

# Sheep & Beef Talk

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## Flystrike Prevention – How Long Should It Last?

Now that the weather is warming up, we will start to see fly action around the place and will be flat out ensuring our sheep don't suffer the production losses (and welfare implications) of being struck.

Label claims for different products offer an indication of length of protection; some are 4-6 weeks, some up to 12 weeks, and some are between 14-26 weeks. This makes it fairly vague, as there is a lot of cross-over in time length for some varied pricings. So let's shed some light on a few reasons for these differences and why you should discuss with your vet the best option for your stock each year.

### Reasons for varied and expected duration of action of fly products:

#### Challenge:

The more fly pressure a season brings, the harder it is for the product you have used to stand up. Think of it like a fence in the back of your yards; too many lambs

+ too many huntaways + too much noise = too much pressure and you'll flatten a fence! In a bad season, expect to get the shorter end of the label claims from your fly products, if using an up to 12 weeks protection product, you may need to treat up to three times in the season.

#### Resistance:

We are seeing more and more potential resistance developing to fly protection products. This is to be expected as we have seen the same pattern occur in Australia where lots of our currently marketed fly products are unable to be used due to widespread resistance. This is made worse by the fact that a lot

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## Flystrike Prevention – How Long Should It Last? (continued)

of the active ingredients in fly products are the same as the actives in lice products and if using the same active ingredients for both fly and lice prevention, residual exposure will lead to the development of resistance. This is another reason it is very important to discuss your whole farm system with a vet to ensure you are rotating action families every time you apply a fly or lice product. (This is the opposite mindset to how we treat internal parasite drenches – just to keep you on your toes!)

### Application technique:

How you apply the product and how much you manage to get on to the fleece will make a difference as to how long you can expect it to last. Automatic Jetting Races

are a fantastic invention, however, if sheep are flying through faster than the speed of light because you're in a hurry to get home for a BBQ with the in-laws then you are probably not getting enough product on, and can't expect to get the full length of stated protection. Shower dipping with appropriate chemicals or using low-dose pour-on products are much more reliable ways of getting good duration of action out of chemicals.

### Rain:

Heavy and/or prolonged spells of rain after application of any fly product will reduce the length of protection. The other factor when considering rainfall is that moisture creates an environment that flies thrive

in so expect the fly challenge to be higher.

A good tip to remember with fly products is that it is definitely a case of "horses for courses" and there are a wide variety of products that will treat everything from lambs to rams, and offer treatment of live strike, or prevention for the entire fly season if applied at tailing. Come in and chat to one of our trained team members on what product is right for your fly treatment or prevention this season.



## Faecal Egg Count Reduction Tests

To find out your drench resistance status this season remember you need to leave 100 lambs undrenched at weaning and get some faecal samples into us to start checking that they are getting wormy enough to test. Speak to your vet about booking in your test now.

### Reminders for January

- Keep an eye on our monitor farm spore count results at [www.vetent.co.nz](http://www.vetent.co.nz). Once the monitor counts trend up to 20,000 its time to start counting your own farm.
- Check that your lamb drench is working if you are not doing a drench test this year. Collect 10 dung samples 10 days after drenching and bring them in to your local clinic.
- Order Toxovax and Campyvax if you haven't already. We need 3-4 weeks notice as Toxovax is made to order.
- Plan pre-tup animal health treatments to avoid yarding ewes close to tugging.
- Liver biopsy lambs to check B12 and selenium levels.
- 5in1 for weaned lambs.
- Give the ram team a spruce up before tugging – drench, dip, zinc capsule, trim feet.
- Book in cattle pregnancy scanning.
- Watch out for Pinkeye.



Amy Hoogenboom,  
Veterinarian

## Bone Appetit!

Case Study: One of our vets recently had an interesting case of determining the cause of drooling and a swollen jaw in a steer and it's not what you might think!



Figure 1: Sheep scapula fragmentation

A recent case seen in Otago involved a steer that had been drooling for several days and wasn't keeping up with the mob when the farmer moved them. Many of you will have experienced the above and at first glance would diagnose this steer with woody tongue... this was not the case! What we found was much more exciting!

As it turned out, this steer had been munching on a bit of sheep's scapula and it was now stuck at the back of his mouth. Roughly half

the 'woody tongue' cases that we go out to see are not woody tongue! Other causes of drooling and/or a swollen jaw that our vets have seen this year include:

- Mouth ulcers
- Rumensin capsule stuck in the mouth
- Blocked salivary gland
- Adult teeth erupting

Cases such as these are the reason we insist on seeing your suspected woody tongue cases, so we have the chance to save your animals, your money

and your chance to send certain animals to the works. None of the above cases would have recovered with a course of antibiotics and some would have possibly died without a vet visit. Others would have continued to go downhill and gained 30 day meat WHP if we had handed out the antibiotics without seeing the animal. Sometimes, we confirm that you have a woody tongue case and happily hand over the treatment, knowing that we have chosen the right product for the right disease.

## How Effective Is Your Lamb Drench?

The cost of an ineffective drench if you're finishing 1,000 lambs? Up to \$16,000\* The cost of knowing for sure? Potentially less than \$100

### Complete a Drench Check to Ensure Your Lambs Are Protected:

7-10 days after the weaning drench, collect at least 50g (2 heaped tablespoons) of faeces from 10 lambs for a faecal egg count (FEC) to be done by your vet.

If eggs are present, you may have a drench dose delivery problem or you may need to do a drench test (faecal egg count reduction test) to determine the degree of resistance, and types of resistant worms involved.

Based on your test results

your vet can create a drench plan unique to your property to support sustainable and effective drench use. Contact your vet for more information.

An AgResearch study, (I Sutherland et al, Vet Parasitology, 2010) in autumn 2009, used 280 lambs in grazing pastures, deliberately seeded with Benzimidazole drench resistant larvae of two common gut parasites in sheep, to compare the production effects of using an ineffective drench.

The lambs were drenched every 28 days for four months. Half were drenched with an ineffective single active Benzimidazole drench (white), and the other half drenched with a fully effective drench family (Monepantel- Zolvix).

They measured liveweight, growth rate, dags, condition score, carcass weight, and carcass grade. The carcass value of the effective drenched lambs was worth 14% more in carcass value. At \$3.00/kg LWT or \$7.14/kg CWT schedule, that's a difference of \$16 per lamb!

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