

media statement



Media Release

6 June 2011

Sheep worm management workshop

A FREE 'Worm Management Strategies' workshop will be held at Nindigully on 17 June and south west Queensland sheep and wool producers are invited to attend.

The event is an initiative of the Making More from Sheep program and delivered by Leading Sheep and the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI).

Agri-Science Queensland extension officer Alex Stirton said for many producers in the south west, a very wet season had meant a surge in worm problems.

"Worms thrive in moist conditions and this workshop will focus on the management and prevention of these serious livestock pests now and into the future," Mr Stirton said.

"Producers will gain advice on the most appropriate drenches and when to use them, as well as how to create an effective, efficient, worm control plan."

Worm Management Strategies - healthy & contented sheep workshop

Friday, 17 June, Nindigully Hall - 8am-1pm

Smoko and lunch will be provided. For Catering purposes please RSVP to Alex Stirton on 07 4654 4212 or email alex.stirton@deedi.qld.gov.au

Leading Sheep Southern Inland representative Don Perkins encouraged all local sheep producers to attend the workshop to share and learn strategies for worm management.

Mr Perkins and wife Belinda run 7,000 sheep on their Dirranbandi property "Nelyambo" and Mr Perkins said worms had been a significant problem in the region.

"Worms were a real issue for Balonne sheep and wool producers in 2010 and following the January floods in 2011," Mr Perkins said

"There have been quite a few sheep lost to serious worm infestation and this workshop is about getting key experts together to help producers manage the problem."

Mr Perkins said humpy back disease in sheep would also be addressed at the workshop and there was strong interest amongst south west producers in learning more about this issue.

"There have been local incidences of humpy back over the last few years and it appears more prevalent in full woolled-sheep in the summer months," he said.

"We're interested to hear about humpy back research that's been done and any new information discovered," he said.

Dr Binendra Pratap, Biosecurity Queensland senior veterinary officer said the causes of this poorly understood disease were becoming clearer through research and he would deliver the latest findings during the workshop.

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"Queensland Sheep producers have known and battled humpy back in their sheep for a long time without knowing its definitive cause," Dr Pratap said.

"Sheep with humpy back lag behind the mob when mustered and walk with a short stilted gait and arched back. Moving them can lead to their death.

"With the new information we have, we want to work with the sheep producers to help overcome humpy back in their livestock."

Along with Dr Pratap, presenters at the 'Worm Management Strategies' workshop include:

- Maxine Lyndal-Murphy, Agri-Science Queensland senior parasitologist from Wormbuster Lab. Maxine will demonstrate how to do your own Worm Egg count tests and drench resistance tests on sheep.
- Noel O'Dempsey from "Linalie", Texas will speak of his experiences with worms in sheep around the Traprock region and what he believes are the keys factors to a good worm management plan.
- Leading Sheep manager Tony Hamilton from DEEDI Toowoomba will share his first hand experiences with worms in sheep, including what he did to overcome and manage the problem successfully.
- Peter Frazer, Biosecurity Queensland senior inspector will talk about the new regulations and guidelines for Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) and bringing sheep into Queensland.
- Local producers will share experiences and strategies for dealing with worms in sheep.

Making More from Sheep is a best practice package of information, tools and learning opportunities for Australian sheep producers, developed by Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) and Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA).

Leading Sheep is an education framework for leading the adoption of new technologies and practices to increase the productivity of the Queensland sheep industry.

Media: Leonie Lyons 07 4650 1263 / 0428 754 130