

Flystrike webinar a practical and timely guide

Due to ongoing summer rains across many of Australia's sheep regions, woolgrowers have been experiencing a tough fly season. In response, AWI organised a popular webinar providing flystrike advice to woolgrowers managing under high-risk fly conditions. The webinar, held in January, was recorded and is freely available to view for all woolgrowers across the country.



If you missed AWI's **It's Fly Time!** webinar in January, you can watch a free recording on the AWI website at www.wool.com/flystrikeresources.

AWI ran the webinar, called 'It's Fly Time!', to deliver tactical information to woolgrowers in preparation for, and responding to, a high-risk flystrike period. It provided woolgrowers with tips for preventing flystrike, information on prioritising sheep for monitoring and treatment, and options for treating sheep when flystrike does occur. The webinar aggregated information on flystrike from a range of sources.

More than 450 people from across Australia registered to view the one-hour webinar which was presented on 29 January by respected veterinarian and sheep consultant, Dr Tim Gole. There was great interaction from the webinar attendees and feedback on the event was excellent. The webinar received a rating of 8.8/10 from viewers.

The webinar was recorded and is freely available to be viewed at any time on the AWI website at www.wool.com/flystrikeresources. When viewing, you can pause and go back to a previous part in the webinar if you want to recap a particular point. In addition, handy factsheets also provide links to further information. Woolgrowers without access to the website can be sent hard copies by contacting the AWI Helpline on 1800 070 099.

AWI's General Manager of Research Dr Jane Littlejohn says the webinar was very timely and important.

"Ongoing rains this summer made this the worst season for flies in many areas

in at least five years. The webinar provides a practical guide to flystrike prevention, monitoring and treatment, all which play key roles in flystrike management. Proactive management of flystrike is important for sheep welfare," she said.

"The flystrike prevention, monitoring and treatment activities highlighted in the webinar all play key roles in woolgrowers' integrated flystrike management plans."

Dr Jane Littlejohn, AWI's General Manager of Research

"While the digital format of a webinar is different to a regular face-to-face seminar, it is simple to use and we were able to reach a much wider audience. The key 'take home' messages in the webinar were clear and remain the same."

Key messages

It's important to have a broad flystrike management plan which incorporates (a) prevention, (b) monitoring and (c) treatment activities (see below), but preventing flystrike is key. Review your integrated flystrike management plan regularly.

No single preventative, monitoring or treatment activity should be relied upon alone.

These activities need to consider sheep, flies and weather holistically because

there are three basic conditions required for flystrike to occur:

1. Presence of susceptible sheep
2. Presence of flies
3. Favourable weather conditions to allow the flies to locate and infect the susceptible sheep.

(A) PREVENTION OF FLYSTRIKE

- Well-timed preventative activities can help reduce the risk of flystrike and the development of fly waves, and minimise the need for treatment.
- Some types and classes of sheep are more susceptible to flystrike and should be targeted for preventative treatment.
- No single preventative activity should be relied upon alone – make sure you use a range of well-timed activities in combination.
- An integrated preventative flystrike program includes breeding for flystrike resistance, the use of crutching or shearing, dag control, appropriate tail length, selection of less flystrike-prone paddocks, applying appropriate chemical treatments and killing maggots and removing sources of protein.

(B) RECOGNITION AND MONITORING TO DETECT FLYSTRIKE

- Regular monitoring activities will help you to detect signs of flystrike in sheep as well as conditions which may favour flystrike.

Finding these as early as possible helps prevent severe infections.

- Monitor all mobs of sheep for signs of flystrike during high-risk periods, but especially weaners.
- Monitoring involves a combination of checks including looking for flystrike in sheep, checking populations of flies and checking weather conditions.

(C) TREATMENT OPTIONS WHEN FLYSTRIKE OCCURS

- Treating flystruck sheep is essential to protect the health and welfare of your sheep, prevent economic losses and break the lifecycle of flies.
- Make sure you use a combination of treatment activities and that you don't rely on one single activity alone.
- It's important to make sure all flystruck sheep are effectively treated, all maggots are killed and sources of protein are removed to aid the sheep's recovery and to prevent additional strikes.
- Make sure you continue to monitor your treated sheep carefully, as some woolgrowers are reporting decreased lengths of protection for flystrike treatments.

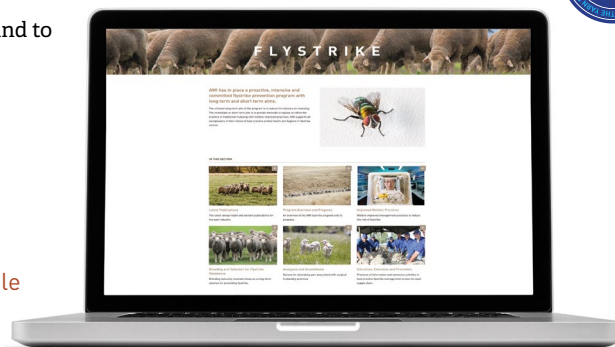
More information:

The 'It's Fly Time!' webinar is available to be viewed free at any time on the AWI website at www.wool.com/

flystrikeresources, along with the PowerPoint presentation and the following related factsheets:

- Recognising and monitoring flystrike (3-page fact sheet)
- Preventing and treating flystrike (5-page fact sheet).

For more detailed information on flystrike management, including information on chemical resistance management strategies and access to interactive decision support tools, visit FlyBoss at www.flyboss.com.au.



Other recent webinars related to parasite management and lamb marking that you might find of interest can be accessed from the AWI Sheep Connect NSW website at www.sheepconnectnsw.com.au/tools/. These include:

- Top tips for lamb marking
- Sheep blowfly resistance
- Breeding for improved flystrike resistance
- Spotlight on barbers pole worm
- Drench resistance and managing sheep worms
- Worms are back, how are you managing?



Hear more about how to keep your flock safe in Episode 166 of AWI's The Yarn podcast at www.wool.com/podcast.

For information on AWI's flystrike research, development and extension program, visit www.wool.com/flystrike.

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