



Western Sheep & Beef Producers

Bulletin – 22 September 2014

AWI Breech Flystrike Forum

The Chairman attended this forum held in Sydney on the 20th of August. The official proceedings of the day, including presentations can be viewed on the AWI web site at: <http://www.wool.com/ed/on-farm-research-and-development/sheep-health-welfare-and-productivity/sheep-health/breech-flystrike/R-and-D-update>.

Some of the highlights were;

- ✓ Attendance by a handful of animal activists,
- ✓ Insecticide resistance,
- ✓ Pain relief,
- ✓ Genomic research into the host and pest,
- ✓ Mulesing alternatives, and
- ✓ Selecting for breech strike resistance.

The take-home message is cull those sheep susceptible to flystrike, and use genetics to make improvements.

There is a good chance that the SkinTraction technology will prove successful but it won't be cheap, and as simple pain relief becomes available it may lead to its use for castration and tailing under the impending animal welfare Standards & Guidelines regime.

BIOSECURITY ISSUES UNDER THE SHEEP & GOATS INDUSTRY FUNDING SCHEME

The IFS has approached the PGA seeking its views on the possible inclusion of wild dogs and ovine Johne's disease into the Sheep and Goats Industry Funding Scheme (IFS), and thoughts on other pests/diseases that the industry may want to tackle via the Scheme.

As wild dog activity in the pastoral rangelands is of great concern, the Chairman consulted widely and sought further information before coming to the conclusion that the PGA regards the current levy as "footrot specific", but has no objection to industry trying to develop a wild dog levy in the same manner as the current levy.

The Chairman also noted that;

- ✓ Some confusion is creeping into the purpose of the IFS.
- ✓ The delivery of industry funding schemes has not been what was expected of them during their development.
- ✓ Further the small number of "opt outs" is often quoted as a sign of acceptance of the industry funding schemes. However, it is unclear if growers who opt out are incurring unlimited liability for an unforeseen pest or disease incursion, and this may obviously have an influence on opt outs.
- ✓ There is a lack of precision in what the IFS commits producers to and what it is attempting to achieve. These grey areas are not conducive to good policy or decision making.

UPCOMING MEETINGS – 2014

Executive Committee – 25 September

Western Grain Growers – 3 October

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