through environmental and nutrition management, make sure to get in touch.

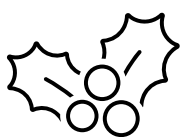


Fly management!!

Fly season is well underway with the well known fly *Lucilia cuprina*, causing concerns for flystrike. Monitor your mob and make sure to take measures to protect them from being struck. 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 such as: crutching, gastrointestinal worm management and addressing foot conditions promptly. If sheep do become struck it is important to take several steps to treat and prevent further strike. If you are concerned about resistance to products get in touch as we may be able to help with some testing.

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 and pain relief/anti-inflammatories.



Well that's a wrap!! We would like to thank all our amazing sheep clients for your continued support and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!! See you in 2025

