



Recommendation Guide for Sheep

Five important points

1. Average Daily Gain (ADG), lactation and wool growth all decrease as WEC increases.
2. Mortality risk increases as WEC increases, particularly with barber's pole worm.
3. Species of worms have different impact on sheep, but effect on ADG is consistent
4. Plan WEC tests 7-10d before lamb-marking, weaning, crutching, vaccinations, shearing or joining. Treatments can then be given at the time of these events or other musters.
5. Consider the farm as a whole and not just individual mobs of sheep, especially when preparing low-risk lambing or weaning paddocks.

Interpret Worm Egg Counts (WECs) and Worm ID tests – follow the steps				
A	WEC - Categorise Strongyle WECs into low, medium, high & very high risk. <i>Nematodirus</i> WEC is counted separately- impact is similar to strongyle WEC.			
	Risk	Sheep (eggs per gram)	Decreased ADG (%)	Decreased wool growth /lactation
	Low	50-150	7%	10%/22%
	Medium	150-300	10%	
	High	300-1,000	15%	
Very high	>1,000	20%+		
B	Worm ID tests provide details of the Strongyle worms present <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk of ewe mortality was 3.76x higher if they had WEC of 1,200epg compared to 600 epg 2. Barber's pole worm (BPW) over 60% -> increase the WECs in table by 50-75% 3. Black scour worms and brown stomach worms can cause scours and affect appetite with decreased ADG even at low WEC 			
C	Consider how the SNAPP features will impact WEC categories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Season</u>- rain and warm weather (>20°C) will allow rapid development of larvae. Mild conditions (<15°C) will allow longer survival of eggs and larvae, while frosts and cold weather will kill barber's pole worm eggs, but larvae survive. Hot dry weather will kill worm eggs and larvae. 2. <u>Nutrition</u> – sheep on good feed (>1,500 kg/DM/ha) with high palatability and protein will have some resilience against worms. Sheep on low energy or protein ration or pastures with low palatability have high susceptibility. 3. <u>Animal</u>- look at body condition score and clinical signs including pale gum or eye colour, dags and scours. Most susceptible animals are: lambs, pregnant and lactating ewes, rams. Most resilient animals are: wethers, dry or early pregnant ewes. Activity (walking, eating) decreases with higher WECs. 4. <u>Paddock</u>- permanent pastures with low sward & broad-leaf plants have highest larval contamination. Lower survival of larvae with pasture rotation (following cattle or dry sheep), spelling, cropping or haymaking, high % upright plants. 5. <u>Previous</u> tests- WEC for this mob, resistance test on this farm 			

❖ References: a) Mavrot (2015) Parasites & Vectors, b) Kelly (2014) AVJ

Consult **WormBoss.com.au** for information about sheep parasites and treatment options