

AWI Breech Strike R&D Technical Update  
Maritime Museum, Sydney  
20<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Lewis Kahn  
ParaBoss



# paraboss .com.au



## Vision

ParaBoss is the national authority for the extension of sheep parasite management, funded, endorsed and used by industry to improve parasite management of sheep.



# ParaBoss

## Steering Committee

*Chair:* James Rowe Sheep CRC (Licensor)

*UNE:* Steve Walkden-Brown (Licensee)

*AWI:* Geoff Lindon

*MLA:* Renelle Jeffrey

*Independent:* Brown Besier

## Technical Committee

Justin Bailey

Stephen Love

Brown Besier

Maxine Lyndal Murphy

Ian Carmichael

Paul Nilon

Brian Horton

Johann Schroder

Peter James

Bruce Watt

John Larsen

## Staff

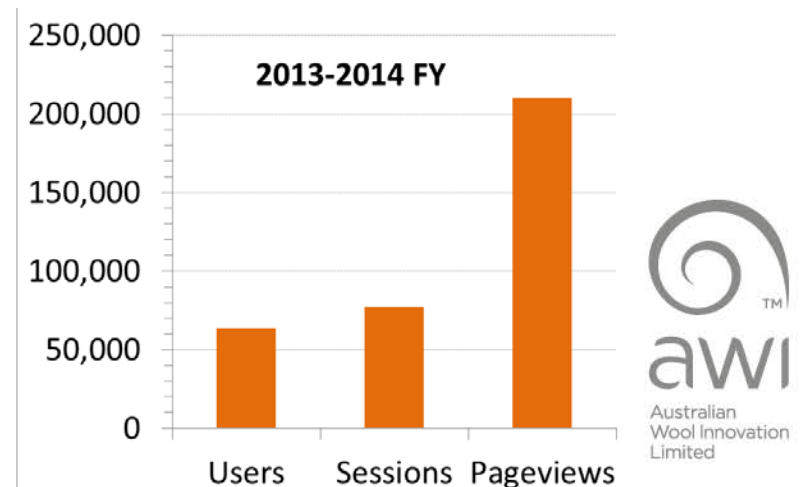
*Executive Officer:* Lewis Kahn

*Operations Manager:* Deb Maxwell



# ParaBoss

- Respected brands
- Strong technical foundation
  - Independent, credible, procedural, evidence-based and closely informed by research and the needs of industry
- Good links with industry
  - Extension to advisors, producers and researchers
  - Pharmaceutical and retailers
  - Commercial focus
- Well-used industry web sites
  - ParaBoss monthly e-newsletter with feature articles
  - Producer training materials



ParaBoss is an industry network



Professional network / Mentoring

# Boss sites designed for users

- Demand driven structure
- Solves current problem
- Provides on-going control programs
- Information resource



# Solving problems

## WormBoss

- Drench Decision Guides
- Regional control programs
- **Search for drenches**
- Professional Service Providers & laboratories

## FlyBoss

- Flystrike risk and optimise treatment time
- Compare management options
- **Search for products**
- Wool residues

## LiceBoss

- Probability of lice
- Long wool treatments benefit/cost
- Treatment methods
- **Search for products**
- Wool residues

simple, practical, effective and easy to implement



# Market extension

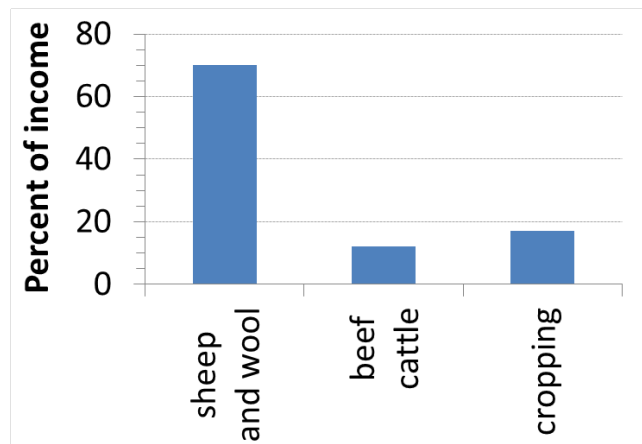
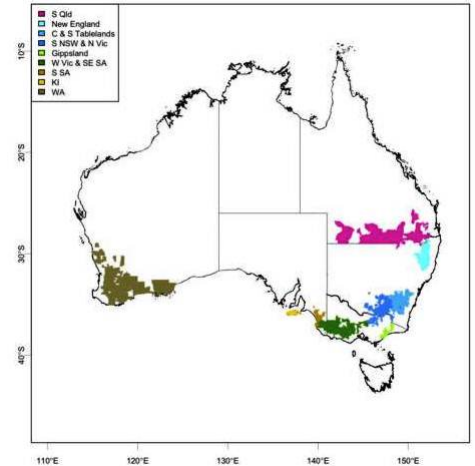
- ParaBoss extension will service advisors (broadest sense), researchers and producers
- The primary role is to support advisors who already work with producers
- Development of industry tools, training materials, educational programs
- Targeted to industry needs





# Benchmarking national sheep parasite control

- Large national surveys completed for 2003 (2292 sheep producers) and 2011 (1019 sheep producers)
- Involved both longitudinal and cross-sectional analyses
- Mean age of producers was 56 years
- Median property size 889 ha (630 – 10,000 ha)
- Income derived from sheep and wool, beef cattle and cropping



# FlyBoss control practices

1. Reduce the risk of flystrike through breeding and management
  2. Treat flystrike outbreaks
- Body strike in 2011 affected 4–5% of ewes and weaners
  - Breech strike affected about 3% of ewes and weaners

# Breeding to reduce susceptibility

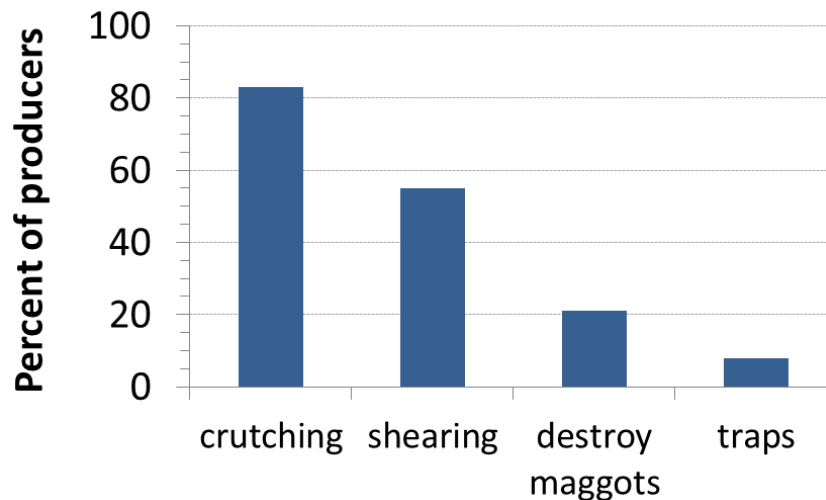
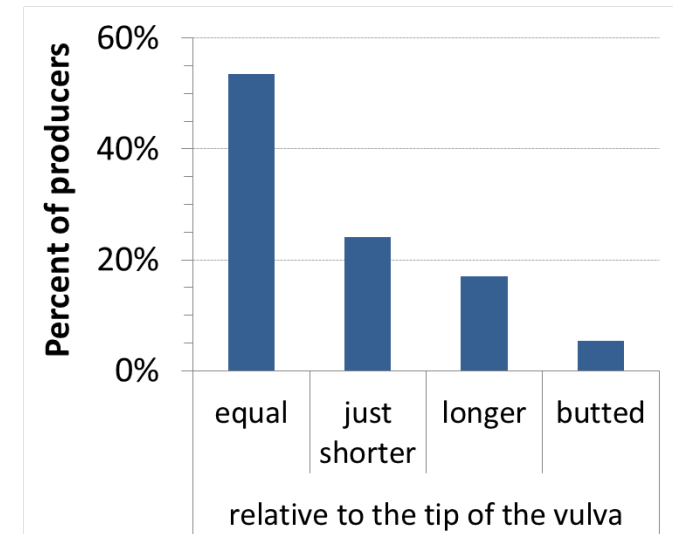
- 45% of producers used visual selection to reduce susceptibility of rams to blowfly strike
  - plain bodied sheep, low breech wrinkle, low fleece rot score and culling sheep that experienced body or breech strike.
- 10% of producers used Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBV) to reduce susceptibility to blowfly strike
  - low coefficient of variation of fibre diameter, low breech wrinkle and low dag score.

# Managing flystrike: breech modification

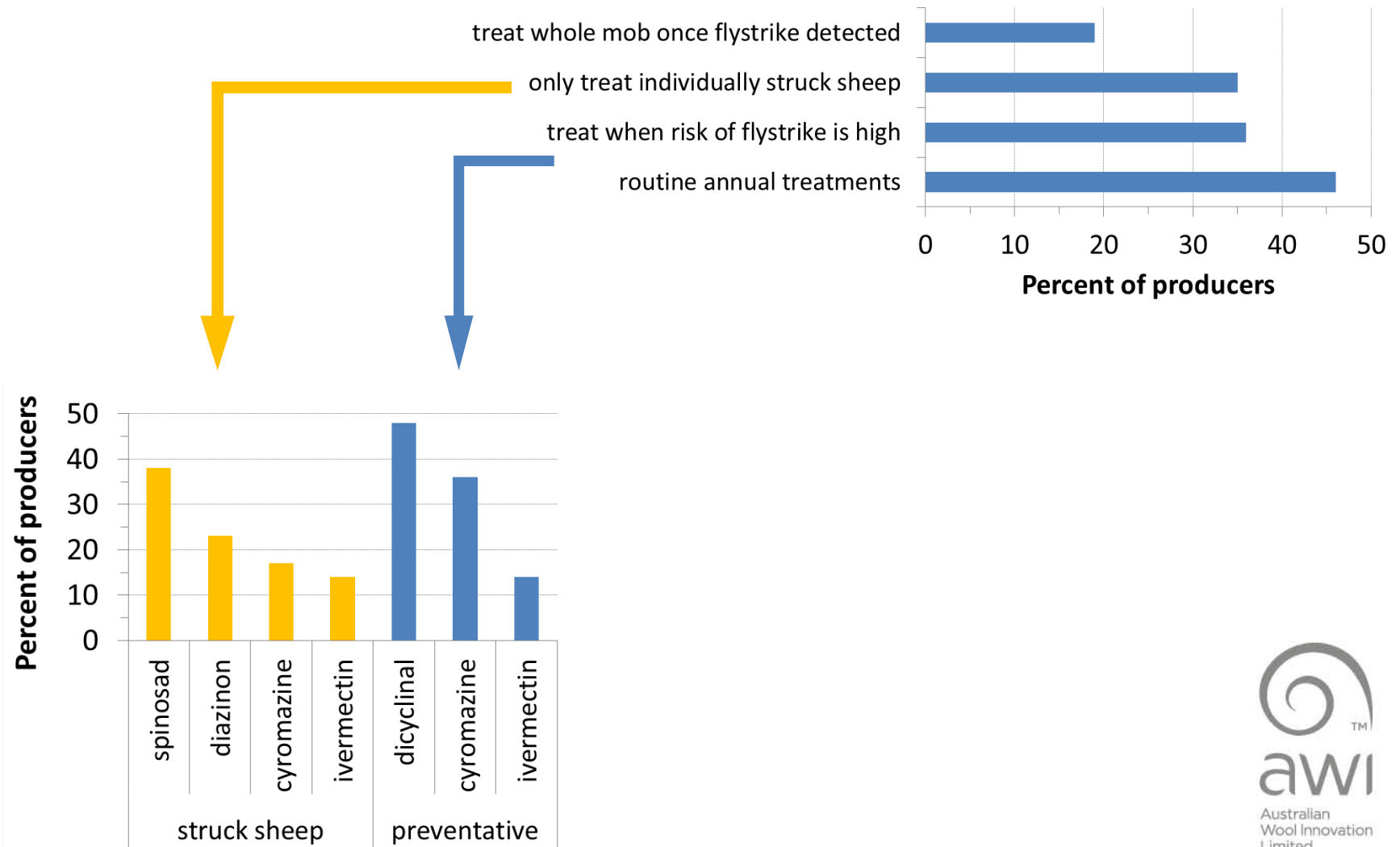
- Mulesing of ewe lambs was undertaken by 48% of producers in 2011
  - range of 28% in the New England to 61% in Western Australia.
- Anti-flystrike clips used by 1.5% of producers
- 60% of producers used pain relief for the lambs where mulesing was conducted
- Contractors conducted just over half of the mulesing operations (56%) and 84% of these carried industry accreditation

# Managing flystrike: tails, crutch & shear

- Length at which lambs' tails are docked
- 77% of producers used an integrated approach using more than one preventative method

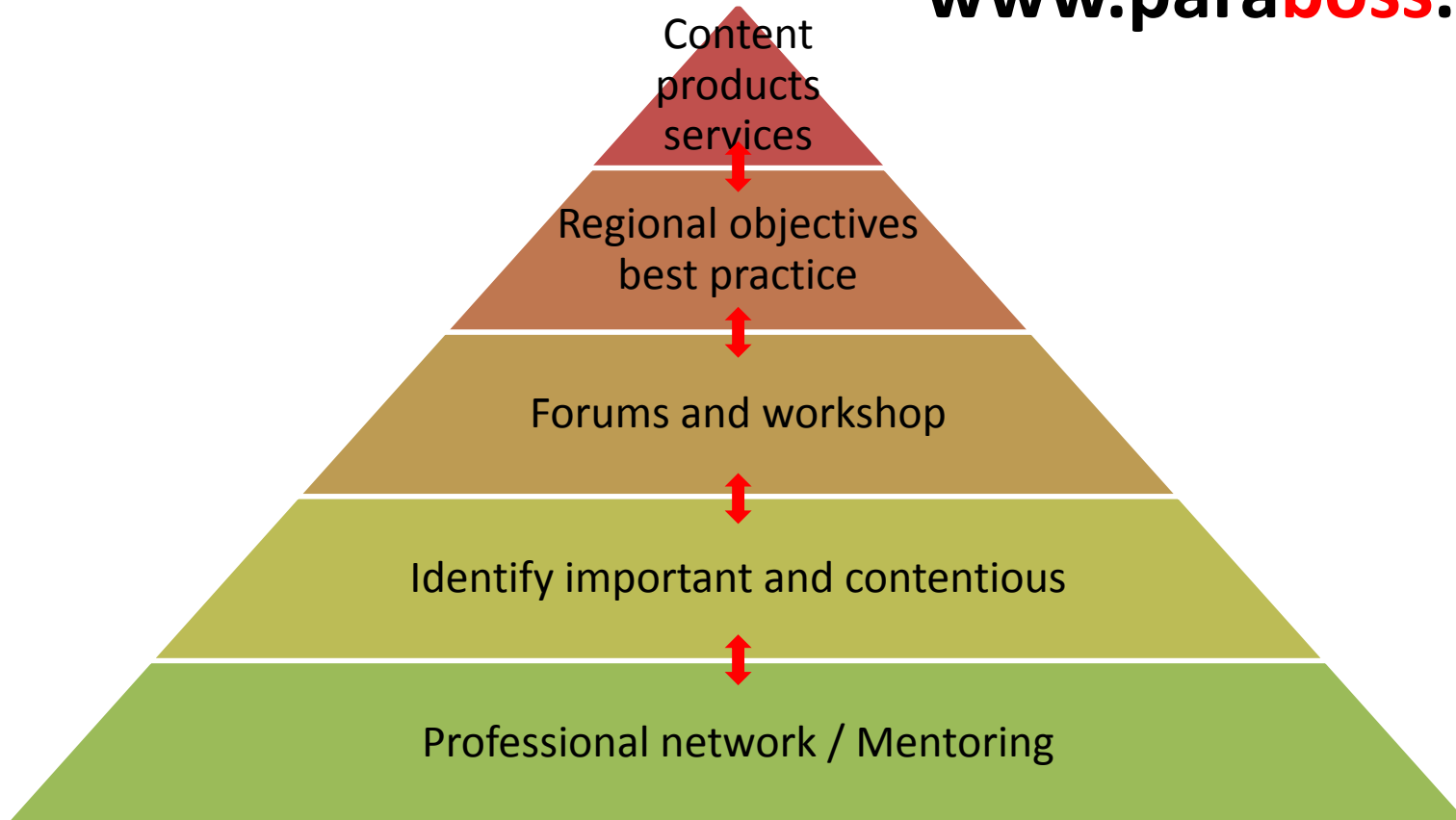


# Managing flystrike: chemical treatments



# ParaBoss is an industry network

[www.paraboss.com.au](http://www.paraboss.com.au)





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Wool Innovation  
Limited

2008