

ANIMAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT UPDATE

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SEPT | 2021

INTRODUCTION

Hi Everyone,

I don't know about you, but I'm happy the days are getting longer! You can really feel the warmth trying to come back. Hopefully, Spring brings us some great conditions easing us into harvest.

Before we get there though, below are a few topics that need our attention.

FLIES AND SHEEP

With 2021 possibly shaping up to be another high-pressure year, we need to consider our management, method, and timing of application. For some, a double knock approach may need to be taken up. For others, we might be able utilise one product in conjunction with timely management tools.

Double Knock Approach

This will require us to use two **different actives**. I stress the point of different actives, not just different product names. There are many utilising the same active, or coming from the same family, so please make note of what was used previously.

This approach may fit when management tools, i.e., shearing, are later in the year and we need to protect our sheep up until that point.

These sheep tend to have the highest risk, as they can have reasonable wool length and are staying on farm for an extended period.

If you recall in 2020, we had a lot of sheep being struck in areas that do not typically cause problems, i.e., belly and brisket/shoulders. At this point in time, we see no reason why 2021 cannot go the same way.

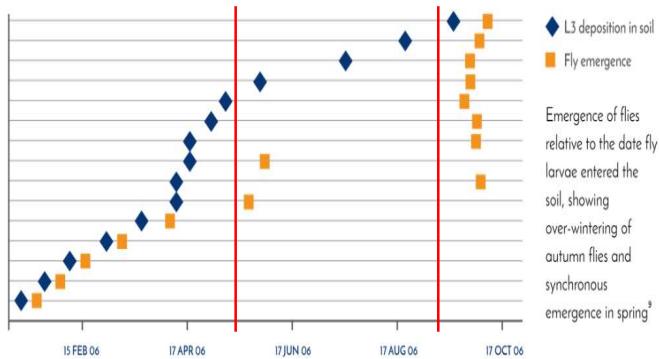
Our backlining products are designed to be applied to the common strike areas, to protect those areas, and to stay in those areas. These products do not move around the skin. The jetting products on the other hand, are applied to the entire body providing a good soak. Typically, jetting products have shorter protection, but also shorter wool withholds. This provides flexibility, giving us peace of mind as we approach a summer shearing. Once we've shorn, and think it's necessary, we can apply a backline.

Timely Management Tools

1. Shearing will give a few weeks grace, allowing us to apply later and extend the protection at the end of the season
2. Cleaning up dags or dirty bums prior to applying any product
3. Ensure we are using a fly product after mulesing
4. Control scours as we introduce stock onto pastures, by utilising Calsomag + Rumensin

As well as protecting our sheep early, we need to consider protection as we approach the end of the fly season. The last two years we've still had strike cases in May and June.

The graph below shows the fly emergence. The two points in time that stand out to me are mid September and late May. I have marked these in red.



You can see the huge increase of flies (orange dots) as the conditions become optimal for fly survival. Ideally, we will be treating for flies before this initial emergence. It will change weekly, so do not think because we don't have flies now that we won't in two weeks' time. The way the weather is progressing, we may be more likely to see emergence in mid September.

Moving through to late May, you can see one last flurry after a heavy laying period. If possible, factor this late emergence into your protection period, and management strategies.

FLIES AND CATTLE

For the cattle producers, we need to turn our attention to the eyes of our stock, especially the younger portion. With a lot of weaning happening, and constant processing, we are increasing the conceivable risk through extended close contact and dusty, stressful conditions.

Ensuring we are vaccinating with Piliguard, 3 – 6 weeks prior to the fly season, will help to protect against the three main strains of pink eye. Coupling this with a pour on, such as Easy Dose, will reduce the fly burden on the beast, and consequently the pressure to the vulnerable eyes.

NB: Piliguard can be used in cattle as young as two weeks old.

To further help, ADE may also be a good option to strengthen the eye membrane. Vitamin A in particular, assists normal visual function and maintenance of the tissue/mucous.

We find vitamins A & E in our green feed, so

currently we are not lacking like we might in dry years. However, despite our best efforts, the process of marking and weaning puts a lot of stress on our stock, causing the demand for these vitamins to increase. The use of ADE at marking and weaning can help to keep levels high and boost the immune system.

BLOAT IN BOTH

We've already started to notice bloat, and after this week I think we will really see the risk increase.

Now is the time to put provisions in place, allowing the stock time to become accustomed to the supplements.

Calsomag plus Rumensin is a great control option for bloat, as it keeps the rumen stable allowing the bugs to continue to digest under the pressure of our lush feed. It is also an excellent preventative for grass tetany, by providing adequate magnesium to our stock.

Bloat liquids are another great option, with shuttle loads possible. Bloat blocks are also available, so depending on your infrastructure, products such as these can be a useful tool.

I find it beneficial to also provide fibre throughout the entire bloat period, as it will assist the rumen in remaining 'regular' and help to diffuse the build-up of gas. In addition to this the want to gorge will be reduced if stock are turned off feed for an extended period of time.

For anyone with sheep, bloat is certainly rare, but still possible. Lush lucerne stands are causing frothy bloat in some areas throughout our footprint, so please still be vigilant with providing supplements.

Lastly, please everyone ensure your pulpy kidney is up to date. It is a simple solution to help stock stay on their feet as we utilise our fast growing pastures.

Hopefully, you found some tips to implement before harvest, which will make such a busy time easier. As per usual please do not hesitate to contact myself or your preferred person in your branch, to discuss any of the above, or any other issues you are encountering.

Thanks,
Soph

Delta Agribusiness Henty
Mobile: 0436 638 143
Phone: 02 6929 3415

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AGRIBUSINESS