

PARABOSS

YOUR GO-TO SITE FOR SHEEP PARASITE CONTROL

ParaBoss is a suite of three products – WormBoss, FlyBoss and LiceBoss – developed to help sheep producers in the management of worms, blowflies and lice. The websites are a key source of detailed management information and regional programs that have been developed by expert panels of parasitologists and veterinarians from across Australia.

ParaBoss is available at www.paraboss.com.au and provides access to the three websites WormBoss, FlyBoss and LiceBoss.



paraboss

Parasite management affects all woolgrowers, with parasite prevention, control and lost production costing the industry hundreds of millions of dollars a year. Actions taken to minimise parasite risks and treat affected sheep can vary significantly across the country, and the timing of these actions is crucial to ensuring that they are effective.

With sheep being raised across Australia, in a number of different environments and climates, there can be no 'one-size-fits-all' approach to parasite management. Even year-on-year seasonal variations, such as extreme rainfall and temperature fluctuations, can mean that a property

needs to change their approach.

When applied incorrectly, however, preventative and control measures can have a long-lasting negative effect not only on the property in question, but throughout the wider industry. Especially where chemical treatments are concerned, improper use and poor technique can result in ongoing parasite problems, negatively impact animal welfare, and contribute to the development of chemical resistance in parasite populations.

To combat these issues, it is imperative that woolgrowers have access to accurate information that guides their approach to parasite management on their own property. ParaBoss is a one-stop shop to support woolgrowers in the prevention and treatment of parasite risks for sheep, and the ParaBoss website has been developed to house three digital tools for each major parasite risk.

Comprised of the WormBoss, FlyBoss and LiceBoss websites, ParaBoss provides woolgrowers with tools, recommendations and resources for parasite management, no matter where they are located across Australia or what their current parasite strategies look like. Information is accessible as webpages, articles, reference documents and multimedia, so woolgrowers can select the format which suits them best.

INFORMATION & DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS

Alongside a comprehensive suite of information detailing the key parasite risks, preventative strategies and treatment options, woolgrowers can find decision support tools which can help them to assess their situation and make an informed choice on how to proceed.

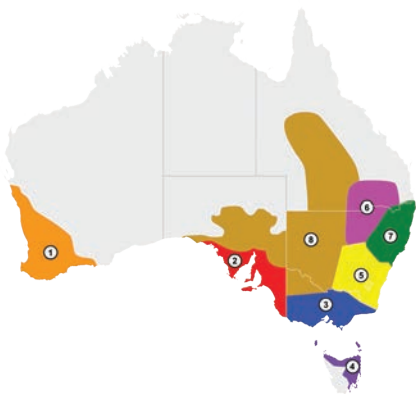


wormboss

WormBoss includes methods to test for worm burdens and assess the effectiveness of a drench to look for signs of developing drench resistance.

This is complemented by strategies to minimise the reliance on chemical treatments, such as breeding for worm resistance, improving nutrition to boost immunity, and managing grazing pastures in order to limit exposure to worm larvae.

Regionally developed recommendations are provided by the various WormBoss worm control programs available for each WormBoss region; these are tailored to local climate conditions, ensuring woolgrowers receive accurate practical information relevant to their situation.



WormBoss Worm Control Program Regions:

For each region there is a separate worm control program that includes practical and regionally-specific strategies on grazing management, breeding for worm resistance, when to drench and when to WormTest, and managing drench resistance.

flyboss

On FlyBoss, woolgrowers can explore the various options for managing flystrike risk, including breeding for flystrike resistance, breech and tail modification, and timing of shearing and crutching.

Information on best practice use of preventative chemical treatments to maximise their effectiveness and minimise the risk of developing chemical resistance is also available.

Available tools include the Flystrike Risk Simulator, which enables woolgrowers to enter their location, sheep type and flystrike management practices to estimate their risk of flystrike based on local weather data. Woolgrowers can then adjust the different flystrike treatment and prevention practices to predict their impact. The results can be used by woolgrowers, and their advisors, to inform the development of an effective flystrike management plan specific to their property and sheep type.

liceboss

For LiceBoss, advice includes proper technique for monitoring for lice, determining the cause of rubbing, selecting appropriate treatments and application methods, and assessing the impacts of treatment regimes.

This is strengthened by resources for implementing biosecurity procedures to ensure that, once dealt with, lice infestations do not return to the property.

BEST PRACTICE

Collectively, the three Boss websites promote **best practice for the management of sheep parasites** at the farm level, developed by a community of veterinary experts and parasitologists from across Australia and supported by the sheep industry.

ParaBoss also contributes to the **professional development of farm advisers**, such as vets and rural resellers, through hosting ongoing technical workshops and conferences to ensure they have a contemporary understanding of sheep parasite management and can provide more effective services to their clients. From 2021, this will also include the Sheep Parasite Management Certificate, giving farm advisers the opportunity to be recognised as a source of current and comprehensive parasite management knowledge.

To ensure producers have access to service providers who can provide the best possible results, ParaBoss also operates the **Worm Egg Count Quality Assurance (WEC QA) Program**. This program allows worm egg count (WEC) providers to test the accuracy of their work and receive recognition for accurate services, and provides WEC users with a list of endorsed service providers. Inaccurate worm egg counts can result in woolgrowers missing the optimum drench time: too late and there will be lost productivity and animal welfare impacts; too early and drenching costs are not justified.

For woolgrowers wondering what actions are most needed and when, the collective ParaBoss tools are accompanied by a free, **twice-monthly newsletter** which discusses the current state of sheep parasites nationally, explores issues most pressing on-farm, and provides an update on timely and effective management strategies. Sign up to receive newsletters and tap into the expertise of the ParaBoss network at www.paraboss.com.au/subscriptions.

Join **ParaBoss on Facebook** at www.facebook.com/paraboss.com.au to see weekly posts on flystrike, lice and worm control.

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MORE INFORMATION

ParaBoss provides access to the three websites at www.paraboss.com.au.

