Newsletter

EDITION 58, FEBRUARY 2017

TRI-SOLFEN: NOW APPROVED FOR USE ON CALVES

The APVMA has now extended the approved use of Tri-Solfen to calves. This registration is a great new development for both farmers and animal welfare.

It is already used widely by sheep producers for alleviating the pain from procedures such as castration, mulesing and tail docking in lambs. Tri-Solfen has a unique three-way action formulation that is designed to minimise bleeding, numb the site and protect against infection.

Recent trials have determined that calves experience pain alleviation for up to 24 hours after surgical castration. Tri-Solfen can also be used for reducing pain caused by debudding/horning.

The production benefits from the use of Tri-Solfen far outweigh the cost. Reductions in mortality, quicker recovery time, and lower stress levels all positively impact on your bottom line. Tri-Solfen is available in-store in 1L, 5L and 20L pack sizes. For more information, please contact our AgriWest animal production specialists today!

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FIRE

AgriWest can custom build your complete fire package to suit your needs. Come in and have a chat to our staff today and keep you and your family protected.

IN THIS ISSUE

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DON'T MAKE A LOUSY DECISION

A good biosecurity plan must assume that introduced sheep are infested with lice regardless of their history or whether there are no lice or signs of lice. A new lice infestation may take 3–6 months before sheep are seen rubbing or lice can be found. Your decision on how to manage the introduced sheep will be a personal risk management choice. This is based on:

• The number of sheep being introduced, how many this is in relation to the existing flock size, the cost of their treatment and impact of out-of-season shearing compared with the cost and impact of treating the whole flock if lice spread to them.

• Your ability to properly quarantine the introduced sheep both until they can be treated off-shears or in short wool and for a period afterwards, while the treatment takes effect. This will depend on the product used and application method; see the label for the recommended time, but it can be many weeks.

Management options for introduced sheep

There are four management options to keep your flock lice free in the long term. You can use the LiceBoss Treatment Guide to help choose an option to suit your situation.

The options are presented below in descending order of biosecurity rigour. Additional notes for the options are further below.

Option 1: Shear and treat immediately*

1. Shear regardless of when sheep were last shorn.
2. Apply an off-shears/short wool treatment.
3. Quarantine for the required period after treatment, as shown on the product label.

Note: *This option may produce high chemical residues in the shorn wool if the sheep had already been treated off-shears or in short wool. This option is rarely cost-effective. See below for situations it may suit.*

Option 2: Treat short wool sheep immediately

1. Sheep introduced with less than 6 weeks wool: Apply a short wool treatment (choose a product suitable for the time since shearing).
2. Quarantine for the required period after treatment, as shown on the product label.

Note: *This option may produce high chemical residues in the shorn wool if the sheep had already been treated off-shears or in short wool. Use another option for sheep with longer than 6 weeks wool.*

Option 3: Quarantine and decide treatment at the next shearing

1. Quarantine introduced sheep and check for lice when they are next being shorn.
2. If lice or signs of lice become evident by shearing OR the sheep were introduced less than 6 months before shearing, then apply an off-shears/short wool treatment at shearing to the introduced mob and continue quarantine for the required period after treatment, as shown on the product label.
3. If no lice or signs of lice are present at shearing AND the sheep were introduced at least 6 months before shearing, do not treat.

Option 4: No quarantine and decide treatment at the next shearing

1. Do not quarantine introduced sheep—if lice are present, this will allow them to spread to your flock—and check for lice when they are next being shorn.
2. If lice or signs of lice become evident by shearing OR the sheep were introduced less than 6 months before shearing, then apply an off-shears/short wool treatment at shearing to your entire flock.
3. If no lice or signs of lice are present at shearing AND the sheep were introduced at least 6 months before shearing, do not treat.

Option 1, despite being the best option for biosecurity, is rarely cost effective. It best suits these situations:

- *When the introductions are few in number, such as purchased rams or strays collected from the neighbour.*
- *When the consequences of lice spreading to your existing flock are more serious than just the cost of fleece damage and treating the flock next shearing, for example, a stud breeder may have a reputation to protect.*
- *When the introduced sheep are obviously lousy and your ability to isolate them from the existing flock is poor.*
- *When your sheep have been lice-free for many years and you want to completely remove any chance of lice introduction from external sources.*

INTRODUCING NEW INOCULANT STRAINS TO PADDOCKS WITHOUT RESEEDING

Many sub-clover and Medic cover pasture paddocks have not had fresh inoculant applied for many years. It is not uncommon for older pasture seedbanks to be symptomatic of poor nitrogen fixation with root nodule colonies low in number and pale in colour as opposed to the pink nodule colour which signifies the likelihood of good nitrogen capture by the plant. Provided soil pH and other nutrient needs have been addressed, upgrading the sub-clover inoculant strain to improve legume content and production is the next logical step to consider.

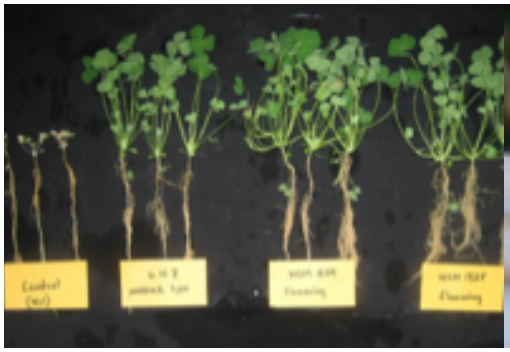
If moisture has not been limiting then nodule colonies when cut should be pink in colour and be on the roots from 6-8 weeks after germination through to the onset of seed set. Remember to dig and wash and not pull and shake as nodules may dislodge.

An improved Group C strain for sub-clover, WSM1325, has been in the market for some time now however vast areas of sub-cover have not had it introduced to the clover seed bank. The WSM1325 strain offers improved nitrogen fixation and nodulation initiation in acidic soils over earlier Group C strains and will effectively nodulate a broader range of trifoliate clovers. Balansa and Persian clovers are now picked up by the new strain and will give boost to the background naturalised trifoliate annuals like Woolley and Cluster clovers.

ALOSCA granular inoculants provide a couple of cost effective options to introduce new strains to pasture seed-banks without reseeding. Top-dressing or surface spreading the granules with fertiliser or lime along with drilling the granules with cropping fertiliser or seed in the season prior the pasture coming back into the rotation (head-start inoculation) have been seen to be effective.

With spreading application onto established clover seed banks, growers are advised to mix ALOSCA with fertiliser or other similar bulk density product (possibly lime or gypsum). A reduction in spreader spinner rpm and/or ground speed to reduce swath width will even out granule size distribution.

Clover response time is driven by rate and moisture availability with higher rates and or greater rainfall following application improving the probability of new strain to plant interception.



Above: New lower soil pH tolerant strains can provide a production edge over background/paddock strains.

Above: Taking a look at Nitrogen fixation.

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FACEBOOK: MONTHLY RECAP

Looking for more insights? Our Facebook page is a great way to stay informed. Regular product information and specials, seasonal insights, community events and branch updates – it's all there at your fingertips!

Last month alone we posted about Agfarm: Fast Cash, dog kennel upgrades, winter and spring flood assistance and more... Check us out and share your thoughts!

Find us on Facebook

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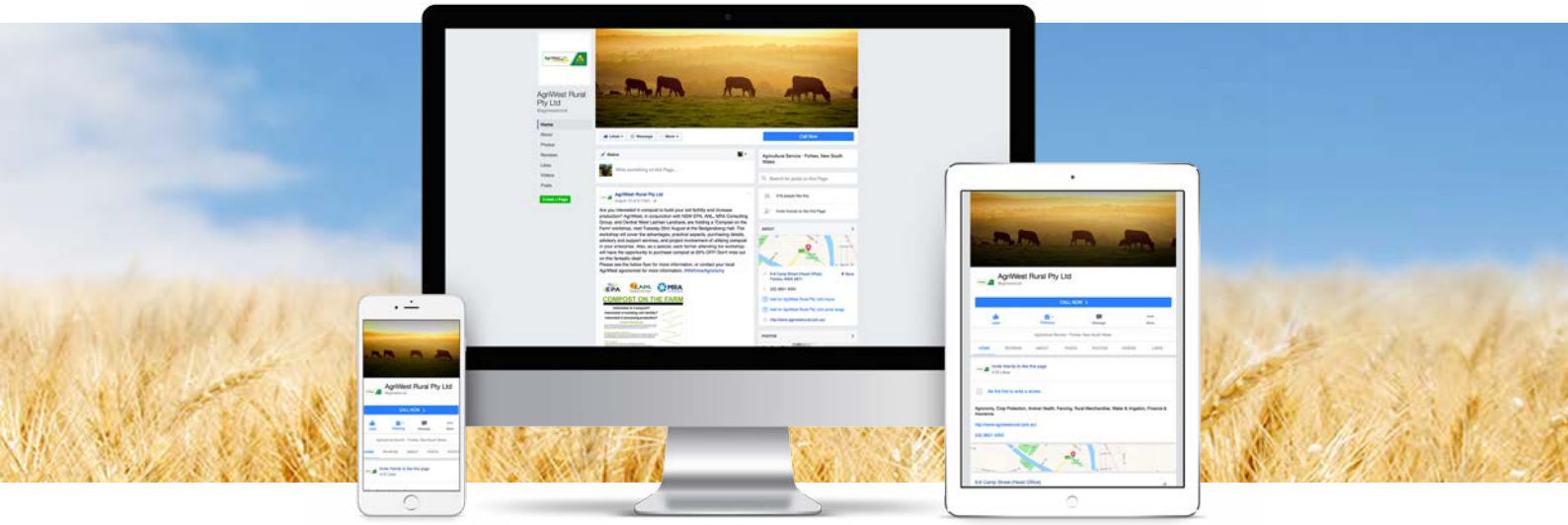

Don't forget to check out website too, visit

WWW.AGRIWESTRURAL.COM.AU

Contact an AgriWest specialist today for more information.

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