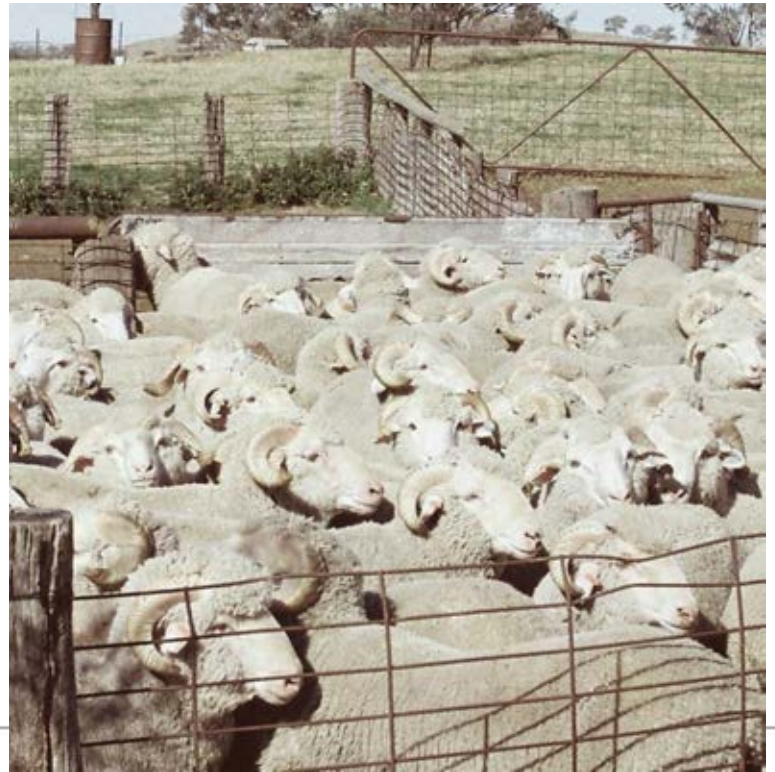
Managing Unmulesed Merinos

Summary of Extension Activities & Grower Case Studies

Lu Hogan - Industry Training, Sheep CRC



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Introduction

1. Flystrike Management Workshops
2. Flyboss Tools
3. FlyBoss website
4. Communications

Importance of grower case studies

Key messages from growers

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Integrated Approach

Managing flystrike risk - requires an integrated approach

1. Understand the effect of long term climate and short term weather on risk in your environment
2. Breed sheep that have a lower risk profile
3. Use management to further reduce risk and losses
   - shearing and crutching times
   - chemical applications
   - breech modification if necessary
4. Use FlyBoss tools to plan and develop a strategy

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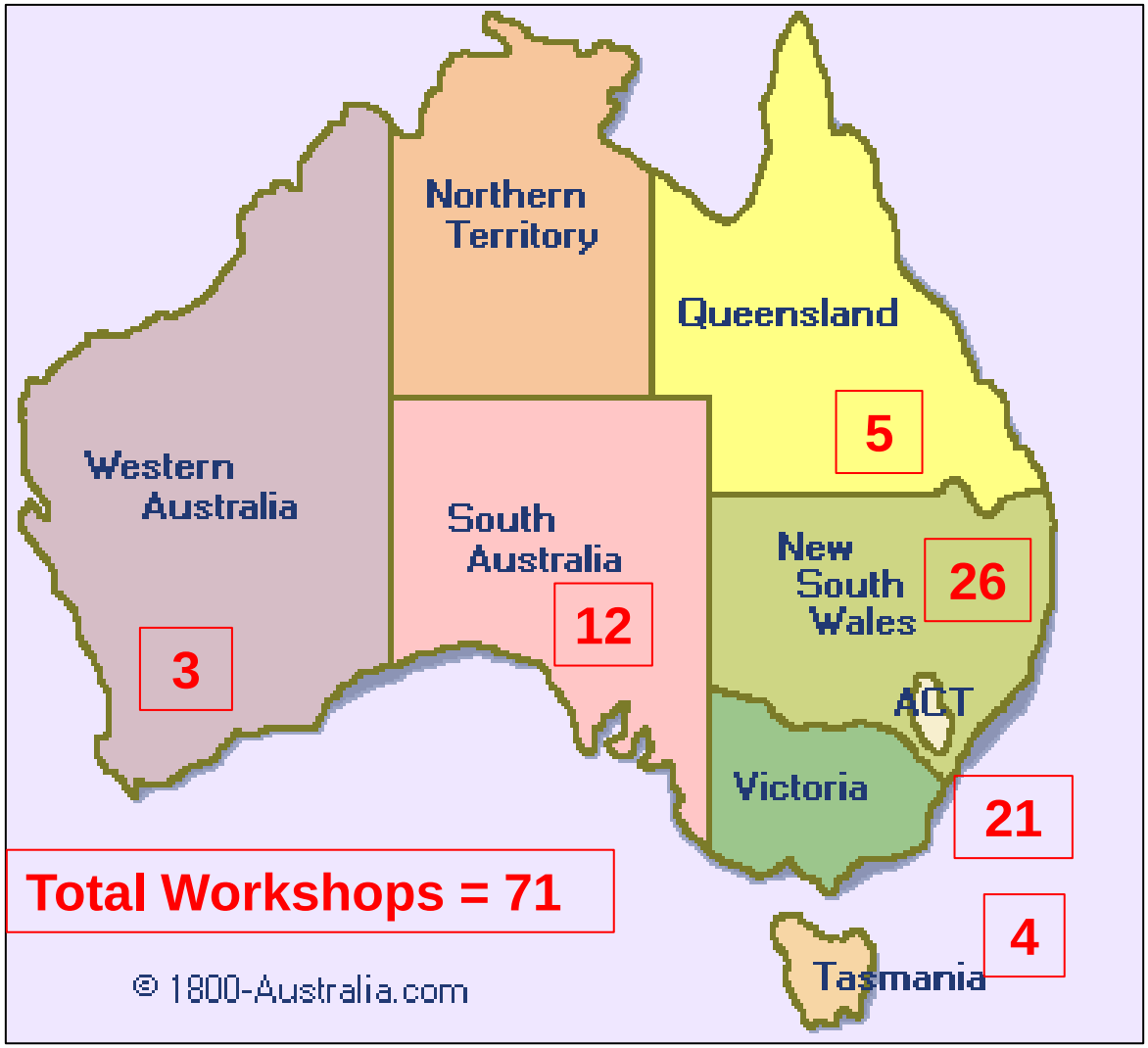
Workshops completed – Feb 2009 – May 2012

1,422 people attended

8,500 hours of training



FlyBoss – Workshop Case Studies

- FlyBoss CD version
- Host case study – used for workshop
- Integrated into workshop
- Used to illustrate the principles covered in the workshop
- Evaluate current management
- Scenarios for changing management practices

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FlyBoss – Boxleigh Park, Wellington

Management	Date
Joining	Late Feb/March
Lambing	Late July/August
Marking	Early September
Main shearing	October
Lamb shearing	January
Crutching	Late April
Scanning	Late May
Body wrinkle	Score 3
Breech cover (mulesed)	Score 3
Dag	Score 1

Location : Wellington

Check Flystrike Risk

File Edit View Help

Property | Scores | Fleece | Chemicals

Property Location

New South Wales

Wellington (Agrowplow)

Type of Analysis

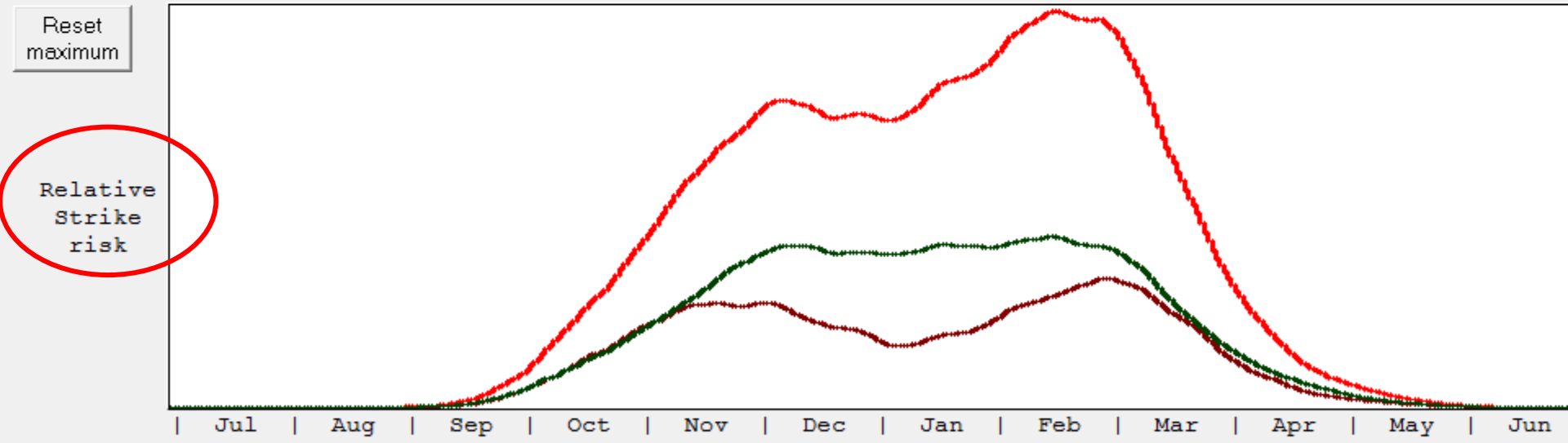
Single management system

Graph Display

- [x] Total strike
- [x] Body Strike
- [x] Breech Strike
- [ ] Other Strike

Relative risk of flystrike at different times of the year

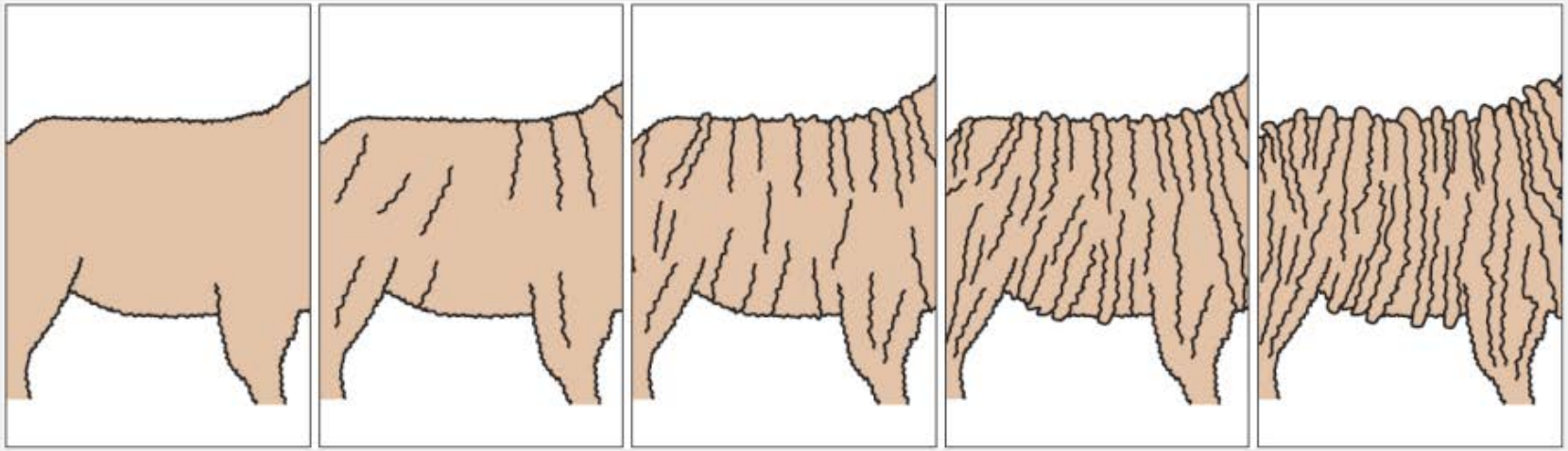
Reset maximum



Wrinkle Scores

Instructions | Adult Body Wrinkle | Adult Neck Wrinkle | Lamb Breech Wrinkle

Click on a picture, or between pictures, to indicate your adult flock body wrinkle score



Score 1
Plain-bodied animal with no body wrinkle.

Score 2
Plan body type with a few small wrinkles over the shoulders and hip region.

Score 3
Slight wrinkling over the length of the body.

Score 4
Heavy wrinkling over the entire body.

Score 5
Extensive wrinkling and heavy folds of skin over the entire body.

No score available

Body wrinkle score 3.0

✘ Cancel | Clear all Wrinkle scores | ✔ OK

Check Flystrike Risk

File Edit View Help

Property | Scores | Fleece | Chemicals

Management System One

- [ ] Shorn 28/07/2011
- [ ] Crutch 1 28/07/2011
- [ ] Crutch 2 28/07/2011

Not mulesed

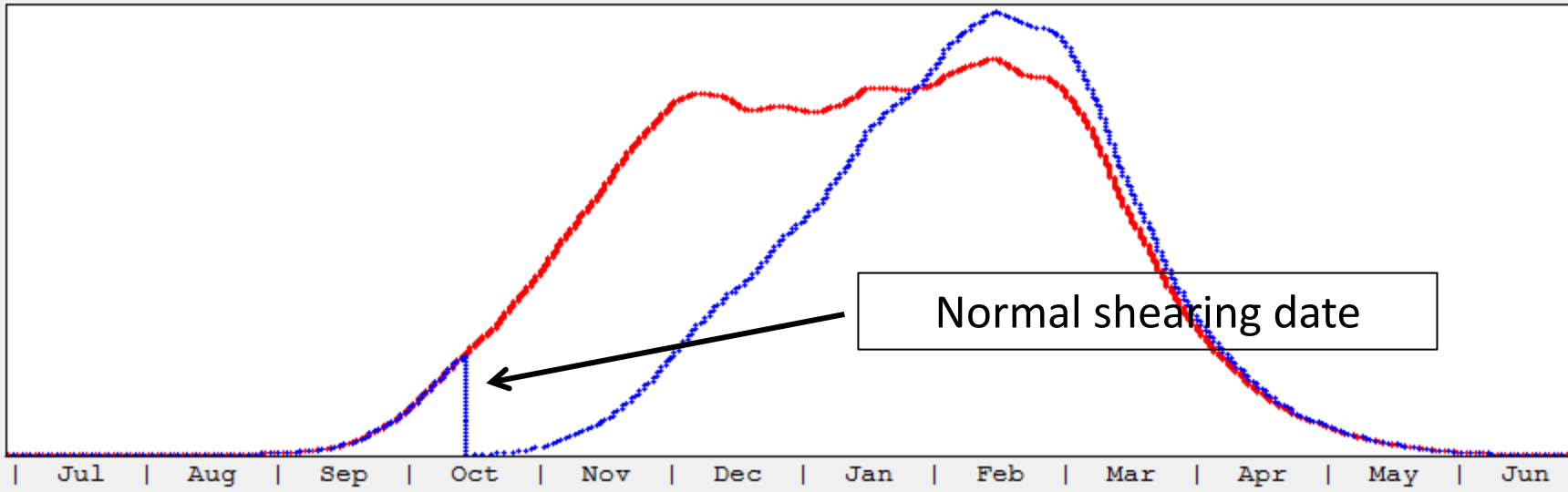
Management System Two

- [x] Shorn 17/10/2011
- [ ] Crutch 1 25/04/2011
- [ ] Crutch 2 28/07/2011

Not mulesed

Relative risk of flystrike at different times of the year

Reset maximum



Check Flystrike Risk

File Edit View Help

Property | Scores | Fleece | Chemicals

Management System One

- [ ] Shorn 28/07/2011
- [ ] Crutch 1 28/07/2011
- [ ] Crutch 2 28/07/2011

Not mulesed

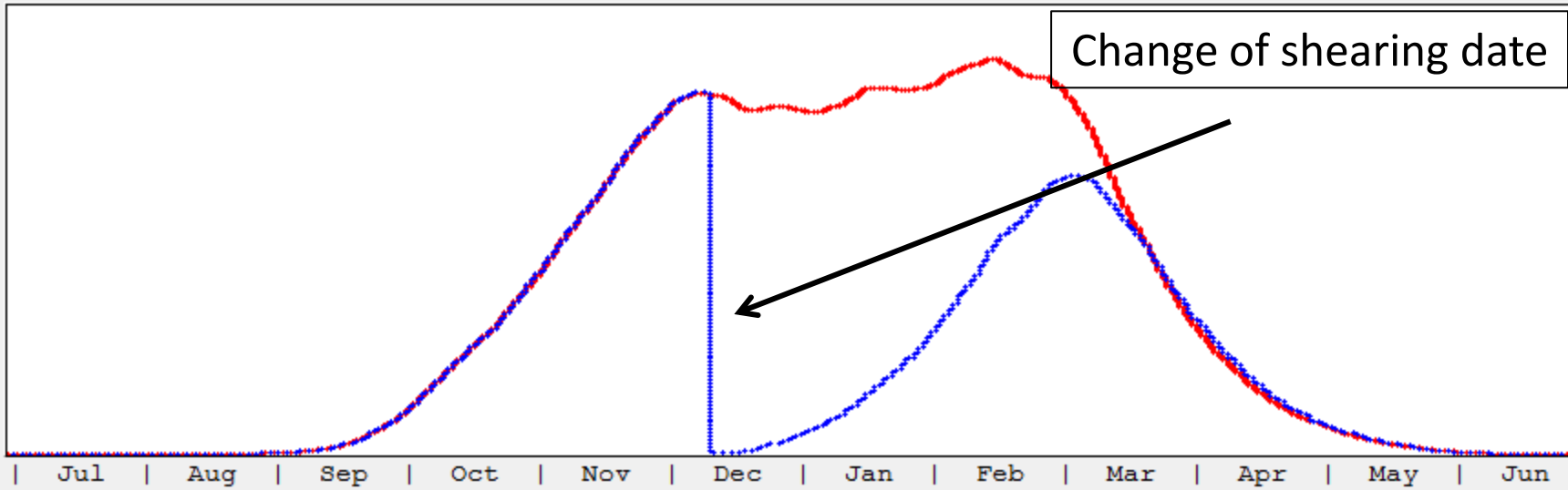
Management System Two

- [x] Shorn 12/12/2011
- [ ] Crutch 1 25/04/2011
- [ ] Crutch 2 28/07/2011

Not mulesed

Relative risk of flystrike at different times of the year

Reset maximum



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Management System Two

- [x] Shorn 17/10/2011
- [x] Crutch 1 25/04/2011
- [ ] Crutch 2 28/07/2011

Not mulesed

Relative risk of flystrike at different times of the year

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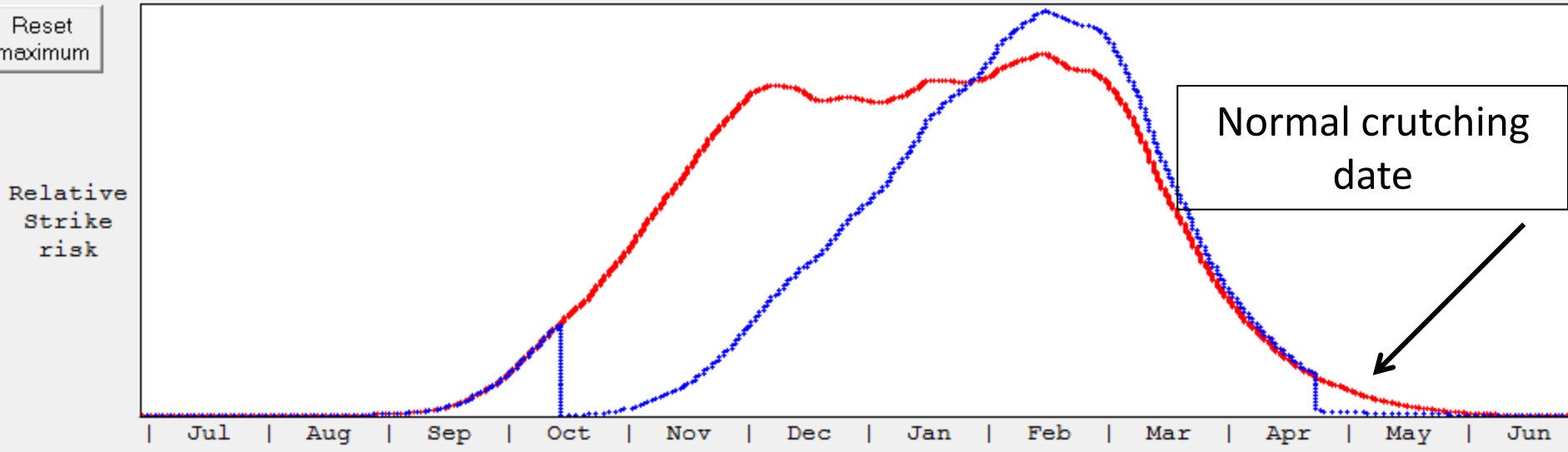


Check Flystrike Risk

File Edit View Help

Property | Scores | Fleece | Chemicals

Management System One

- [ ] Shorn 28/07/2011
- [ ] Crutch 1 28/07/2011
- [ ] Crutch 2 28/07/2011

Not mulesed

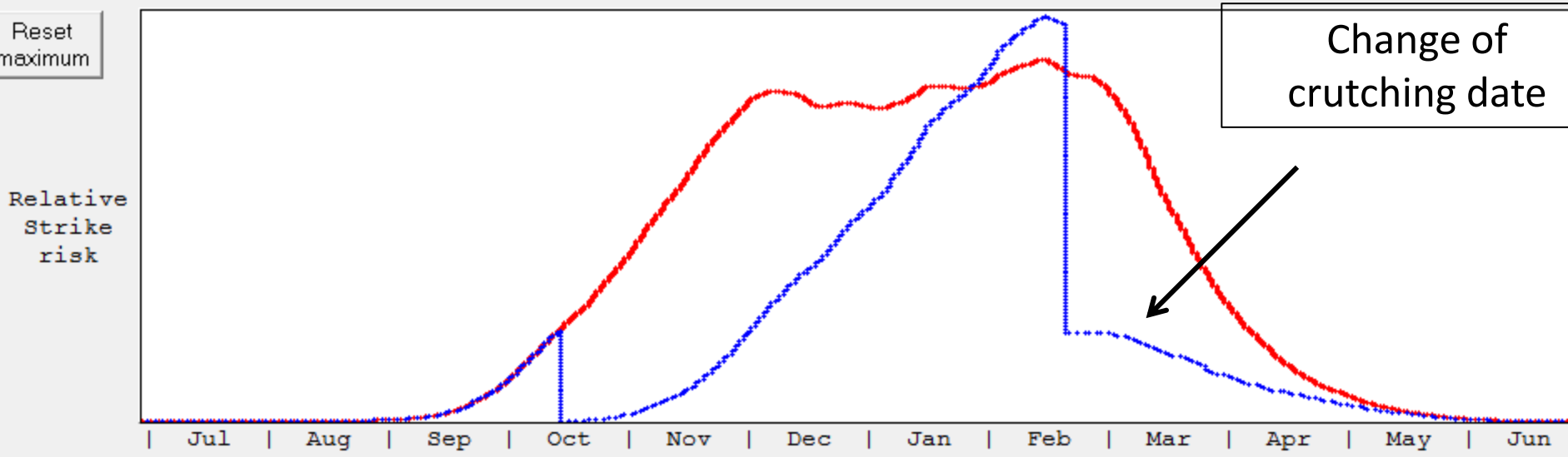
Management System Two

- [x] Shorn 17/10/2011
- [x] Crutch 1 21/02/2011
- [ ] Crutch 2 28/07/2011

Not mulesed

Relative risk of flystrike at different times of the year

Reset maximum



Check Flystrike Risk

File Edit View Help

Property | Scores | Fleece | Chemicals

Management System One

- [x] Shorn 17/10/2011
- [x] Crutch 1 21/02/2011
- [ ] Crutch 2 28/07/2011

Not mulesed

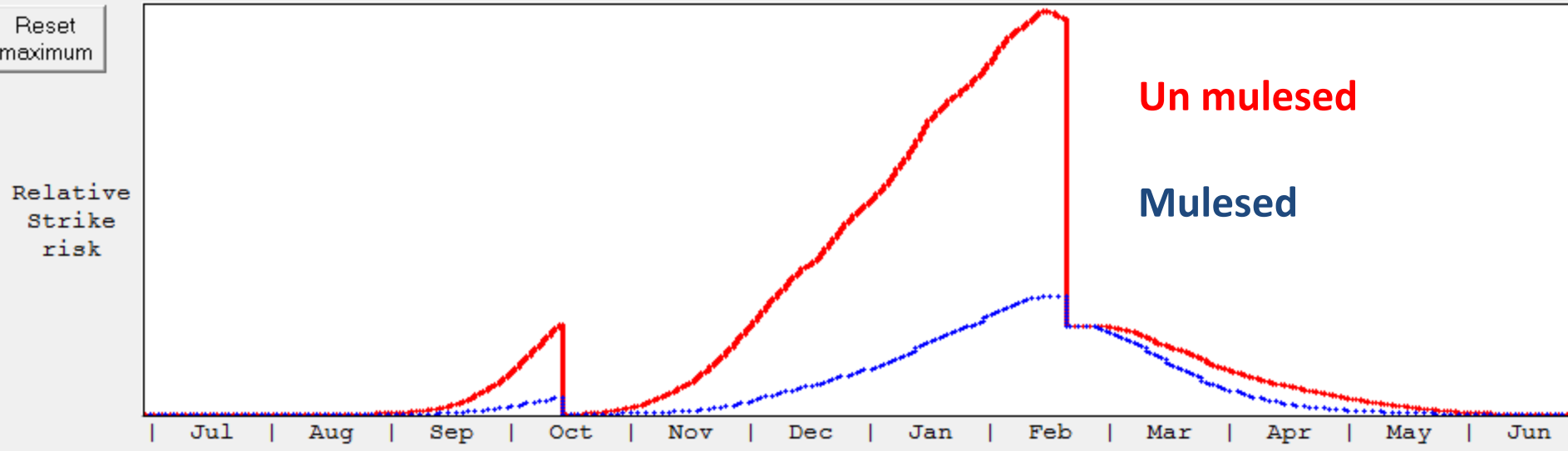
Management System Two

- [x] Shorn 17/10/2011
- [x] Crutch 1 21/02/2011
- [ ] Crutch 2 28/07/2011

Mulesed

Relative risk of flystrike at different times of the year

Reset maximum



Check Flystrike Risk

File Edit View Help

Property | Scores | Fleece | Chemicals

Management System One

Dicyclanil (e.g. CLiK) — 1/12/2011

Body & breech — Optimise Dates

No treatment — 28/07/2011

Management System Two

No treatment — 28/07/2011

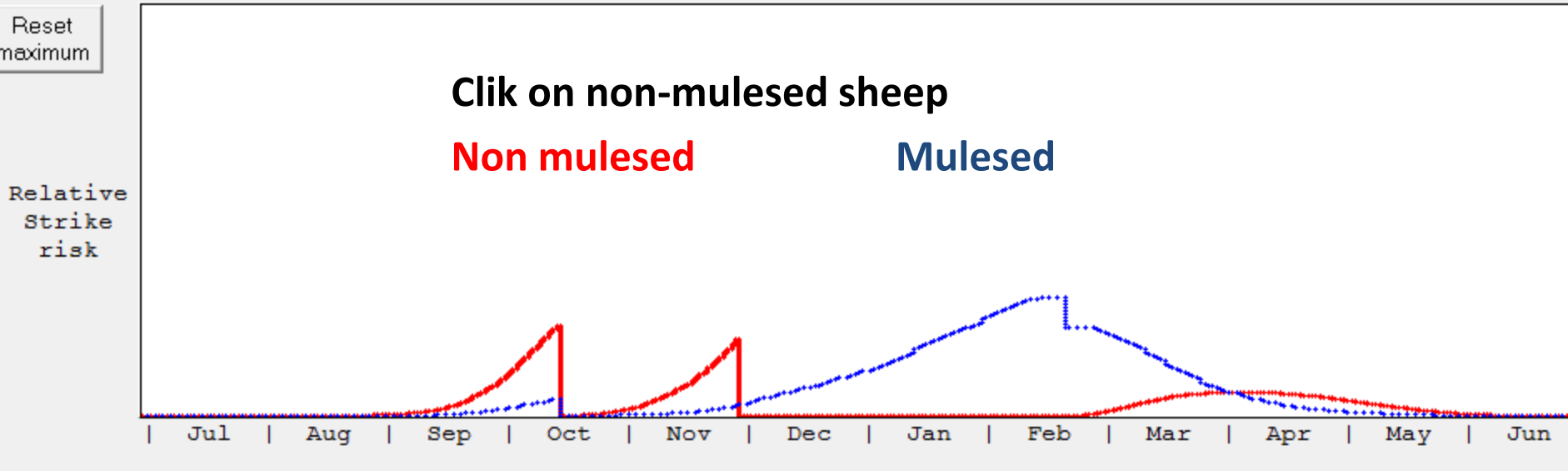
No treatment — 28/07/2011

Relative risk of flystrike at different times of the year

Reset maximum

Clik on non-mulesed sheep

Non mulesed Mulesed



Check Flystrike Risk

File Edit View Help

Property | Scores | Fleece | Chemicals

Management System One

Cyromazine (e.g. Vetrazin) | 1/12/2011

Body & breech | Optimise Dates

No treatment | 28/07/2011

No treatment | 28/07/2011

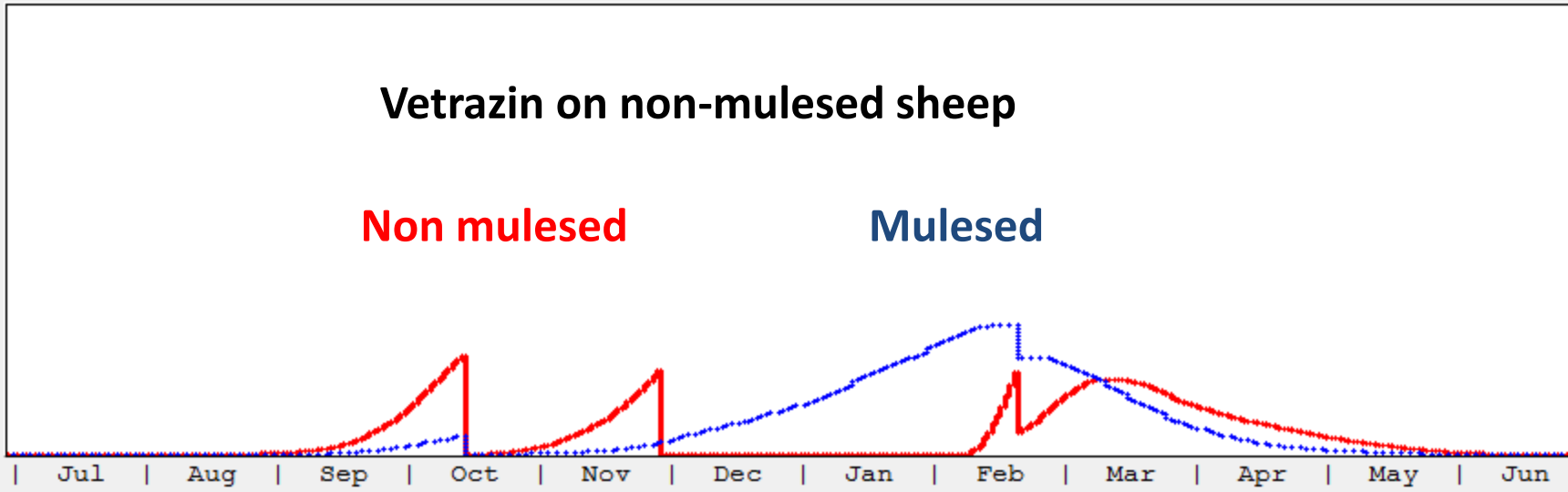
Management System Two

No treatment | 28/07/2011

No treatment | 28/07/2011

Relative risk of flystrike at different times of the year

Reset maximum



Check Flystrike Risk

File Edit View Help

Property | Scores | Fleece | Chemicals | Breeding

Test the effect of changes that could be made by breeding, compared with your current flock.

Move the sliders to investigate the potential effect of making changes through breeding.

	Breech wrinkle	Breech cover	Dag score	Breech Strike Risk
System 1 Mulesed	2.3	3.0	1.0	3.8%
Unmulesed +Breeding	3.6	3.4	1.1	27.1%

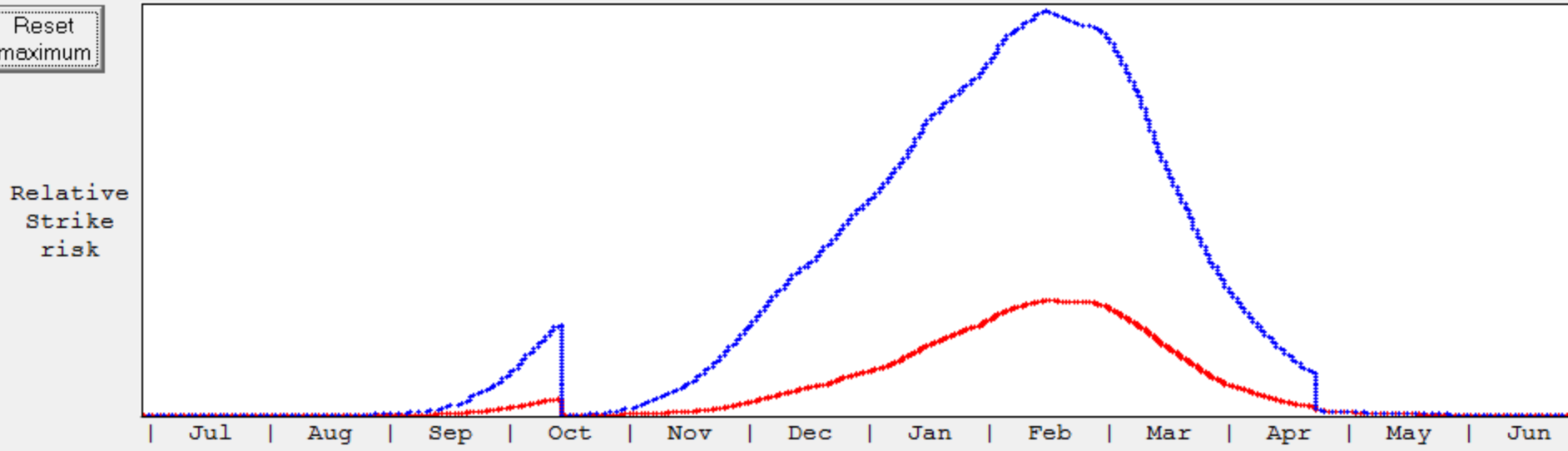
5 5 5
1 1 1

Reset sliders

Ratio for Unmulesed+Breeding vs Mulesed 9.35

Relative risk of flystrike at different times of the year

Reset maximum



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File Edit View Help

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Test the effect of changes that could be made by breeding, compared with your current flock.

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	Breech wrinkle	Breech cover	Dag score	Breech Strike Risk
System 1 Mulesed	2.3	3.0	1.0	3.8%
Unmulesed +Breeding	2.6	2.9	1.1	13.6%

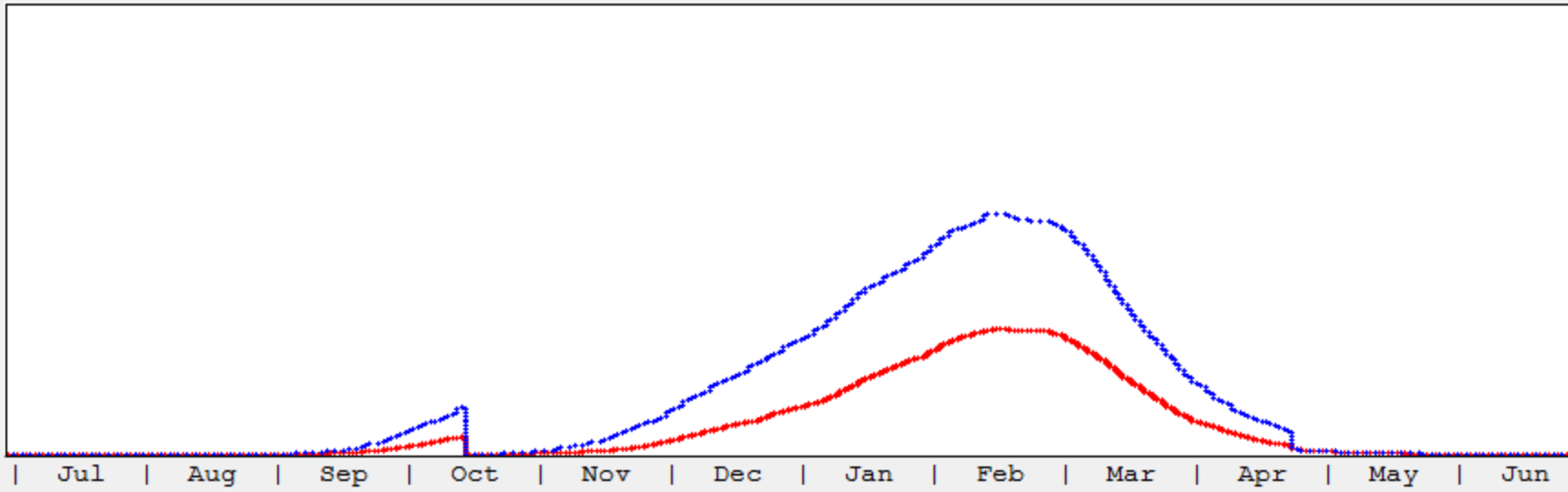
5 - 1

Reset sliders

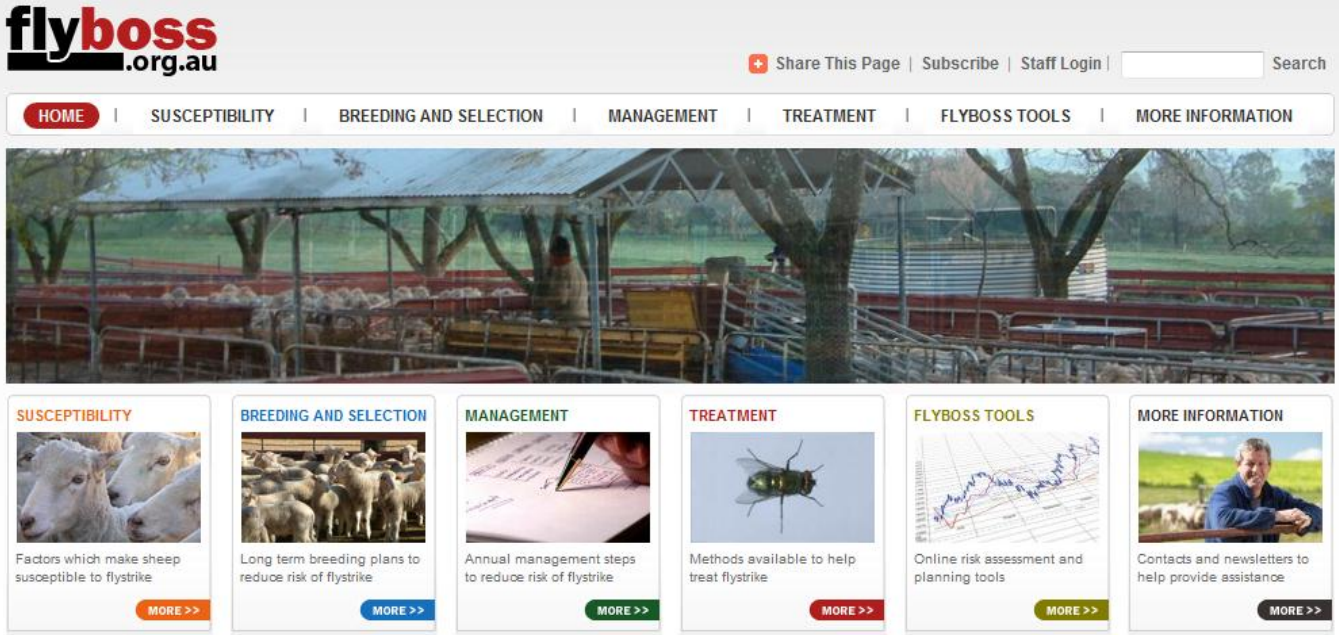
Ratio for Unmulesed+Breeding vs Mulesed 3.96

Relative risk of flystrike at different times of the year

Reset maximum



Producer stories in website



- **15 case studies**
- **All states and production zones**
- **Stopped mulesing – 1 – 5 years ago**
- **Faced high challenge**

Producer stories in website

Key Points

- Confidence to manage unmulesed flocks
- Understand climate/weather and risk
- Have a good plan to stop
- Integrate a range of strategies
- Need to breed & manage for breech and body strike
- Select plainer sheep and against body strike (fleece rot)
- Some increased chemical use, but not always
- Encourage introduction of new genetics if large change required
- Experienced other production benefits from new genetics
  - FW, FD, reproduction, WT

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Acknowledgements

- **Brian Horton UTAS – developer – FlyBoss tools**
- **NSW DPI – Allan Casey and Alex Russell**
  - **core workshop material**

- **Workshop Delivery Team**
  - **Vic – Garry Armstrong**
  - **SA – Ian McFarland, Darryl Smith, Bruce Hancock**
  - **Qld – Nicole Sallur, David Counsell**
  - **Tas – Brian Horton, Andrew Bailey**
  - **NSW – Allan Casey, Ed Joshua, Megan Rogers, Trudie Atkinson, Jane Kelly et al**

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