# KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR EPI - IT MAY NOT BE BARBER'S POLE!

The relentless wet weather and flooding over recent months has created the perfect environment for a significant increase in mosquito populations. This outbreak dramatically increases the chance of sheep and goats being infected with the disease *Eperythrozoonosis* (commonly known as 'Epi'). Mosquitoes carry and spread the bacteria Mycoplasma ovis – which attaches to red blood cells and causes them to rupture.

**IMPORTANT:** The clinical signs of Epi present the same as those of Barber's Pole Worm – mainly in anaemia and death, however, your response needs to be much different!



If you have areas of surface water and/or flooding on your property with a large population of mosquitoes, and are seeing sheep deaths, don't immediately assume that the issue is Barber's Pole. Whilst Barber's Pole will be a significant threat this season and should be monitored, Epi must be kept in mind.

To determine where issues are stemming from, the first priority is to do a faecal egg count (FEC) with a larval culture. This will determine whether worms are present. It is important not to muster or stress stock whilst performing the testing. If the FEC count is high, treat sheep immediately with a broad-spectrum drench (preferably with two or more actives for maximum kill). If the FEC is not high, Epi can be suspected. If Epi is suspected, avoid any handling of the sheep – handling will cause extensive losses.

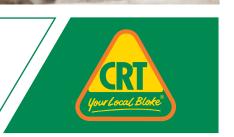
Unfortunately, there is no treatment for a whole mob of this disease – only time. However, treatment for valuable stock such as rams or stud stock should be discussed with your local veterinarian.

Worm testing kits are available in store. If you have any concerns, please come and talk to our Animal Production Specialists.

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### **NEXT SEASONS WEED CONTROL STARTS NOW IN CANOLA**

Nufarm's Weedmaster DST is the only registered glyphosate for pre-harvest use in all canola production systems, making it the ideal spray as part of your broader integrated weed management strategy. Weedmaster DST helps reduce weed seed set in annual ryegrass and wild radish populations.

For best results, early spraying over the top (OTT) once canola has reached the 20% seed colour change is recommended. Alternatively, Weedmaster DST can be applied under the cutterbar at the time of windrowing. Adding Li700 increases penetration into the crop canopy, limits spray drift and provides faster brownout.

Nufarm and GRDC joint trials using Weedmaster DST – per label instructions – have shown no negative effect on yield or oil content in canola. For further information on this new registration please contact:

Luke Wood on 0427691633 or lukewood@agriwestrural.com.au





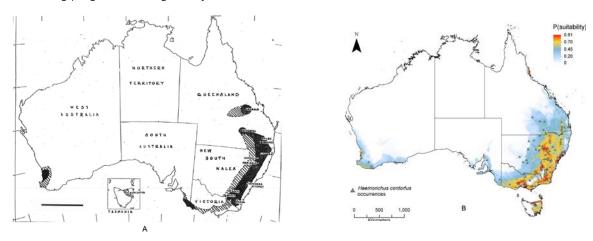
tillering and Crusaders tightly packed heads.



### WHAT'S NEW WITH BARBER'S POLE WORM

There has been recent research into Barber's Pole Worm indicating that it has undergone significant changes in recent years. BPW has become more tolerant of cooler temperatures and therefore now has a wider geographical spread (see *Figure 1*). The reason for the adaptation to cooler climates is that BPW are now laying eggs all year round. Another change in BPW worm that has been noticed is that it rarely inhibits as an L4, a side effect of effective drenches. Inhibiting allows parasites to exist in regions that have periods of time that do not allow the lifecycle to continue. For example, Barbers Pole is an issue in Sweden of all places as the L4 inhibit over winter and re-emerge in warmer months. Whereas In Australia, it appears that our populations now lay eggs all year, and as mentioned before, this is enabling the worm to adapt to cooler climates.

If we add these population changes of the worm to expected climate changes, Barbers Pole looks set to become more of an issue in areas that historically haven't had consistent burdens. Intelligence from our faecal egg counting laboratory has indicated that there has never been counts as high as what they are seeing from such diverse areas. So remember, keep up to date with worm testing as the first clinical signs of BPW usually bring death of livestock. Please talk to one of our animal production specialists in store today to develop a drenching program that's right for you.



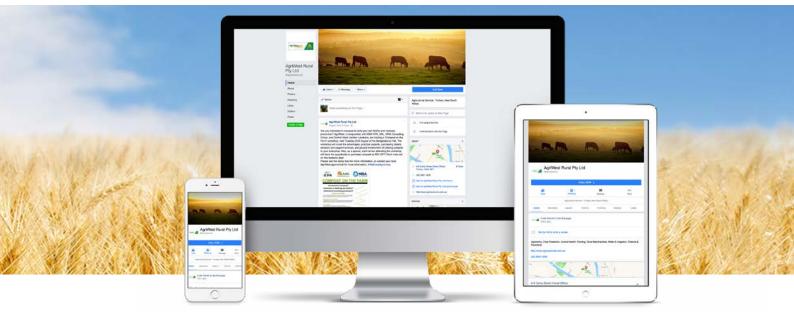
*Figure 1.* The changing distribution of Haemonchus contortus in Australia. (A) Distribution of Haemonchus contortus in 1936. Consistent and sporadic outbreaks of haemonchosis are indicated by the dark and shaded areas, respectively. (B) Predictive distributional modelling of H. contortus based on climatic variables (produced by Dr. Nathan Emery. Triangles indicate the current distribution of H. contortus outbreaks sourced from larval cultures submitted to diagnostic laboratories throughout 2014–2015. There is a higher probability of H. contortus occurring in areas with 700–1200 mm annual rainfall.





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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!



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The nature of indexed setting means you cannot set the lew of the market period you choose.

For more Information, call your local Account Manager on 1300 243 276 or visit agfarm.com.au



### Contact an AgriWest specialist today for more information.

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