



WHY DO LAMBING EWES GET WORMS?

Adult sheep typically have reasonable levels of immunity to most types of round worm with their greatest struggle often being immunity against Barber's Pole worm. A reasonable level of immunity will mean that no more than 5% of infective larvae are able to establish as adult worms in the sheep. For the lambing ewe, this situation starts to change as early as three weeks before lambing when ewes start to lose immunity. Loss of immunity gets continually worse over the next 8-12 weeks (till lamb marking or a little after) which makes lambing ewes highly susceptible to worm infection. Ewes that rear twin lambs suffer an even greater loss of immunity. During this time 30-40% of infective larvae can establish as adult worms causing high worm egg counts in the ewes, lower milk production and higher worm challenge for lambs.

Over the years a number of reasons have been put forward to account for the loss of immunity in the lambing ewe. Research has demonstrated that rather than hormonal changes associated with lambing and lactation it is the supply of protein and energy that is most important for maintaining immunity. The energy and protein requirement of the lambing ewes increases two and threefold respectively in the 4 week period between lambing and peak milk production. It is common for increased requirements to outstrip the supply of energy and protein from pasture and the gap contributes to a loss of immunity. The larger the gap the bigger the loss of immunity and this explains why twin-rearing ewes are much more susceptible to worm infection.

The most effective ways to manage worm infection in lambing ewes are to ensure ewes have the following:

1. Low worm egg count (by conducting a worm test) prior to lambing or receive an effective drench;
2. Access to low worm-risk paddocks which have not been contaminated with infected faeces for 2-5 months (shorter for warmer months and longer for colder months) prior to lambing;
3. Increased genetic worm resistance by using worm resistant sires in a breeding program;
4. Achieved target condition score 3 for lambing.

COME IN AND SEE OUR DEDICATED ANIMAL PRODUCTION TEAM TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DISCUSS A TAILORED PLAN FOR YOUR ENTERPRISE

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GREAT LACTATION = GREAT LAMBS

Lambs are rapidly hitting the ground, but ensuring that they grow and thrive to be quality weaners can sometimes be difficult. Understanding the nutritional requirements of the ewe before, and during lactation is critical to your success.

The first essential, non-negotiable requirement of a lamb's survival, is colostrum. Colostrum is a vital cocktail – full of minerals, vitamins, fats, energy, and antibodies for immunity, however, it is important to note that not all colostrum is created equal, and the quality of which, is entirely dependent on the ewe's health and nutrition leading into its production. Ewes with low immunity – or those who have not been administered with pre-lamb clostridials (6in1), will pass on less passive immunity via colostrum to their lamb – of which they rely on until the lamb has had their first vaccination at marking time. The quality of the fats, energy, vitamins and minerals in colostrum are ultimately determined by the diet of the ewe leading into lambing. Ewes that are fed high starch diets, i.e. supplemented with grains such as barley or wheat, will have higher levels of energy and feed conversion. Also, having access to a high quality, pre-lamb specific mineral and vitamin supplement is essential, depositing high levels of nutrition into the colostrum.

Once the ewe has lambed, the volume of milk and its quality in terms of nutrient levels, is ultimately determined by the ewe's diet. For ewes to efficiently produce milk, diets high in starch promote rumen feed conversion efficiency – meaning ewes consume less feed to produce more milk. Not only does this benefit the lamb for strong growth and development, but is also advantageous to your bottom line, making this a profitable exercise. To further this, providing ewes with a high quality mineral and vitamin supplement during lactation, ensures that the ewe is not losing vital nutrients through milk production, but also passing these on to the lamb via the milk.

The correct management of this critical phase will allow you to strike a balance between raising strong, fast growing lambs and ewes that maintain good condition throughout the lactation period.

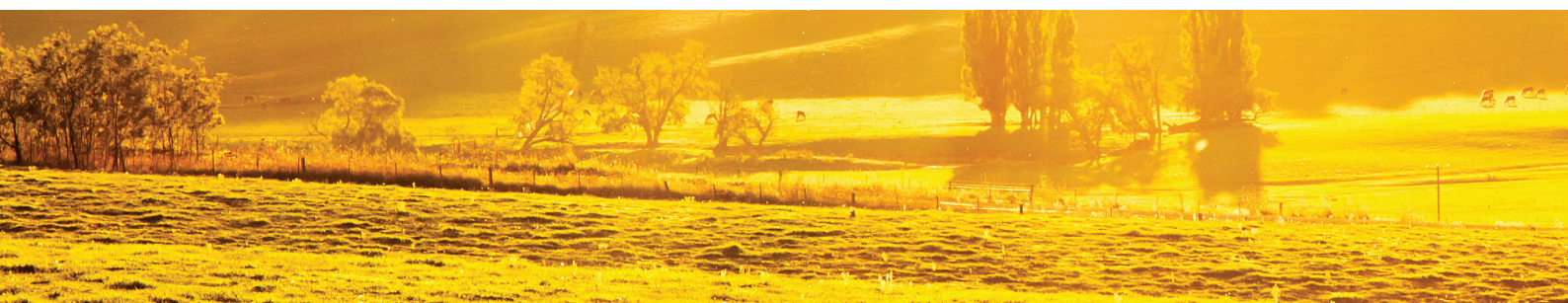




Photo courtesy of Sipcam

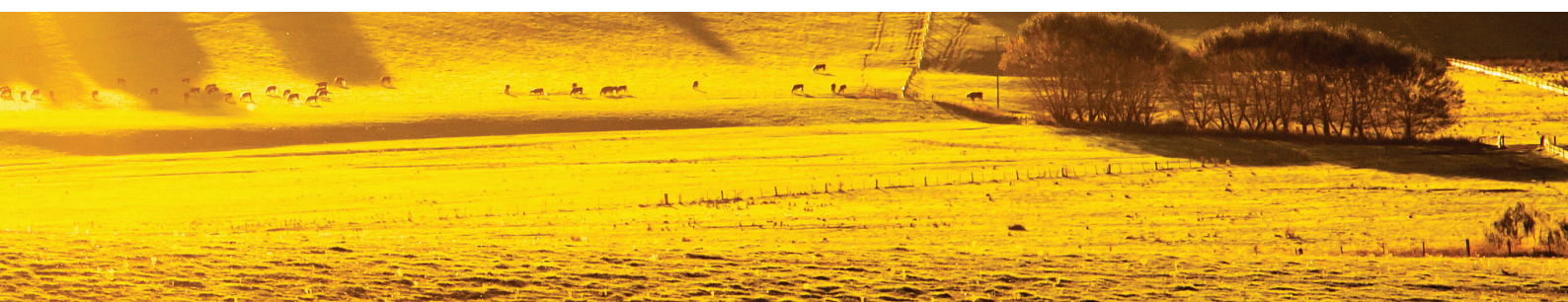
SLEDGE HERBICIDE – WEED CONTROL

Ecopar has now been used for several years as a knockdown spike with Glyphosate. Although it works well for this purpose, the Ecopar formulation was never developed with this usage in mind. Ecopar is an SC formulation specifically developed for use in crops to provide weed control but not harm specific crop species.

Sledge is a purpose formulated, non selective, knockdown product. The EC formulation of Sledge is not suitable for use in crops and hence has several advantages over Ecopar when used as a knockdown spike with Glyphosate.

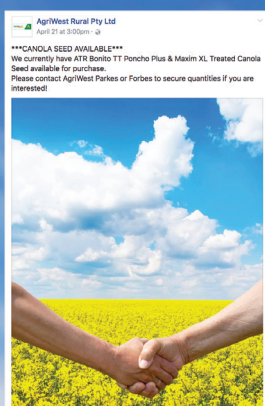
KEY POINTS

- Initial registration will be for pre plant winter crops
- Use rates 50 – 80mls per ha on initial label
- Label extensions in future will be increased up to 160ml per ha
- Low rate for small weeds, higher rates for larger weeds
- Very cost effective
- Excellent compatibility with Glyphosate formulations
- No additional surfactant required when mixed with hi loaded (ie containing wetter) Glyphosate pre - plant
- Pyraflufen-ethyl works slightly slower than other group G products. Desiccation takes longer allowing for better translocation of Glyphosate
- Effective on the usual pre plant weeds such as Wild Radish, Wild Turnip, Mustard, Erodium, Medic, Capeweed, Milk Thistle, Marshmallow etc. when used with correct rate of Glyphosate
- NIL PLANTBACK and SHORT WHP for Stock
- Is compatible with Paraquat or Sprayseed but will not be on the initial label
- Work on summer weeds and higher rates is ongoing. At high rates will fit into similar segment as Sharpen



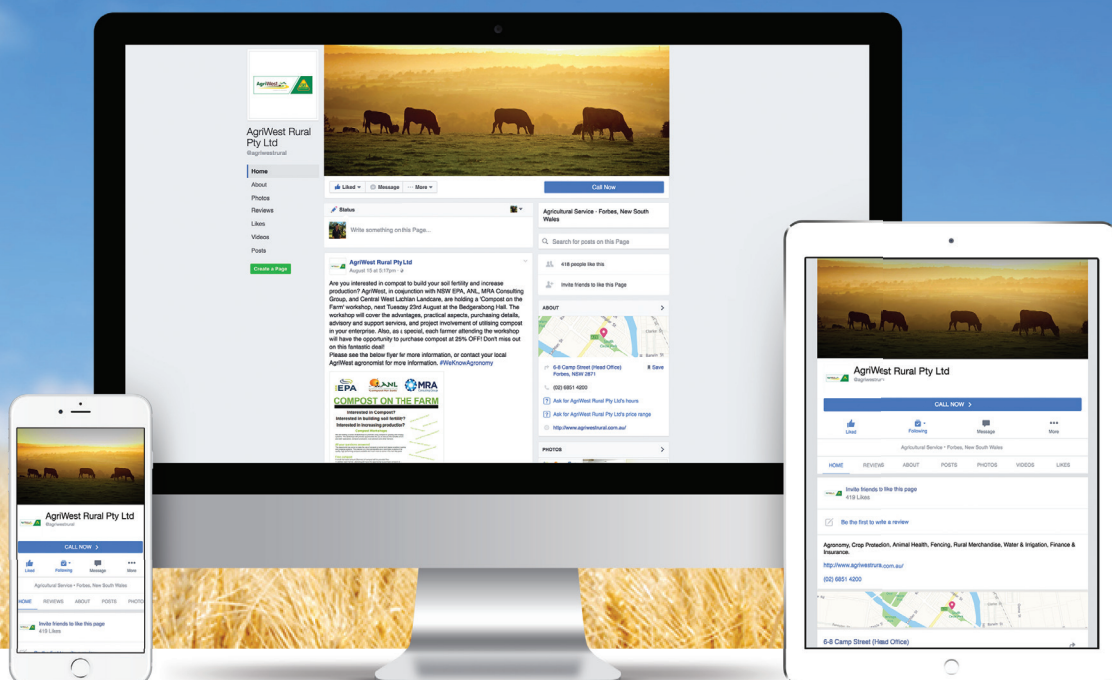


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FACEBOOK: MONTHLY RECAP

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! In the last month we posted about Easter trading hours, BOGS, canola seed and much more... Check us out and share your thoughts!

Contact an AgriWest specialist today for more information.

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