Help us to help you. Australian sheep producers now have the opportunity to influence the way the industry manages parasites such as worms, flies and lice. Simply complete the survey (available at www.wool.com/paraboss) to help researchers address the issues that are currently of greatest importance to you.

Led by a team of researchers from the University of New England, the AWI-funded survey assesses the parasite control measures currently being undertaken by sheep producers across Australia, focusing on worm, liver fluke, blowfly and lice control.

All sheep producers with 100 or more sheep are invited to participate in the survey.

AWI General Manager for Research Dr Jane Littlejohn emphasises the survey results will enable the sheep and wool industry to identify the important parasite management issues impacting producers.

"The results will also be used to update regional benchmarks for parasite control," Dr Littlejohn explained. "The resulting benchmarks will be available to sheep producers to then compare their management practices and, if necessary, make changes to their enterprises."

Internal and external parasites combined comprise the major disease problem of Australian sheep, costing the industry an estimated $715 million per year.

Queensland sheep producer and veterinarian Dr Noel O’Dempsey, who runs fine wool sheep and prime lambs at ‘Linallie’ in the Traprock country between Texas and Inglewood, is on the Steering Committee for the project and encourages all sheep producers to complete the survey.

"This is a very important survey for producers to complete and it will ultimately help them increase their own business’s productivity and profitability," he said.

"By allowing industry to benchmark current parasite control strategies and identify what changes have occurred since the previous survey in 2011, the results will enable producers to refine their on-farm parasite control, be it for worms, flies or lice."

"The survey is available to complete right now. I encourage all producers to take the time to complete it as accurately as possible."

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

All Australian sheep producers with 100 or more sheep are invited to complete the new survey. The survey closes on 9 April, so please complete it soon.

The survey is being conducted online. This means there is no limit to the number of participants and a broad range of Australian sheep producers can be represented in the survey. There are three ways to access the survey:

1. Online via the link on the AWI website at www.wool.com/paraboss. The survey is also available via the ParaBoss websites.
2. Via a link provided in an email sent to sheep producers.
3. Although the survey will be available online, producers who prefer to complete a paper version of the survey can still do so by requesting a version from the researchers: Dr Alison Colvin (alison.colvin@une.edu.au) or Prof Stephen Walkden-Brown (swalkden@une.edu.au) of the University of New England. Phone (02) 6773 5152.

The survey should take about 30 minutes to complete. Any responses to the survey will remain confidential and researchers will not collect any identifying data. We thank participants in advance for taking the time to help improve our efforts to control parasites in sheep.

MORE INFORMATION

www.wool.com/paraboss