



BIOSECURITY OF THE OVINE PERSUASION

Louise Pearce (LBN) and Tim Biffin (LLS)





Sheep Lice – the background

- Biology:
 - ask me, or check Liceboss.com
- Sources:
 - bought in
 - pushed through the fence
 - environmental contamination is less common
 - 64 weeks for spread to occur through a “stock proof” mesh fence (Cleland *et al.*, 1989)
 - Don’t discount transmission from personnel, trucks, equipment etc
- Finding lice:
 - part wool on the sides
 - then the back
 - (under the neck if shorn)

Treating sheep for lice – the costs, the benefits?

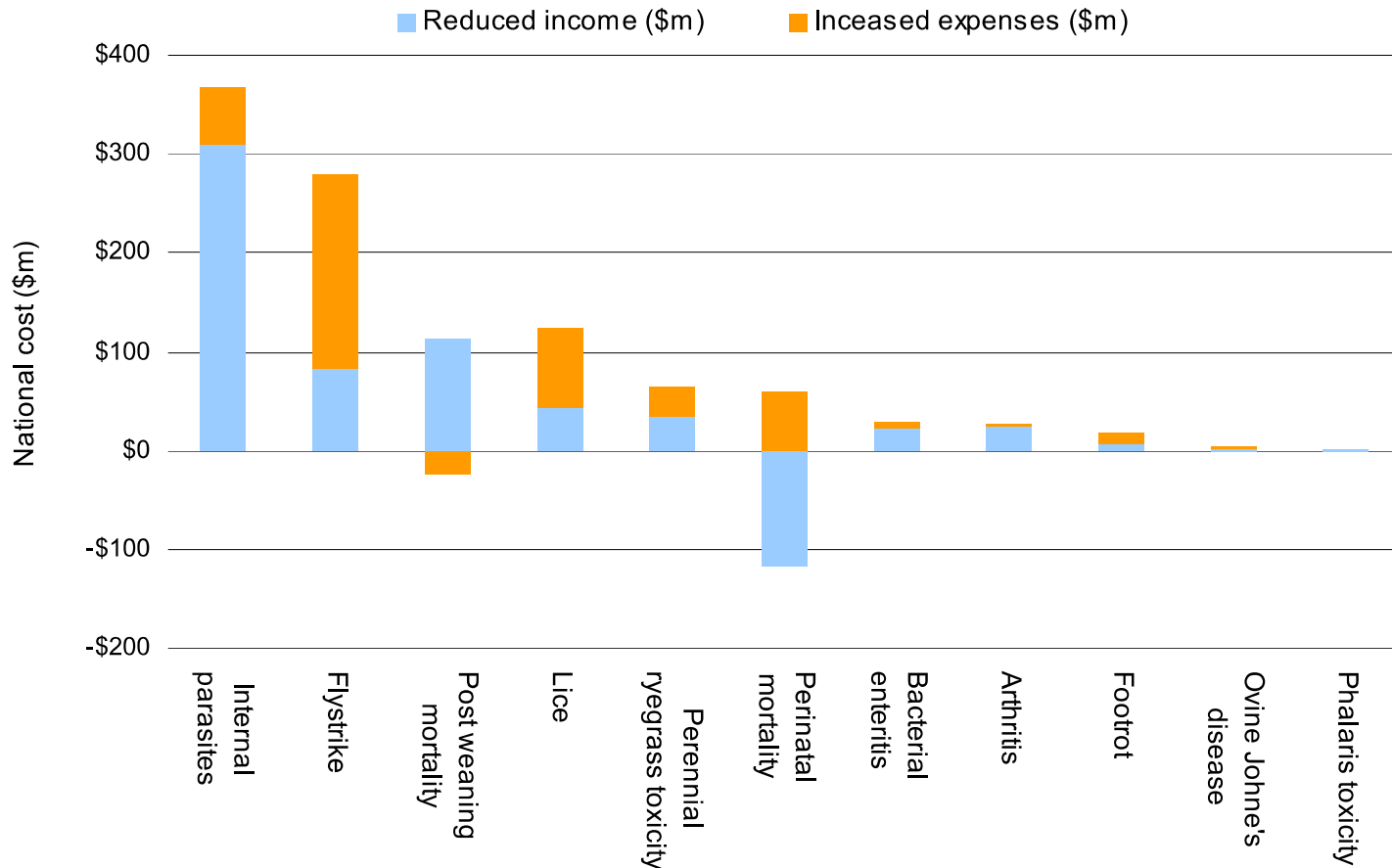


Figure 5 National cost of diseases to the sheep industry

Sackett et al (2006).

Treating sheep for lice – the costs, the benefits?

Wool discounts:

- 18 μm wool @ 1200 c/kg \$3.60–\$9.60 per head
- 20 μm wool @ 1100 c/kg \$3.30–\$8.80 per head
- 22 μm wool @ 1050 c/kg \$3.15–\$8.40 per head
- 24 μm wool @ 950 c/kg \$2.85–\$7.60 per head

(James, P. 2013)

–but also consider:

cotted wool, tensile strength, disocLOURation, cockle, flystrike

Treatment costs:

- Shearing ~\$4 per head
- Cage Dip “\$1110 per 1000 head” (private local Co.)
- Jetting or BL \$1.5 - \$2.5 per head

More broadly: Biosecurity – the costs, the benefits?

Biosecurity cost:

- Checking an NVD + requesting NSHS priceless
- Examining stock prior to arrival priceless
- Quarantine and monitoring priceless
- Buying from a reputable source variable
 (or risk assessment)
- \$4000 fence / 1000 ewes \$4 per head
- Policy for stray stock priceless

Farm Biosecurity - essentials

- Stock movements
 - Sheep Health Statement
 - Vendor Declaration
 - Quarantine all new stock for 6 months
- Fencing
 - Maintain good boundary fences
 - Agreement for strays
- Non-sheep transmission
 - Moccasins
 - In wool on floors/pens



Questions? Resources...

Liceboss Treatment Guide

<http://www.liceboss.com.au/tools/treatment-guide.php>

Farm Biosecurity

<http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/>



References...

References

- Cleland, P.C., Dobson, K.J. and Meade, R.J. (1989). Rate of spread of sheep lice (*Damalina ovis*) and their effects on wool quality. *Australian Veterinary Journal* 66, 298-299.
- www.liceboss.com.au
- Sackett, D., Holmes, P., Abbott, K., Jephcott, S. and Barber, M. (2006). Assessing the economic cost of endemic disease on the profitability of Australian beef cattle and sheep producers. Project AHW.087 Report, Meat and Livestock Australia, North Sydney, 119 pp.
- NSW Farmers Industrial Association (2010). Pastoral Award 2010 – Shearing Operations & Wool Classers, NSW Farmers.
- www.woolproducers.com.au