



## Sheep Drench & Resistance

Combinations of broad-spectrum sheep drenches, 'refugia' and resistance are hot topics these days in sheep worm control.

Parasitologists generally agree that if delaying resistance is the prime objective, it is better to use a combination of 2 or more drenches than using these drenches on their own. Such a combination will be better at killing resistant worms than the individual "actives" acting alone. The development of resistance will thus be delayed.

If slowing the development of drench resistance is a major objective, then there is a question that needs to be asked on each farm. "How good are the various products at killing the sheep worms on my farm?"

Relatively few farmers can answer this question. For an indication of how well a particular active is performing on a property, a fecal egg count reduction test (FECRT) should be carried out. Testing is quite easy and cost effective, and will take the guess work out of drenching.

All sheep producers should carry out a FECRT at least every 3-4 years and a facial egg count (FEC) before every drench. These tests ensure those particular sheep do actually require drenching.

For more information on FECRT and worm counting please contact your local Pursehouse Rural store.

## IHD Pasturelink Tour to New Zealand

James Cheetham (Quirindi) and Callen Thompson (Coonabarabran) of Pursehouse Rural (pictured left) recently attended an IHD Pasturelink study tour to New Zealand. The aim of the tour was to gain

insight into the latest techniques in pasture productivity and management on the Canterbury Plains.

The first day was spent with Heritage seeds/ Agriseeds at the Agriseeds research farm in Courtney near Christchurch. A particular feature of this centre was the intensive breeding program underway using ryegrass and other temperate grasses, clovers and endophytes.

Following the research farm, the tour group visited Lincoln University with Agriseeds to gain experience in intensive grazing management and environmental monitoring in dairy systems. It was stressed that pasture monitoring, through dry matter measurements, is the key to maintaining optimal pasture quality and subsequent available energy to livestock.

The next two days were spent with Nufarm and a focus on their Grassmanship program and its potential adoption in Australia. Grassmanship was developed in New Zealand and outlines pasture renewal programs in addition to providing advice on 'best choice' products for common weed and pest problems. The tour consisted of field visits to some very steep hill country that has been developed into productive pasture under this program.

The final two days of the tour were spent with PGG Wrightsons Seeds. The tour group traveled to their research station to inspect grass and brassica breeding programs. The agronomists found it highly valuable to speak directly with plant breeders on their basis for choosing particular traits in varieties. An insight was also given into PGG Wrightsons endophyte technology. There is currently a large amount of research going into this technology and the agronomists on tour were keen to hear how it was going. Following the research, commercial farms were visited to view the adoption of PGG Wrightsons Seeds pasture varieties into a wide range of grazing systems.

The study tour to New Zealand was very valuable and thanks must be made to Rob Scott – Commercial Manager for IHD for organizing the trip. Also to the sponsors, Heritage Seeds, Agriseeds, Nufarm and Wrightson Seeds, thank you.. For further information on the tour or the latest pasture products available, please contact your local Pursehouse Rural agronomist.

# Liverpool Plains trial results 2008

Barley trials were sown at "Pine Cliff", Curlewis on the 9th June 2008. Of the varieties that were sown, the following summary is an indication of the results –

- Hindmarsh was the standout variety with superior test weight, low screenings and excellent stand ability.
- Fitzroy had a low test weight recorded
- Fleet, Commander & Shepherd had poor stand ability within the trial
- Hindmarsh is currently going under malt evaluation at Joe White Malting for receivals in 2010
- High screenings were recorded in all varieties except Hindmarsh
- Shepherd will more than likely be accepted as a malt variety

Further information can be located at [www.pursehouserural.com.au](http://www.pursehouserural.com.au) or by contacting your Pursehouse Rural agronomist.



Above: Hindmarsh barley, the standout in the 2008 barley trials

Bread wheat trials were sown at "Pine Cliff", Curlewis on the 9th June 2008. Of the varieties that were sown, the following summary is an indication of the results –

- Good test weights were recorded in all varieties
- Livingston performed well with the highest yield
- Low screenings in all varieties
- Low protein in all varieties due to soft finish
- Low falling numbers in most varieties due to weather damage
- Bounty shelled out more than other varieties
- All varieties had good stand ability
- Consider Livingston where growing AH wheats to replace Ventura
- Consider Crusader where your looking for a quick variety if double cropping

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Above: Livingston Wheat, highest yield, good test weights and low screening.



Above: Nick Park, PHR Opti-crop Gunnedah captivates growers at the recent field day at "Pine Cliff"

Durum wheat trials were sown at "Pine Cliff", Curlewis on the 9th June 2008. Of the varieties that were sown, the following summary is an indication of the results –

- All durum varieties yielded in the top 5
- Zulu is only classified as a feed Durum
- Bellaroi is higher in protein and good stand ability
- Hyperno lodged more than other varieties
- Jandaroi good test weight and grain size. Started to lodge
- Low screenings in all varieties
- Consider Bellaroi on irrigation because of good straw strength
- Consider Jandaroi under dryland conditions because superior quality under a hard finish

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