

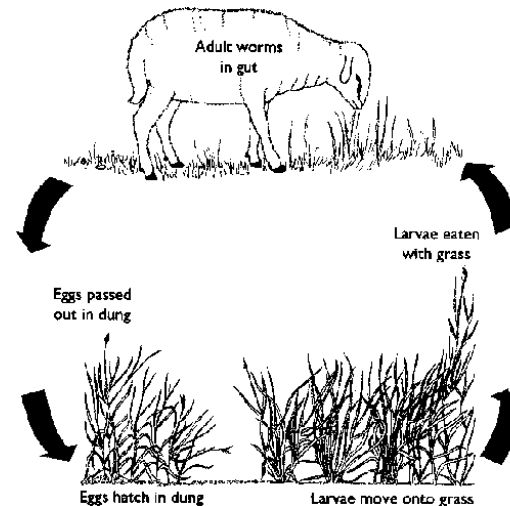
Lifting the Limits Optimising Worm Control in Prime Lamb flocks

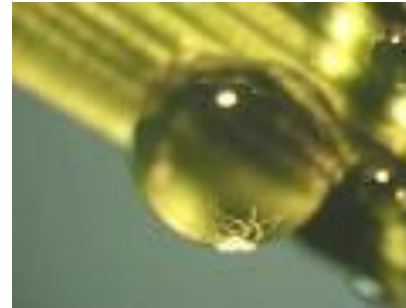
Assoc. Prof. Bruce Allworth
Fred Morley Unit
School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences



Outline

- Aim
- National Program
- Trial design
- Results to date
- Best Practice
- Key messages





Aims

To determine “Best Practice” worm control for Prime Lamb flocks in the south western NSW

- Minimise production losses

- Consider drench costs

- Look at sustainability- eg Drench Resistance

NB Aim not to eliminate worms, but to get

OPTIMAL ECONOMIC WORM CONTROL

National Three Year Program

- New England - UNE- lead agency - 6 farms
- Central Tablelands - LHPA (LLS) - 4 farms
- South Western NSW- FMC - 4 farms
- Victoria - Mackinnon (Melb) - 4 farms

Half of farms Lifting the Limits farms (LTL)

Half of farms Typical farms (TYP)

Trial design



Each mob,

60 twin bearing ewes capsules plus Zolvix primer

60 twin bearing ewes LTL or TYP treatments

- Wt, CS, FEC every two months
- FW, micron (?), dag score
- Lambing %, scanning data



Lambs tagged, weighed at marking

- half suppressively drenched, weighed at sale

Trial Design (cont)

Each farm 2 mobs (240 ewes)
(each mob 60 Capsuled ewes,
 60 LTL/TYP ewes)

- Yr 1 2 Farms (2 LTL)
- Yr 2 4 Farms (2 LTL,2 TYP)
- Yr 3 4 Farms (2 LTL,2 TYP)



Analysis



Compare DIFFERENCE between Capsule group and LTL with DIFFERENCE between Capsule group and TYP group

Capsules are used as POSITIVE control (ie assume no / very little worms)

NOT suggesting capsules are best- scientific tool
Included NIL treatment in one group in Yr 1

Best Practice – What is it?

Double summer drenching – Anderson- for all
ewe and lamb merino flock- susceptible weaners
4-10 months

Prime lamb flocks – lamb earlier on average
-Few “weaners” in system, off by winter
challenge

Epidemiology – late spring /autumn contamination
➔ WINTER CHALLENGE

WHAT WILL BE GRAZING HERE IN WINTER??

Best Practice – What is it? (cont)

Prime lamb flock

- Periparturient rise in FEC
- Maximum /high growth of lambs
- Lambs sold off mothers or by late autumn ?
- Dry or lambing ewes over winter
- Often stubbles



LTL farm treatments

Pre-lamb drench

Based on faecal egg counts

No drenches to lambs

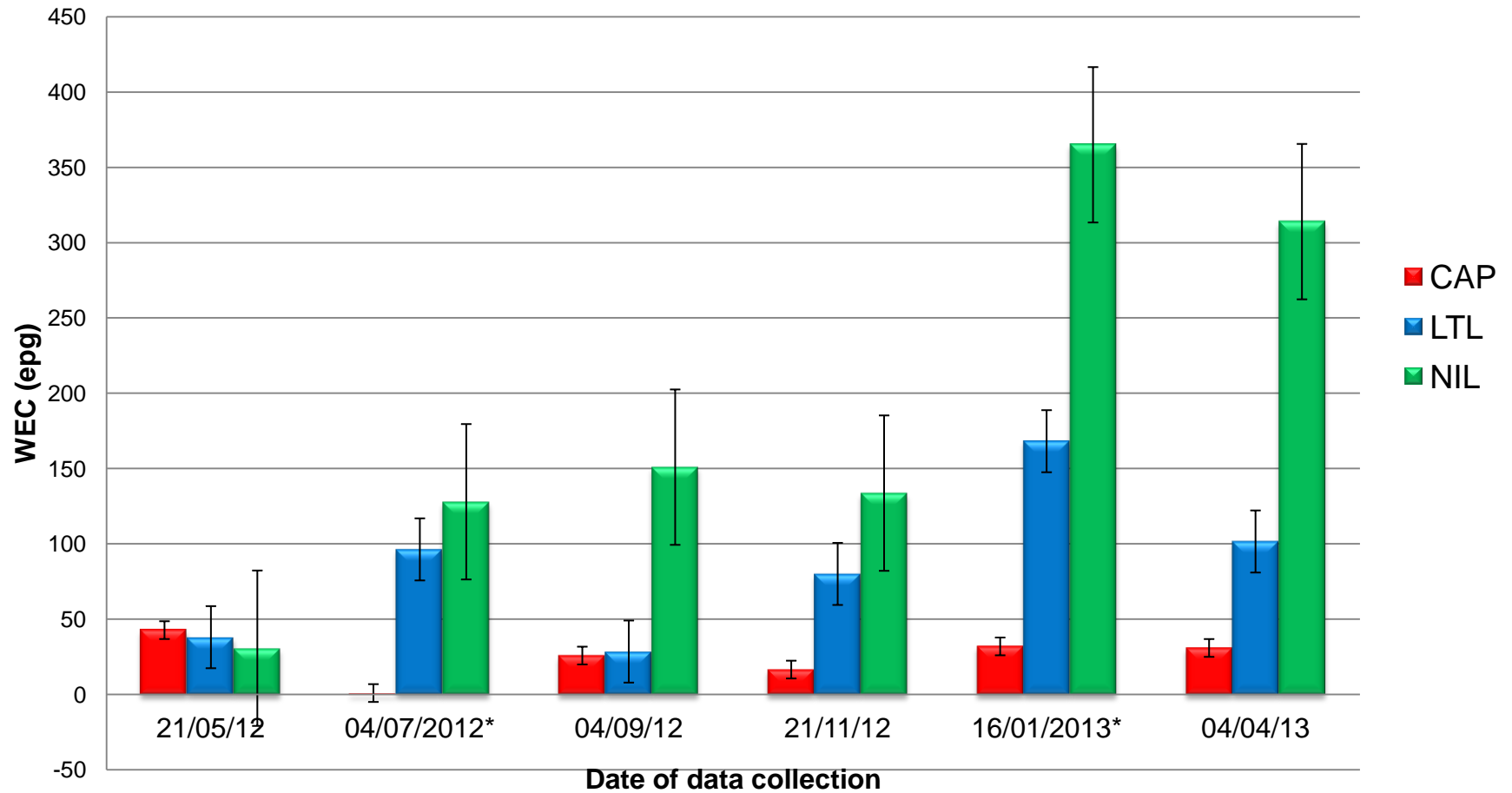
Usually single summer drench

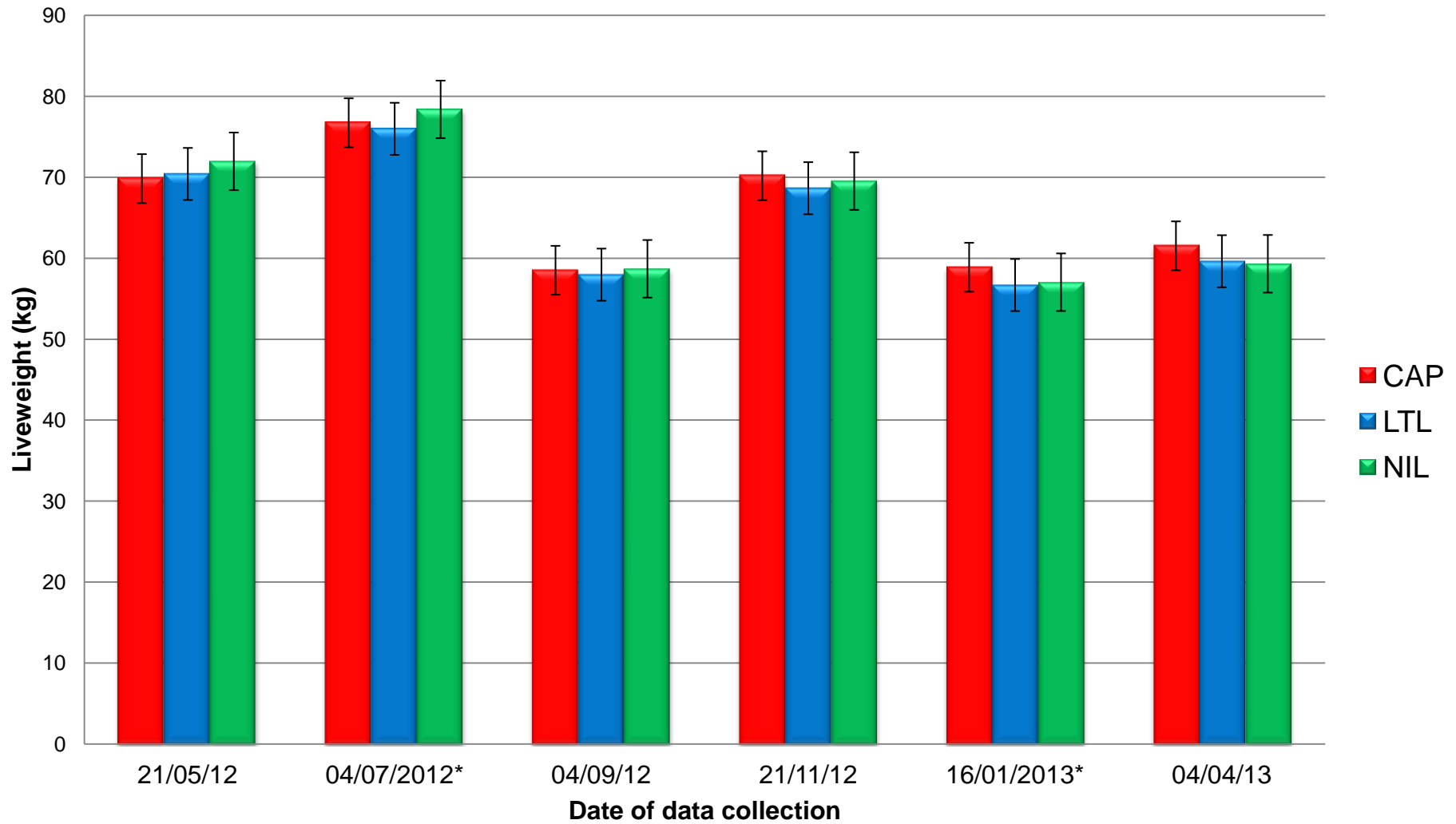


Results to date

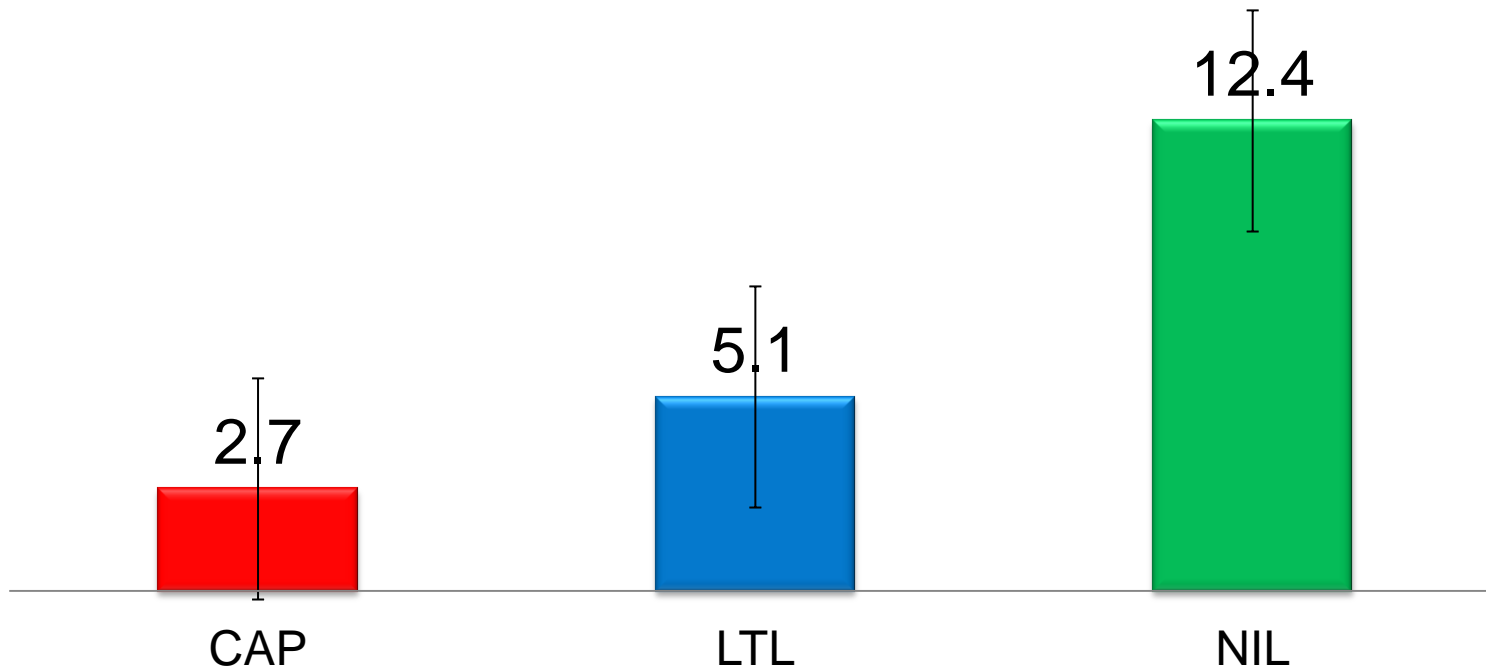
- Too early for proper analysis
- Lamb weights generally not improved by either
 - ewe treatment or
 - suppressive lamb Tx
- Nil treatment interesting
- Results variable
- Worm levels low in Years 1 and 2

FEC data Yr 1 NSW2

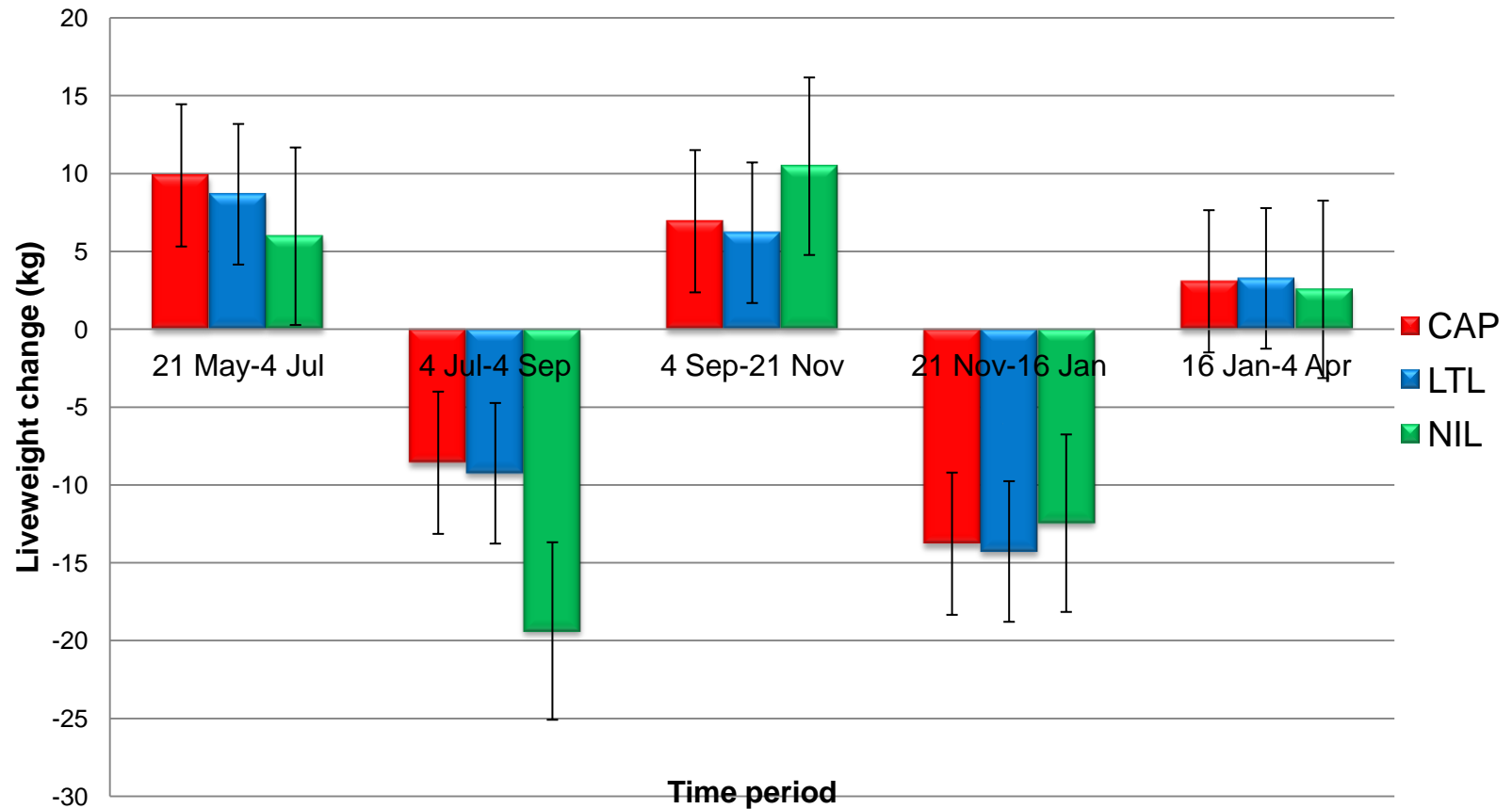




Mean wt loss NSW2



Weight changes



Year 2

		EWES		LAMBS	
		CAP-TYP/LTL		Supp-TYP/LTL	
	Farm	Mob1	Mob 2	Mob1	Mob2
LTL	NSWSW1	1.8	4.1	-0.3	-0.1
TYP	NSWSW3	0.7	4.6	-0.1	
LTL	NSWSW4	-0.3	0.4	-2.0	0.1
TYP	NSWSW5	3.4	-1.5	0.7	0.8

Key messages

- Think about why you are drenching
 - will pasture be grazed over winter
 - Drenching onto stubbles?
- Worms can be costly
- **Monitor – regular FECs**
- Know your drench resistance status
- Expensive options may not be the best

