2018 BREECH FLYSTRIKE RD&E
TECHNICAL UPDATE

ParaBoss Update

Deborah Maxwell – ParaBoss
17 July 2018
paraboss
manage sheep parasites
advice online, anytime

wormboss
flyboss
liceboss
ParaBoss

- Websites
- Newsletter
  - 2 editions: Feature articles, State outlooks
- Facebook (sheep, goats)
- Magazine articles
- Professional Technical Forum
- Professional Conference
- National Training Program
- WEC Quality Assurance Program
• Australia’s premier resource for flystrike control information
• Web content used as base for other delivery
  • About flies, flystrike and susceptibility
  • Breeding and selection for flystrike resistance
  • Management
  • Treatment
  • FlyBoss Tools
**ParaBoss web site use continues to grow**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unique users</th>
<th>WormBoss</th>
<th>FlyBoss</th>
<th>LiceBoss</th>
<th>Total WB, FB, LB</th>
<th>ParaBoss</th>
<th>Total with ParaBoss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June ‘16-May ‘17</td>
<td></td>
<td>108,430</td>
<td>19,546</td>
<td>15,084</td>
<td>143,060</td>
<td>11,001</td>
<td>154,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June ‘17-May ‘18</td>
<td></td>
<td>121,988</td>
<td>24,406</td>
<td>17,919</td>
<td>164,313</td>
<td>11,696</td>
<td>176,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Increase in users year-on-year</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td><strong>24.9%</strong></td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Graph showing user growth over time](flyboss_graph.png)
Web site responsiveness upgrade

• Re-development of all Boss web sites
• Ease of use on smaller devices
  • 2018 — mobiles now exceed desktop use for web browsing
• Essential for interactive tools
• Transition from private developer to UNE (ASKBILL team)
FlyBoss, WormBoss and LiceBoss tools re-programming

• Re-program existing Boss tools in Javascript to work in responsive sites

• FlyBoss:
  • Products Tool (database of registered fly and lice treatments)
  • Compare Management Tool
  • Optimise Treatment Tool
    • Latter two amalgamated and sheep traits added
    • Option to be the “freeware” version of AskBill flystrike component
Flystrike risk tool

- Uses long-term weather data for your location
- Assesses your flystrike risk against time of year
- Modify risk map with your:
  - Shearing time
  - Crutching times
  - Chemical inputs
  - Breech modification status
  - Sheep traits (breech or body wrinkle, breech cover, dag)
- "What if" options to simulate changes in breeding, management, treatments
- Signposts to procedural information on what to do and when to do it
ParaBoss Parasite Management Conference

• Melbourne, 17 August 2018
• Targeting professional advisors:
  • vets, consultants, pharmaceutical company staff, extension staff, researchers, WEC providers
• Multiplier for ParaBoss delivery
• Program
  • Scouring: causes, diagnosis, management and treatment
  • Effective worm control while managing drench resistance
  • Goat and Camelid drenches
  • Flystrike management: breeding, interactive decision tools, ASKBILL, management after stopping mulesing
ParaBoss User survey

• Who uses ParaBoss?
• How?
• Why?
• What can we improve to increase use and adoption of best practices?
  • Web sites
  • Newsletter
  • Facebook
  • Other
• In conjunction with other funder surveys showing awareness and value of Boss sites
Roadmap to cease mulesing

• Don’t just stop! Planning makes for a better transition
• Checklist to assist those ceasing mulesing
• Integrated with the Flystrike Risk Tool
• Question-based prompts to review
  • Current susceptibility of their sheep
  • Current knowledge, skills and facilities to manage changed risk of strike
• Options that may be appropriate
• Needs for learning/training
• Tips to make the transition successful
• Links to how-to resources on FlyBoss
ParaBoss National Training Program

• Targets advisors, esp. rural merchandise staff
• Very influential at point of sale of parasite treatments
• Work with existing training providers (pharmaceutical companies)
• ParaBoss independent assessment and recognition of parasite management knowledge and skills
• Promotion of recognized advisors to producers
**Worm Egg Count QA Program**

- Scheme to assess quality of WEC services
- Identify, recognize and promote those with accurate services
- Assist the rest
- User-pays
Key information delivery

• Web sites: WormBoss, FlyBoss, LiceBoss
  • Review and improve pages, add summaries, add images, videos and audio

• ParaBoss News
  • Free electronic newsletter, two editions per month
  • feature articles (worms, flies, lice, goat worms), quiz, state outlooks
  • Over 3200 subscribers

• Facebook
  • One post per week each on flystrike, worms, lice and goat worm control

• Beyond The Bale
  • Quarterly article (worms or flystrike or lice)

• Cattle ParaBoss
  • In development >> release in mid-2019
  • WormBoss, FlyBoss (Buffalo Fly), LiceBoss, TickBoss
Future of ParaBoss

- Parasites are major animal health issues for Australian sheep
- Declining extension services and parasitologists
- Current ParaBoss funding till mid-2020
- Minimal staffing – just 1.5 FTE across 3 people

Source: Estimated annual economic cost of the priority diseases for sheep.
MLA Project Report  B.AHE.0010. Priority list of endemic diseases for the red meat industries 2015. Lane, Jubb, Shephard, Webb-Ware, Fordyce
Future of ParaBoss

• AWI & MLA keen for ParaBoss to explore commercial funding opportunities
• Already gain advertising from animal health companies, but small market
• Other options have been explored, but very limited opportunities
• Future likely to be dependent on continued RDC funding
ParaBoss News and ParaBoss on Facebook

www.paraboss.com.au