

Copy of questionnaire

		Sydney School of Veterinary Science Faculty of Science
	425 Werombi Road, Camden, NSW 2570 AUSTRALIA	
<i>Associate Professor Om Dhungvel</i> <i>Principal Research Fellow</i>		Shute Building C01 Telephone +61 2 9351 1606 Facsimile +61 2 9351 1618 email om.dhungvel@svdney.edu.au

Farmers' sheep health and management survey questionnaire

Aims of the survey study

1. To understand common sheep health management practices and their impact at the farm level
2. To understand farmers' perception about sheep health and welfare and their impact on production
3. To understand the availability, accessibility and need for veterinary services and information.

Consent for Participation: I have read through the participation information and agree to the part of this questionnaire survey study. **Yes/No**

Property information and history:

Post code: _____

Local Land Services (LLS) region _____

Producer/Manager (Please tick):

a. Gender: Male Female Other

b. Age group: less than 30 years 31-50 years 51 years and over

• **Property data:**

a. Total area (ha) _____ Altitude: _____

b. Topography of paddocks (Please Tick)

Plains Undulating Steep hills

c. Annual average rainfall (mm) _____

d. Nearest BOM station _____

• **Pasture type and area (ha) (Please tick):**

Introduced perennial species ha: _____ Native species ha: _____

Fertilized native species ha: _____ Forage crops (winter) ha: _____

Forage crops (summer) ha: _____

• **Enterprise type (Please tick):**

Prime Lamb production
 Cropping (other than fodder) Mixed (Sheep and Cattle)

Wool production: Fine (18 microns and less)
 Fine-Medium (18-19.5 microns)
 Medium (19.5 – 22 microns)
 Strong (22 microns upwards)
 Crossbred
 Non-wool (e.g. Dorper)

• **Current sheep Breeds/numbers**

What is the total number of sheep currently on the property? _____

	Current number of Stock
Lambing ewes	
Ewe hoggets	
Wethers	
Lambs	
Rams	

Do you have Merino sheep? Yes No

Do you have other breeds of sheep? Yes No

If Other breeds please specify: _____

Type of flock Self Replacing Purchasing

If purchasing what are the numbers per head (yearly average)?

Lambs: _____ Ewes _____ Wethers _____ Rams _____

• **Sheep management calendar (Please tick)**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lambing												
Shearing												
Crutching												
Dipping/Jetting												
Weaning												
Joining												
Drenching												

• **Neighbouring properties/share resources**

a. Number of neighbouring properties _____

b. Number of neighbours running sheep _____

c. Are any neighbouring boundaries on waterways? Yes No

- d. Rams shared with neighbours? Yes No
- i. If yes, how often? Frequently Sometimes Rarely
- e. Sheds/yards/roads shared with neighbours? Yes No
- f. Is there straying of sheep between properties? Yes No
- i. If yes, how often? Frequently Sometimes Rarely

• **Property fencing**

What property fencing type do you have? Netting/Hinge joint/Plain wire/other (please circle)
 If other, please specify _____

- Boundary fencing type: Single Double fencing
- Boundary fence condition: Good Minor damage Poor
- Internal fence condition: Good Minor damage Poor

• **Disease history**

a. Have any of the following sheep health concerns been present on your farm in the last 3 years? (Please Tick all that apply)

Disease	Yes	No
Internal Parasites		
External Parasites		
Ovine Johne's Disease		
Footrot		
Scabby Mouth		
Lameness		
Toxicity		
Abortion		
Clostridial Diseases (Includes: Blackleg, Botulism, Tetanus, Malignant Oedema, Red Water Disease, Black Disease and Pulpy Kidney)		
Other		

If answered other, please specify here _____

• **Sheep Mortality rate percentage (%) as a yearly average**

Lamb mortality	
Ewe mortality	
Wether mortality	
Ram mortality	

Disease control strategies:

• **Vaccination**

Do you use sheep vaccines? Yes No

If yes, which vaccines? (choose all that apply)

6in1 5in1 3in1 Eryvac Scabigard Gudair Other

If other vaccines, please specify: _____

Are they given an annual booster? Yes No

If you give the annual booster who do you give it to? Ewes Wethers Rams

Following their initial vaccination, are lambs provided with a secondary vaccination? Yes No

• **Parasite management**

Have you had drench resistance issues in your flock? Yes No

Do you do regular parasite faecal egg counts? Yes No

Do you do drench rotation? Yes No

Do you follow Integrated parasite management? Yes No

• **Biosecurity measures (Please tick/comment)**

a. Do you have a Farm Biosecurity Plan Yes No

b. Do you inspect new stock for common diseases prior to purchase? Yes No Sometimes

c. Do you quarantine new stock? Yes No Sometimes

i. If yes or sometimes, for what period of time? _____

j. Do you separate sheep with disease from the main flock? Yes No Sometimes

i. If yes or sometimes, for what period of time? _____

j. Prior to purchasing new stock, do you request for a Sheep Health Statement? Yes No

k. Do you have quarantine areas/paddocks for new stock or sick animals on your farm? Yes No

• **Economic Impact**

a. Please rate the following factors associated with common sheep diseases as a cause of **FINANCIAL** concern from 1-5 (1 = of greatest concern, 5 = of least concern)

Reason	Rating costs (1-5)
Veterinary	
Laboratory/diagnostic	
Vaccination	
Fencing	
Labour	

b. Who do you use for disease management? Contractors Farm labour

• **Impact on animal welfare**

a. On your farm, do you think any of the following diseases are affecting animal welfare? (tick all that apply)

Lameness Internal Parasites External Parasites OJD Other

If other diseases, please specify _____

b. How would you rate common diseases as a factor affecting the welfare of sheep on the property?

Low Moderate High

c. How important to do you consider animal welfare to be in your enterprise?

Low Moderate High

• **Access to services**

a. Where do you obtain the information for the control/prevention of disease? (Please tick/specify)

District vet Yes No Private vet Yes No

Other _____

b. Distance to veterinary services Far Too Far Near

c. Do you feel there are adequate veterinary services in your district to manage disease occurrence and outbreak? Yes No

d. How would you describe the ease of accessing veterinary assistance?

Hard Moderate Easy

e. What is the availability of education programs/services for sheep management and disease control within your district?

Adequate Lacking Non-Adequate Could be improved

f. When was the last time you contacted a vet for assistance/advice regarding the health of your sheep?

Less than 3 months ago 6 months ago 1 year ago >2 years ago Never

g. Other than the DVs, what other sources of assistance of advice do you utilize? _____

• **Knowledge and information:**

a. What areas do you feel you would benefit having more knowledge around?

(Tick all those that apply to you)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reproduction issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Lamb mortality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common diseases | <input type="checkbox"/> Trauma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quarantine | <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition advice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biosecurity | <input type="checkbox"/> Husbandry advice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parasite management | <input type="checkbox"/> Sudden death of livestock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parasite lifecycles | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Which Vaccines to use | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Correct Vaccination Use | |

b. How would you prefer to have information dispersed to you? (Tick all those that apply to you)

- In person
- Over the phone
- Famer Meetings/workshops
- At industry events
- Through pamphlets and other written media
- Through email
- At Town hubs (e.g sale yards, Pubs)
- Through collaboration with government bodies (e.g department of industries)
- Through collaboration with industry bodies and groups (e.g AWEC, MLA)
- Other _____

c. What do you consider to be the major problems facing sheep producers in your district in regards to sheep health? (Scale each option numerically from 1-10, with 1 = greatest concern, 10 = least concern)

Sheep disease issue	Scale between 1-10
Reproduction issues	
Disease outbreaks	
Parasitology	
Vaccination	
Lamb mortality	
Trauma	
Nutrition issues	
Husbandry issues	
Sudden death of livestock	
Other	

• **Producer opinion**

a. Please mark the boxes which corresponds to your answer for each question regarding sheep disease management on your property.

Question/Comment	1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither agree/disagree	4 Agree	5 Strongly agree
General Statements					
I consider disease a MINOR problem on the property					
I consider disease a MAJOR problem on the property					
I consider disease a significant cause of production losses					
I consider disease a significant cause of economic loss					
I consider disease management as a priority					
I am capable of dealing with most disease outbreaks					
In the event of most disease outbreaks I contact a vet					
It is important to inspect sheep for disease prior to purchase					
It is important to quarantine new stock prior to mix-up with the flock					

Additional Comments: _____

Do you wish to receive a summary report of the overall findings of this survey study?

YES/NO.

If yes please write to the Chief Investigator Assoc. Prof. Om Dhungyel at om.dhungyel@sydney.edu.au

Thank you.