NEWSLETTER

AgriWest
A RURALCO PARTNER

CRT Your Local Bloke®

SUMMER EDITION
2017

CAUTION: FLIES AHEAD

PREVENTION IS KEY TO KEEPING FLIES AWAY.

It is that time of year when the thermometer starts to rise and the buzz of fly numbers increases throughout rural regions. Early November to late March is the time period that flystrike (Breech and Body strike) is most common and mobs should be monitored with vigilance over this period. Temperatures range between 15–38 degrees and will promote fly numbers.

Sheep that have not been prepared for the fly season are at a higher risk level than ones that have. Prevention is the key to controlling and preventing your mob from being fly blown this season.

SIMPLE METHODS OF PREVENTION

Product Name	Application Method
Extinosad	Spray On
CLiK	Spray On
Cyrofly	Spray On
Strike Force - S	Spray On
Clip Shield	Spray On
Vanquish	Spray On
Vetrazin	Dip
Clip Shield Liquid	Dip
Coopers Blowfly and Lice	Jetting

Timing of application for some products is essential so before making any management decisions contact your local animal production specialist.

The presence of the below flies is an early indicator that monitoring stock needs to occur to identify early cases of fly strike.

Australian Sheep Blowfly Western Australian Brown Blowfly Lesser Brown Blowfly

* Agriculture Western Australia

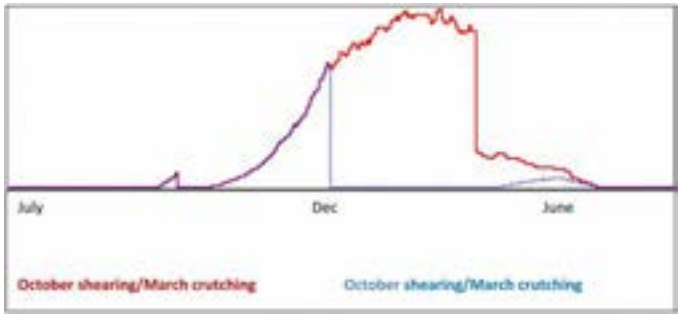
TREATING STRUCK SHEEP

If sheep are struck then treatment needs to occur.

Extinosad “Aerosol for Wounds” is a quick and easy treatment for blowfly strike in mulesing, marking and other wounds. Simply apply the spray to wound and 25 mm radius until area is wet and blue.

Extinosad “Liquid” is a concentrated product that needs mixing with water. For treatment of strike, soak area with a 25mm radius, with 1- 2 litres of diluted mixture

For both products it is important to read the directions of use to ensure best results.



Incidence of fly strike is displayed by the solid red line with no chemical application. The dotted blue line is with a CLiK Spray-On application in December. Evidence that mobs receiving adequate protection have dramatically reduced occurrence of fly strike.

It is essential that your fly management plan suits your enterprise and timing of operations. If flies have been an issue in the past consult your local animal production team to find out more.

DID YOU KNOW?

At AgriWest, we are a member of the ProWater group and we supply a wide range of irrigation products and services, from an automatic sprinkler system for your lawn up to large bore poly pipe syphons, pipe and riser systems, replacing irrigation channels and much more.

Here are some photos of a recent job at Forbes - These pipes are replacing 360m of channel to allow water to follow its natural course and drain from this area in a wet year.

IRRIGATION PRODUCTS AND SERVICES ALSO AVAILABLE AT AGRIWEST INCLUDE:

- Residential and commercial turf irrigation products
- Total farm water system design
- Solar pumps
- Stock / domestic and irrigation bore pumps
- Household pump and filtration systems
- T&L centre pivot irrigators
- Pump and irrigation system repairs
- Scheduled servicing of irrigation systems, pumps and irrigators

If you require assistance with anything irrigation related, feel free to speak to one of our irrigation specialists today.

WIN AND CELEBRATE THIS AUSTRALIA DAY!

Purchase any product from the Mars range from your local AgriWest store this summer and you will automatically enter the draw to **WIN** a BBQ, Esky (Coleman Excursion 15lt) plus a $50 Woolworths Voucher.

MARS PRODUCTS INCLUDE:

- **PEDIGREE**
- **CHUM**
- **WHISKAS**
- **MATE**

Hurry! Competition closes Monday 22nd January.

Competition opens Friday 1st December 2017 and closes Monday 22nd January 2018. Visit or speak to your local AgriWest store (Parkes, Forbes, Bathurst or Peak Hill) for full details

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Ends 31th December 2017

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RAINWATER HARVESTING

Household water savings now with Double Warranty!*

6 year warranty (normally 3 years) KRB1 KRB2 KRB3

FIRE PROTECTION

Legendary Firefighters now with Double Warranty!*

2 year warranty (normally 1 year) 5150HD 5155H 5165H 5255H 5265H

*wet end only

POOL EQUIPMENT

Sparkling clean pools now with Double Warranty!*

6 year warranty (normally 3 years) PMECO2 PMECO PM200SV PM400PV MCS16C MCS24C MCS36C

*power supply only

daveydoublewarranty.com.au

*Terms and conditions apply. Selected products only. Promotion ends 31st December 2017. To activate your Double Warranty, please visit daveydoublewarranty.com.au and register your purchase before 15th January 2018. General wear and tear not covered.

SUMMER WEED CONTROL – BEST PRACTICE

With more summer crops (cotton, mungbeans, cowpeas, millet, sorghum) being grown in the area, it is a timely reminder of what we can and can't do with respect to summer spraying. Not only do we not want to have any adverse effects on your own or others summer crops, we should be making sure every gram of chemical going through the boom hits the target.

At AgriWest we are involved with these summer crops first hand and are aware of occasions where off target drift has caused damage and reduced yield for growers. Whether using a 5L spray-pack, or a 36m boom, there are similar risks involved. Following is a guide (Mary O'Brien Rural Enterprises) to help reduce your impact on off target drift and maximise the efficacy of your application.

SURFACE TEMPERATURE INVERSIONS
Never spray under still or inversion conditions.

Surface temperature inversions typically begin to form just before sunset and are strongest and deepest at the time of the minimum temperature, usually just before sunrise. Spray applications conducted at sunset, during the night and up to 90 minutes after sunrise are likely to be affected by a surface temperature inversion.

You should always expect a surface temperature inversion has formed at sunset and will continue until after sunrise unless one or more of the following has occurred:

- Continuous overcast weather with low heavy cloud
- Continuous drizzle or rain
- Wind speed is greater than 11km/h for the whole time between sunset and sunrise
- After a clear night, cumulus clouds begin to form
- Temperature rises from the minimum by at least 6 degrees

Recognising a surface temperature inversion

Visual clues that a surface temperature inversion is likely to be present include:

- Mist, fog, dew or a frost have occurred
- Smoke or dust hangs in the air close to the surface and moves sideways
- Cumulus clouds that have built up during the day collapse and flatten out towards the evening

Surface temperature inversions may exist without any visual indicators. Other clues to help recognise a surface temperature inversion:

- Wind speed is constantly less than 11km/h in the evening and overnight
- Cool, off-slope breezes develop during the evening and overnight
- Distant sounds become clearer and easier to hear
- Aromas become more distinct during the evening

Spraying under surface temperature inversion conditions is considered unsafe as the potential for off-target movement is significantly increased.

MONITOR WEATHER CONDITIONS
Weather conditions should be measured and recorded at the site of application and at the start, finish and at least every load during the spray application. Watch for changes in the conditions and if an inversion occurs, stop spraying immediately. Check label for requirements for wind speed, buffer zones and other weather parameters.

SPRAY TIMING – DAY VS NIGHT
During the day, wind is more likely to be turbulent which creates vertical mixing of air. When air is turbulent, it is less likely that a surface temperature inversion has formed. At night, the wind tends to move very differently, there is limited or no turbulence and no vertical mixing of air. At night it is more difficult to predict the direction and distance pesticides may travel.

KEEP ACCURATE SPRAY RECORDS
Make and keep detailed records of each spray application. Accurate records are the best way to demonstrate you have complied with the label.

Minimum records to be made and kept:

- Date, start and finish time of application
- Location (address & blocks sprayed)
- Full trade names of products and rates per ha
- Area (ha) and crop/situation or weeds treated
- Weather conditions (wind speed, direction , temperature, relative humidity and delta T)
- Nozzle brand, type, spray angle, flow rate, spray quality and pressure, speed
- Name, address and contact details of the owner and person applying the chemical

GROUP I HERBICIDES
Drift of Group I herbicides, which includes products containing 2,4-D, MCPA, Fluroxypyr and Dicamba, affect susceptible plants such as cotton, grape vines, vegetables, pulses, pastures and native vegetation.

To reduce drift and increase efficacy, users of Group I herbicides should:

- Select products with low volatile formulation
- Only spray during the day (conditions at night are extremely difficult to predict)
- Avoid spraying 90 minutes before sunset, during the night, until 90 minutes after sunrise
- Use the coarsest spray quality that will provide efficacy
- Only use adjuvants that do not increase the drift potential
- Operate equipment at speeds and pressures that produce the desired spray quality
- Do not exceed speeds of 18km/h unless there is excellent boom control
- Boom height should be maintained to achieve double overlap at the top of the target (top of the weeds or stubble)
- Measure and closely monitor weather conditions before, during (al least every load) and after spraying
- Read and follow label instructions – every label is different
- Use smoke/dust generation to help determine if an inversion is present
- Utilise weather prediction tools when planning spray operations

Please consult with an AgriWest Agronomist if you need assistance with reducing your risk of off target drift, and in turn maximising the efficacy of your spray applications.

EXCITING LOCAL SUMMER COVER CROPPING RESEARCH BEGINS

Over cropping...it's the new buzz word in farming, with a growing number of farmers 'dabbling' in a few cover-cropping ideas and mixes. However, what are the nuts and bolts and why are some growers getting excited by the potential of cover cropping? Well it's all to do with manipulating soil health for specific agronomic gains using specific plants to do the particular job we require, whilst gaining a significant grazing opportunity over the summer. The end game is to increase yield in the following crop and overall enterprise gross margins. The cover crop is sown in spring, grazed as required over summer and then 'shut down' (sprayed out or crimp rolled) in late summer, with the next crop sown into the mulch.

By asking the simple question **"what is the limiting factor to yield"** we can begin to select the weaker performing paddocks and the species that may improve soil fertility in the way we wish.

For example, the following soil constraints are the most common ones that impede yield and by planting specific plants that address these specific issues, we can increase yield in the following seasons.

Aren't we just stealing water from next year's crop?

The first thing many growers commonly identify as a potential issue is that the summer cover crop would be simply stealing all the stored moisture and nitrogen that we would otherwise accumulate over the summer chemical fallow period. This is true to a point, however what research has found to date is that using specific plants such as tillage radish, sorghum and Lab Lab is not the same thing as simply letting the usual summer weeds grow. The secret is selecting specific plants that enable a pay back at the end of the summer in terms vastly improved structural porosity, water infiltration and storage, nitrogen accumulation, or ideally all-of the above.

So the aim is when the opening autumn rains come, the summer water theft by the cover crop is forgiven because the soil profile fills up much more readily and deeper in the subsoil where we will need it later in the season. We will have increased soil carbon and water holding capacity for the season ahead, accumulated ~100 kg of nitrogen from the legume component of the cover crop, provided a disease break, cycled phosphorus and other nutrients, and we have hopefully also earned some income from the significant grazing opportunity offered.

This is not to say that summer weed control fallows are a thing of the past. We have a lot to learn about the role of cover crops in our own rainfall environment and how to best drive them. We will also require chemical fallow in many situations where livestock are absent or in insufficient numbers. It is more about selecting specific paddocks that require remedial help with regard to soil health and physical structure.

Local Three Year GRDC Funded Research Project

Well-known and respected DPI researcher Col McMaster has been tasked with the job of finding out some facts about the fit for summer cover crops locally, along with some keen agronomists and growers. GRDC has kicked the tin for a three-year research project. Given that Col performed a lot of original research into chemical fallows and water use efficiency, this research is a brave new step forward to looking at the issue of water use efficiency from a completely different perspective....the perspective of soil health.

AgriWest Agronomists Luke Wood and Guy Webb are pleased to be taking an active part in the design of the trial and will report results back to growers each season.

Tillage radish grown in a cover crop to help improve water infiltration and soil health conditions (Photo courtesy of Mick Wettenhall at Trangie).

Summer cover crops can offer significant grazing opportunity as opposed to a bare fallow.

Lab Lab is a fast-growing summer climbing legume that can easily contribute around 100kg of N to the next crop.

Soil Constraint	Suitable Cover Crop Species	Examples of How it works
1. Physical issues such as compaction, water infiltration and water storage / plant availability	Large rooted crops such as tillage radish, sunflower and C4 grasses such as sorghum, millet and corn	**Tillage radish** has a very large tuber that simply punches a large hole into the soil that allows water to infiltrate down into the sub soil, as well as breaking up compaction / hard pans. **Sorghum** is a C4 plant, meaning it makes more carbon biomass per kilowatt of sunshine than non C4 plants. Sorghum has a very large fibrous root system that increases soil structure and soil carbon, leading to greatly improved soil friability and increased rainfall infiltration and storage.
2. Nitrogen supply	Summer legumes such as Lab Lab and Cow Pea	**Lab Lab** is a very fast growing high biomass legume that climbs up the sorghum like a trellis. Every tonne of legume biomass will fix 25–30kg of nitrogen into the soil for the next crop. Lab Lab will contribute 4 to 10 tonne of biomass per average summer growing period which can equal over 100kg of nitrogen contribution to the next crop.

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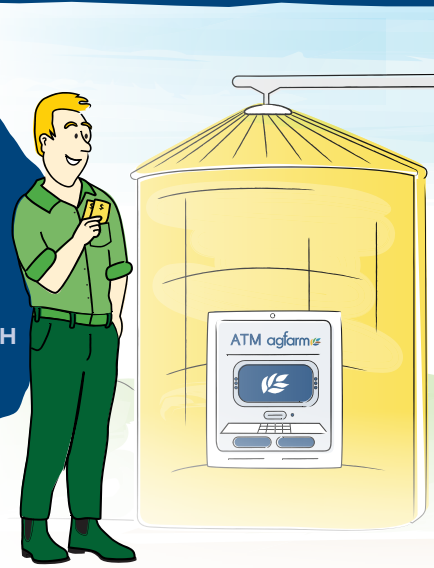

STAFF PROFILES

THOMAS MACLEAY

Nickname: H.R

Role: Animal Production

Store: Parkes, NSW

Time at AgriWest: 2 Weeks

Hometown: Bathurst

Industry History: Family farm, jackeroo in S.A and N.T and ag science in Wagga Wagga

Interests: Sports, agriculture and goanna wrestling

Favourite Football Team? Wallabies rugby union

Favourite Band/Singer? Arcade Fire

Favourite Movie? Wake in Fright

What are you enjoying most about your role with Agriwest?

The team feel of the place, ability to learn/expand knowledge and having the chance to meet growers that are up for a yarn.

DREW ENGLISH

Nickname: Drew

Role: Sales

Store: Bathurst, NSW

Time at AgriWest: 5 Months

Hometown: Bathurst

Industry History: Retail, Irrigation

Interests: Motorsport

Favourite band/singer? Luke Combs

Favourite movie? Spinout

What do you most enjoy about your role with AgriWest? Meeting all the people and learning about the products.

The Team at AgriWest would like to thank our customers for their support in 2017. We hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Successful New Year. We look forward to working with you in 2018.

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