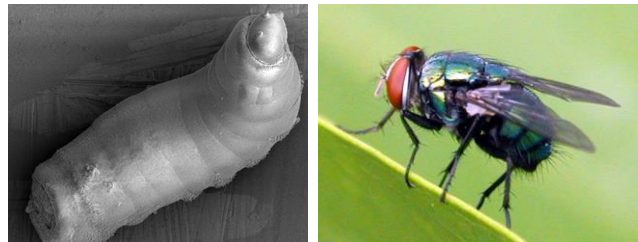


Are you covered against blowfly strike?

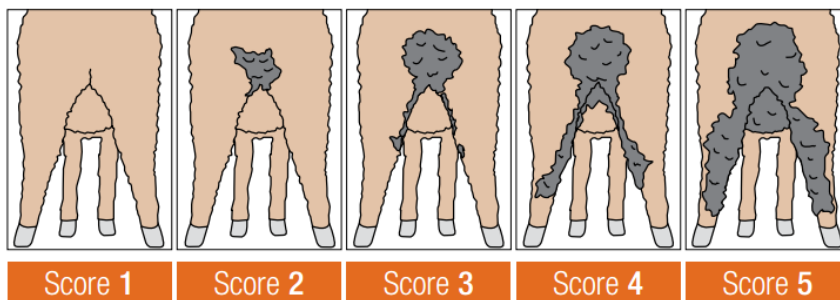
The word on the street (or should I say track?) is that 2016 will be a bad year for blowfly strike. Most people have taken preventative action, purchasing their spray-on of choice, accelerated by rumors of short supply, high demand, and a fly season that a veteran sales rep of 20 years has not seen, let alone a farmer of 30 years! Coupled with peoples crystal ball predictions, the current seasonal conditions have heightened the predisposition of sheep to flystrike; wet wool, bacterial infections, dag, urine stain and foot abscess.

Yet, with all the signs pointing to a higher than normal fly season, some producers are waiting to see how the season progresses and jet sheep at the first sign of flies.



This article will focus on chemical options to prevent or treat flystrike; however, the longer term strategy to reduce the incidence of flystrike is through breeding and management. It is possible to select rams with ASBVs for breech and body wrinkle, dag, worm egg count and breech cover. Dag score is moderately heritable and as dag score increases, so does the risk of breech strike. A sheep with a dag score of 4 is seven times more likely to be struck compared to a score 1 animal.

Dag (DAG)



Source: Sheep Genetics — MLA Visual Sheep Scores Version 2 - 2013

Lucilia cuprina is the main culprit behind 90% of sheep flystrikes in Australia. The success of a strike is directly proportional to the occurrence of susceptible sheep rather than the density of blowflies in the area. Susceptible sheep only have to have wet wool for successful strikes. The

soil temperature must hit at least 15°C for fly larvae that are overwintered in the ground to hatch and emerge.

So what are our chemical options (spray on)?

Clik®

Clik contains dicylanil (50g/L) (an insect growth regulator) that affects the moulting process of the maggot. It does not affect the fly itself. For the prevention of body strike on a 50kg + ewe, apply 24ml of Clik or 36ml to protect against body and crutch strike.

Clik provides 18-24 weeks protection but does come with a hefty ESI period of 120 days and 3 month wool withhold. The meat withhold is 28 days. The longer ESI has excluded it from the prime lamb market, and producers opt to either shear, jet or sell lambs. Cost per 20L drum is around the \$1100 mark, making it around \$1.35/head, and the cheapest per day of any fly product on the market per length of protection.



Strikeforce S®

A new product recently released by Jurox Animal Health in October 2016. Has the same active ingredient at the same concentration as Clik. Has a different formulation than Clik but still offers 18-24 weeks protection. Price is equivalent to Clik but comes in a 15L drum not a 20L drum. The major difference with this new product apart from the formulation is the withholding period. Strikeforce S has a 14 day meat, 35 day ESI and 3 month wool. The product has been positioned towards the prime lamb market. I would be keen to get some feedback on this product if you use it.



Clikzin®

Clikzin is 12.5g/L of dicyclanil (1/4 the concentration of Click) offering 11 weeks protection. It has a 7 day meat WHP, a 21 day ESI and one month wool WHP. For the prevention of body strike on a 50kg + ewe, apply 18ml of Clikzin. For the prevention of breech strike, apply 18mL. Cost is \$625 inc. GST for a 20L drum. Cost to apply 18mL is ~\$0.60.



Vetrazin® spray on

Vetrazin spray on contains cyromazine (60g/L) (an insect growth regulator) and can provide up to 11 weeks of protection. The dose rate is determined by the time since shearing so sheep with up to 10 months of wool should be treated with 56mL of product to protect against body strike. To prevent body and crutch strike, apply 84mL per sheep. Sheep MUST have at least 6 weeks wool before applying. Product has a 7 day meat WHP, 28 day ESI and 2 month wool WHP. Vetrazin spray on comes in a 20L and 25L container. A 25L container costs \$280 inc. GST, so cost to treat a sheep with 10 months wool is ~\$0.80.



What about jetting options?

Vetrazin® liquid

Vetrazin liquid contains cyromazine (500g/L) (an insect growth regulator) and can protect sheep in long wool for up to 14 weeks. The product comes in a 7L container and should be diluted at 2mL vetrazin/L water for use. You need to use equipment that can maintain pressures of at least 80 PSI (550kPa) and only use on sheep with at least 6 weeks wool. Product has a 7 day meat WHP, 21 day ESI and 2 month wool WHP. For jetting, dipping, dressing - Initial charge and topping up = 2 L/1,000 L. Apply 2 to 4 L of jetting fluid/sheep depending on sheep size and wool length. Ensure saturation to the skin.

A 7L container costs ~\$380 inc. GST. Cost/head ~\$0.44 depending on dose rate.

Unconfirmed reports suggest that every 25mm of rain post application reduces the protection period by 2 weeks.



Extinosad® Eliminator

Extinosad Eliminator contains 25g/L of Spinosad and comes in 1L, 5L and 10L containers.

Jetting fluid - Use at a rate of 100 mL/100 L water (25 ppm). Use jetting equipment and apply 0.5 L fluid for each month of wool growth (up to 5 L/sheep). Apply from poll to tail base and around the breech and pizzle as appropriate. Pressure requirements: 500 to 700 kPa (75 to 100 psi).

Flystrike dressing - Use at a rate of 5 mL/5 L water (25 ppm). Prepare a fresh dilution of flystrike dressing each day. Remove the wool from around the wound using clippers or shears. Apply 1 to 2 L to the wound.

Mulesing and wound dressing - Use at a rate of 25 mL/5 L water. Apply by spraying 40 to 80 mL onto the wound and 25 mm into the surrounding wool. Extinosad has a NIL meat, ESI and wool withhold. A 5L container of Eliminator will cost ~\$970 inc. GST.



Coopers Blowfly and Lice

Blowfly and lice is 16g/L ivermectin and for the prevention of blowfly strike, dilute 200mL of concentrate with 100L of water. Apply a minimum of 2.5L per head to prevent and treat existing flystrike wounds. Has a 7 day meat ESI, 7 day ESI and 6 week wool withhold. Cost is \$425 inc. GST for a 5L container, and at 2.5L per sheep, cost is ~\$0.43/head. You can buy generic blowfly and lice for \$365 inc. GST for 5L.



There are many different chemical options and application methods. As the weather warms up and the showers continue, be vigilant about flies. For the cost of a muster and chemical application, it will save you a lot of time and effort throughout November and maybe December having to treat struck sheep.

For more information or advice on treatment options, call Steve at Dynamic Ag.

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