



FLOCK TALK

13 25 23 leadingsheep.com.au



Strike fly risk this summer

QUEENSLAND sheep and wool producers are being encouraged to keep flystrike top of mind as La Nina weather conditions persist across much of the state.

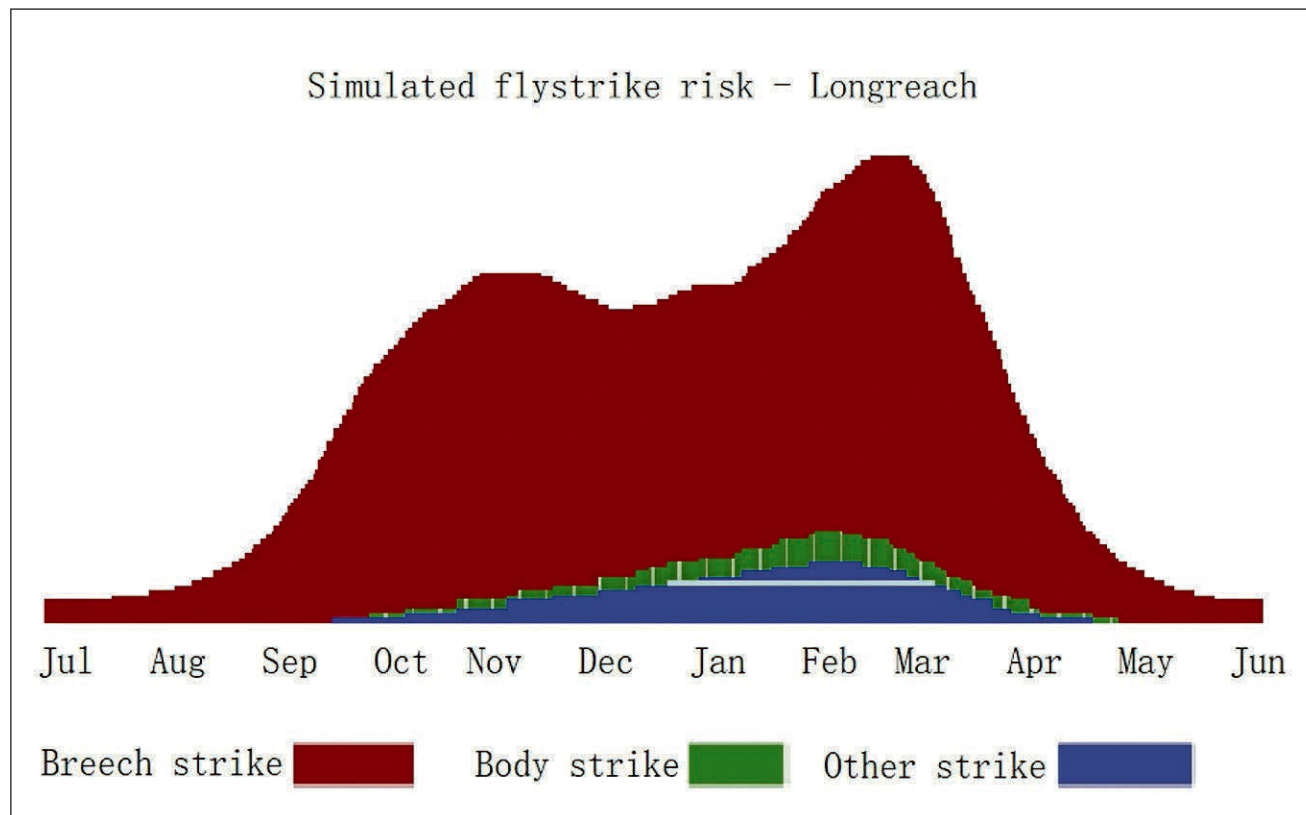
Regular and consistent rainfall that keeps the skin moist for more than two days and temperatures between 17°C and 36°C favour the proliferation of blowfly populations.

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) extension officer Millie Nicholls said that with warm, wet conditions forecast for coming months, the risk of flystrike continued to be elevated.

"Now is the time to review your flystrike mitigation plan and to assess strategies and chemical options, considering recent usage records and ensuring you have access to those chemicals if the need arises," she said.

"Development and use of an integrated flystrike management program helps you identify well-timed, strategic activities that minimise the need for treatment.

"Tools like Flystrike Risk Simulator - which can be found under Flystrike Quick



A graph showing historical flystrike risk in the Longreach area using Flystrike Quick Tools Risk Simulator. Picture Paraboss

Tools on flyboss.com.au - can assess the effectiveness of your current flystrike management practice."

Ms Nicholls said modifying the timing of shearing or crutching and chemical

treatment by a couple of weeks could have significant implications to the protection of your flock in high-risk periods.

She said strategic shearing and crutching, correct tail

length, paddock selection, worm management to reduce scouring, applying preventative chemicals and undertaking activities to reduce fly populations could all help to prevent flystrike.

"Breeding or selecting for low breech and body wrinkle (score 1-2), or removing high-risk sheep from the flock can be considered for longer-term protection from flystrike," she said.

"Sheep previously affected by flystrike or with high wrinkle score are considered particularly high risk.

"It is worthwhile identifying sheep that have been struck.

"These can be culled.

"Monitoring stock is vital for early detection, particularly if your sheep have high susceptibility and blowflies are present."

Blowflies can be identified by fly traps and checking sheep camps or watering points for activity.

Costing the industry an estimated \$227.4 million in losses each year, the aim is to detect strike before it advances to the systemic stage.

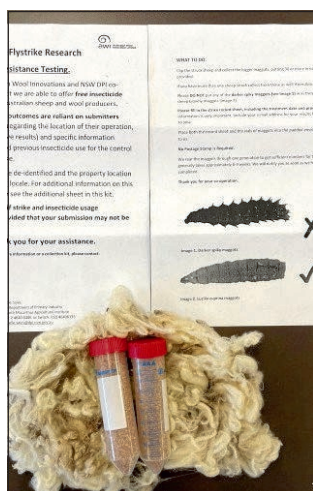
Prevention, monitoring and treatment measures are all important.

But prevention really is key to minimise costs and production losses and maintain animal health.

Leading Sheep is a collaborative partnership between DAF (Queensland) and Australian Wool Innovation and is supported by AgForce in Queensland.

More information: leadingsheep.com.au

CHEMICAL CONUNDRUMS EXPLORED WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING FLYSTRIKE



IF YOU are noticing flystruck sheep, the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) wants to hear from you - especially if there is strike despite the use of registered chemicals.

NSW DPI, in collaboration with Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), is conducting a two-year research project across Australia to investigate blowfly resistance to flystrike chemicals. NSW DPI researcher

Narelle Sales said a similar project conducted between 2018 and 2020 found varying levels of resistance in every submission from NSW.

The current project aims to improve understanding of the scope and level of blowfly resistance knowledge, particularly in Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria.

Ms Sales said researchers were keen to receive submissions from Queens-

land, as warmer areas may have a greater resistance problem if insecticides have been used either more intensively or more frequently due to longer flystrike seasons.

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries extension officer Millie Nicholls said knowing the level of chemical resistance in blowfly populations on your property would help you select the best chemicals - ultimately saving you

time and money.

"This is a brilliant opportunity for producers to participate in research, at no cost, with direct implications for on-farm decision-making in the selection of chemicals you use for flystrike management," she said.

It is very easy to be involved. Pick up a collection kit from Charleville or Longreach DAF offices or contact Ms Sales at narelle.sales@dpi.nsw.gov.au

FLYSTRIKE

To do list

- Check your historical flystrike risk using Flystrike Quick Tools at flyboss.com.au
- Use the simulator to compare different management strategies/timing and look up products
- Get a collection kit and submit some maggots to find out your resistance profile.