



GENSTOCK NEWS

SPRING
2011

ANIMAL BREEDING & FLEECE TESTING SERVICES

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TRI-SOLFEN®

Genstock is currently **WA's largest supplier** of Tri-solfen®. Tri-solfen® is a local anaesthetic and antiseptic spray for use on lambs to provide pain relief following mulesing. It has also been developed to reduce blood loss and infection in order to improve wound healing. 99% of clients are very happy with the results and are continuing to use the product from year to year. Less bleeding, faster re-mothering and ease of movement post mulesing are typical reports of the advantages of Tri-solfen®.

There are currently 3058 registered Better Choice users, an increase of 800 from last season.

Genstock supplies discounted Tri-solfen®.

WORM FEC

GENSTOCK NOW OFFER THIS SERVICE

Please contact us for more information

Thankfully most areas of the state are enjoying a favourable season and given another rain or two, an above average harvest should ensure.

The sheep industry is in tremendous shape, wool prices are booming and sheep meat continues to stay at decile 10 levels. Both commodities are in short supply and there is strong demand. Unless this scenario changes there should be buoyant prices for several years to come. Ram sales have already started on a very positive note which is very realistic given wool and meat values.

Congratulations must go to our sponsorship award winners for 2011. We are pleased to be able to help the industry, especially to those clients who support us. Angenup once again won the Genstock Trophy for most points at Katanning and Reserve Grand Champion Poll Merino at Woolorama. East Strathglen continues their fabulous success with Most points, Ewes at Woolorama.

Several clients have had fantastic success in the show ring. Don Eaton's ram Olinda 09-11 "Mr J" won Grand Champion Poll Merino at all the major shows including Grand Champion Medium Wool at Bendigo. Don has been a client with Genstock for nearly 30 years! CONGRATULATIONS to all Genstock clients.

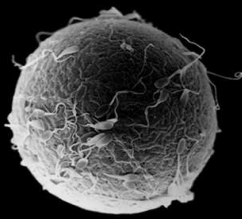
This season our Veterinarians will include Ian McDougal who will be with us again in November and Gray Robertson who will be assisting in the New year. Both are very experienced operators and we thank them for their continued support.

We look forward to the forth coming breeding season and may the good times roll on into 2012.

Regards

Craig

Sperm Fertilising an ova



**EMBRYO TRANSFER
EXCELS AGAIN**



East Mundalla ram at Bendigo (photo courtesy of Farm Weekly)

Philip Gooding, the principal from the East Mundalla flock in Lake Grace recently won the coveted Supreme Exhibit at the Australian Sheep Show in Bendigo. The ram also won Supreme at Williams Expo and Woolorama. He is the result of an ET programme carried out by Genstock.

GENSTOCK: FOR WHEN RESULTS REALLY COUNT

SHEEP DRENCH OPTIONS **– HOW SHOULD WE USE THEM ?**

- **Brown Besier, Principal Veterinary Parasitologist, Albany**

With the introduction of a new sheep drench class, it is time to review the options that remain available on most farms. Research work over several years provides a strong basis for learning the lessons of the past, so drenches can be used in programs designed to reduce the development of resistance while still giving optimal worm control.

For many years, there has been no role for the white or clear drenches used singly, although good results are occasionally seen when used together. Adding an organo-phosphate drench to this combination can provide a very high level of effectiveness. However, any of these options should be tested for effectiveness where it is planned to use them for “strategic” drenches (eg, summer drenches).

Resistance also affects the macrocyclic lactone (ML) drenches, with less than 95% worm egg reduction for ivermectin on over 80% of farms. Fortunately, the more potent MLs are far more effective, although resistance to abamectin has been found in over 20% of resistance tests. The level is lower to moxidectin (10 -15%), but we can no longer assume it will always be fully effective. Resistance has also been found on a small percentage of farms to the “triple combination” of a white, clear and macrocyclic lactone drench. Without a test it is impossible to forecast whether the MLs will be effective, alone or in a combination product. An easy way to test a particular drench after use is to compare worm egg counts from a mob before and after drenching – dung samples can be taken from the pasture, to simplify the process.

Welcome relief came with the release of a new sheep drench, when monepantel (“Zolvix”) was launched in Australia in September 2010. As it has a different mode of action from other anthelmintics, it is highly effective against all major worm types, including those resistant to other drench groups. However, it is essential that the risk of resistance development to new products is minimised, and other effective drench types should be included in the annual program to reduce the pressure for resistance.

The “summer-autumn drenching” program was introduced specifically to combat the development of resistance. Weaner and hogget age sheep should still be treated in summer, to maximise the worm control effect even though it is likely to increase resistance development. However, older age classes should be drenched in early autumn (late March or April), as by this time some worm eggs will survive and develop to larvae on the pasture. As these are from worms not recently exposed to a drench, they are of a relatively lower resistance level. When sheep take in the larvae that develop from these, they will dilute the worms from summer-drenched sheep, and therefore help to reduce the overall level of resistance on the property.

Ovine Brucellosis (Dept of AG notes)

Ovine Brucellosis is caused by a bacterium called *Brucella ovis*. The disease produces inflammation of the epididymis (tubes which transport the sperm) in rams and of the placenta in pregnant ewes. Obvious lesions can be palpated in the testicles and the epididymis resulting in infertility in rams. The nutrient supply from placenta to lamb is reduced causing miscarriage or small lambs.

Rams are infected by exposure to infected semen or to vaginal discharges from infected or aborting ewes. Infection can be spread from ram to ram directly or via the ewe in several ways. These include:

- ❖ Rams serving ewes which have been served by infected rams during the same heat period.
- ❖ Sodomy, which is common amongst young rams, resulting in infected semen being deposited into the rectum of other rams.
- ❖ Rams being exposed to infection from ewes that have recently aborted and are excreting the organisms.
- ❖ The sniffing and nosing behaviour of rams in ewe flocks which could lead to infection through the nasal passage.
- ❖ Running rams with small killer mobs or culls may allow for rapid spread and a high incidence of infection. In this situation a number of rams are likely to serve any ewe on heat, spreading the disease quickly.

All breeds of sheep are susceptible to brucellosis which may cause considerable economic loss due to increased culling of rams, reduced lamb marking percentages, extended lambing seasons and weak lambs.

There has been a rise in reported cases of Ovine Brucellosis. There is no successful treatment and the only means of eradication is testing all rams and removing affected animals. This can be a protracted and an expensive exercise. It only takes one infected ram to spread the disease throughout a whole flock. Ewes do not carry the disease and are infected for around 3- 4 weeks post mating from an infected ram.

Many flocks have now joined the Voluntary Ovine Brucellosis scheme which initially involves two blood tests (60 – 180 days apart) a property inspection, then an annual test for 3 years, a biennial test for 2 years and then every 3 years after that..

GENSTOCK offers competitive pricing for ovine brucellosis testing

Product update

Intervet have withdrawn the Chronogest sponge and Folligon products from sale in Australia. **GENSTOCK** have trialed the Bioniche sponge and have had good synchronizing results. These sponges are slightly smaller so **CAREFUL INSERTION** will be required to maintain retention. Applicators are available for sale if preferred. However, there is a risk of damage to the ewe if not used correctly. Please talk to the **GENSTOCK** staff if concerned.

There has been a significant rise in the price of synchronizing products. Unfortunately CIDRs have drastically risen in price so clients who prefer to use them, will be required to pay a premium. **GENSTOCK** endeavours each year to keep their prices competitive and economical for the client. We can only manage this if we can reduce wastage. PLEASE ensure when making a booking that you are accurate with your number of ewes to AI. We will collect all unused products on the day of AI.

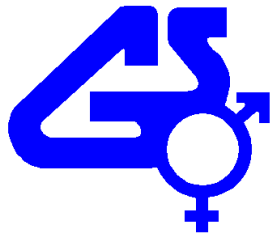
Johnes Disease

Johnes Disease is a mycobacterium that infects the gut wall, restricting the uptake of nutrients. Infected sheep waste away to an emaciated state and eventually die. An infected animal may take several years to show clinical signs and therefore it is only symptomatic in older sheep.

Most sheep breeders would be aware, due to the **increasing** prevalence of Johnes Disease within WA, we have now been reduced to **2 points on the assurance based credits (ABC) system**. Because of the insidious nature of Johnes, the disease will slowly continue to spread throughout the states sheep flock. Once an individual flock has been infected for several years, annual mortality rates in the order of 10 – 20% could be expected.

It is recommended that breeders should seriously consider the initiation of a vaccination program using Gudair®. Genstock continues to offer very competitive pricing for Gudair® vaccine.

GENSTOCK: FOR WHEN RESULTS REALLY COUNT



GENSTOCK Pty Ltd

Animal Breeding Services

EXPORT ACCREDITED — Semen & Embryos

Servicing & Specialising in:

- *Embryo Transfer & Freezing*
- *Laparoscopic Insemination*
- *Semen Collection, Freezing & Storage*
- *Pregnancy Scanning - singles & multiples*
- *Fleece Testing utilising OFDA. Technology*
- *Worm Faecal Egg Counts*
- *Discounted Tri-Solfen® (mulesing pain relief)*
- *Gudair® Supplier & Johnes MAP Accredited Veterinarian*
- *Supplier of Shearing Sedative (must sight a sample of rams)*
- *Veterinary advice*

Genstock's modernised facilities are unmatched. We are fully committed to the WA sheep industry and proudly offer an efficient and personalised Sheep Artificial Breeding Service.

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**Due to the dramatic increase in price of synchronising products, please take extra care when using these products to minimise wastage. The AI team will collect any unused PMSG / Sponges / CIDRs on AI day.
THANK YOU**

AI & ET BOOKING FORM

Please complete this form and fax it back to (08) 9834 1062

Trading Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Fax Number _____

Mobile No. _____ Email address _____

Artificial Insemination Programme

Preferred AI Date _____

Number of Ewes to AI _____

(please be accurate as we will only send required amount)

Bioniche Sponges ☐ ***Applicator (\$30)*** ☐

CIDRS (extra \$1 / ewe) ☐ ***Applicator (\$35)*** ☐

Embryo Transfer Programme

Preferred ET Date/s _____

Number of Donors _____

Donors: *On Centre* / *On Farm*

Lambled in 2011 _____

Must have over 15 donors (& acceptable surgery site) to flush on farm

Number of ET Programmes _____

Recipients: *On Centre* / *On Farm*

Must have over 8 donors to implant recipients on farm & be within 180 km of Kojonup. Recipients can be brought to Genstock for implanting on the day if less than 8 donors.

NB: If you wish to flush your donors at Genstock and implant the embryos on farm, please enquire about chilling the embryos and implanting them on farm the next day.

Comments _____

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