

More AWI resources to help woolgrowers beat the blowfly

The AWI Board has approved an expanded flystrike extension program to also include workshops and access to one-on-one coaching for woolgrowers who are considering moving to a non-mulesed sheep enterprise. This is in addition to existing funding of workshops for all woolgrowers on developing a flystrike management plan and breeding for flystrike resistance.

Reducing the impact of flystrike remains a priority for the Australian sheep industry – and the AWI Board has further enhanced its financial commitment to helping woolgrowers tackle this significant sheep health and welfare issue by recently approving the funding of a comprehensive flystrike extension program.

AWI has invested significantly over the past 15 years in R&D projects to support woolgrowers looking to improve lifetime animal welfare, reduce their reliance on chemicals and mulesing, and breed sheep for flystrike resistance. AWI's flystrike extension program draws on the outcomes from this investment.

New extension material is being developed following extensive consultation with ram breeders, researchers, consultants, advisors and animal health company representatives.

The new material will add to and complement existing resources and tools that are being updated and uploaded on the AWI and FlyBoss websites – such as the recently published information for woolgrowers and their advisors on managing blowfly resistance to chemicals (reported in the December 2021 edition of *Beyond the Bale*).

"The whole program of investment is balanced," said AWI's General Manager Research, Dr Jane Littlejohn. "It includes information for all woolgrowers regardless of their sheep type, climate or husbandry practices."

Current and previously announced flystrike extension resources

The flystrike extension program includes the It's Fly Time! webinar pack of information

and **SimpliFly workshop**, both of which encourage woolgrowers to understand the current 'tools in their toolbox' to make the most appropriate flystrike management decisions for their sheep and environment.

It's Fly Time! resources, which include a webinar, videos and factsheets, as well as information specific to managing blowfly resistance to chemicals (**DemystiFly**), are already available at www.wool.com/flystrikeresources. Piloting for the SimpliFly workshops is under way and it is expected that they will be available for delivery later this year (subject to COVID).

The ClassiFly workshop focuses on breeding and is targeted towards woolgrowers wanting to reduce their reliance on chemical prevention, crutching and mulesing through breeding for flystrike resistance in sheep. The rollout of the ClassiFly workshops will begin after the SimpliFly workshops have been launched.

The above offerings are relevant to all woolgrowers, regardless of sheep type, climate, operating environment, and husbandry practices.

New resources to help beat the blowfly

The newest additions to the program, **StrateFly** and **AmpliFly**, are specifically targeted at non-mulesed woolgrowers and those woolgrowers looking to go non-mulesed.

"A key component of the AWI flystrike extension program is equipping woolgrowers' advisors with the support, tools and capacity to tailor flystrike management solutions to their clients' needs, empowering them to assist growers to implement long-term changes on their property," Dr Littlejohn said.

The recently approved funding will train and accredit woolgrowers' advisors to deliver the StrateFly workshop, covering what is required to develop and implement a whole-of-farm strategy to successfully make the move to a non-mulesed enterprise.

Through AmpliFly, woolgrowers can then engage AWI-trained and -accredited advisors under a fee-for-service consultancy arrangement to help them implement their move to a non-mulesed enterprise. The AWI accreditation ensures woolgrowers will receive expert, nationally consistent, handson coaching and support, which will be tailored to their specific operation by their trusted advisor.

"This is an exciting new approach to AWI's extension offerings," Dr Littlejohn explained. "AmpliFly, the advisor support package, is designed to be easily embedded into the suite of services that advisors offer to their clients, enhancing advisor capacity and broadening the reach of woolgrowerfunded research and development into reducing the impact of flystrike on Australia's sheep flock."

Development for StrateFly and AmpliFly has commenced, and they should be ready for launch in 2023.

More information

Check out www.wool.com/
flystrikeresources for AWI's latest
information for woolgrowers on
monitoring, preventing and treating
flystrike, as well as resources to help
reduce the risk and manage the impact of
chemical resistance on your property.
For more detailed information on flystrike
management, including access to
interactive decision support tools, visit
www.flyboss.com.au.

AWI's flystrike extension program

WI's flystrike extension program is supporting woolgrowers to improve the lifetime welfare of their sheep, reduce their reliance on mulesing, reduce the size of the mules, optimise chemical use, and increase whole farm profitability through the provision of practical information, tools and access to accredited advisor support on flystrike management.

Woolgrowers can pick and choose how to get involved with the different components of the flystrike extension program that best suits their requirements, sheep type, climate, operating environment and husbandry practices.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES

It's Fly Time!™

Practical, just-in-time information in the lead up to, and during, high-risk flystrike periods

DemystiFly[™]

Practical information about managing chemical resistance in blowflies

flyboss

Information and tools on flystrike management

Breeding and selection

Information and tools to help you breed better sheep

WORKSHOPS AND ADVISOR COACHING AND SUPPORT

SimpliFly"

A one-day workshop to develop a property-specific, strategic flystrike management plan

ClassiFly*

A one-day workshop with demos to increase understanding and skills in breeding for flystrike resistance

StrateFly*

A one-day workshop to develop a property-specific, wholeof-farm strategy for moving to a non-mulesed enterprise

AmpliFly

One-on-one coaching and support from a trained and accredited advisor to assist you over time to implement your whole-of-farm strategy for moving to a non-mulesed enterprise

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