



DOHNE

Solutions

Mulesing – How NOT to do it!

Observe, Record, Extrapolate and Evaluate.

We have been recording the incidence of Bare Breach in our Dohne Lambs for 10 seasons now.

More recently, we have recorded the incidence and severity of Dag and Urine stain on grown ewes, hoggets and weaners.

The incidence of dags, when combined with poor bare breach traits dramatically increases the risk of flystrike. Mulesing has been used as a method of counteracting this risk.

Mulesing is a topic that will not go away; and is driven because as an industry, we no longer have a social license to do it. New Zealand has banned the practice already and the writing is on the wall for Australia to be forced to follow suit.



There is a better way – It is the genetic pathway.

Now that we can extrapolate the data records that we have collected from observations using simple Excel software, we can see which sires tend to have higher or lower incidences of breach cover or dags.

In addition to on farm observation and records, we have submitted enough data to Sheep Genetics Australia to have Research Breeding Values (RBV's) switched on for our stud flock. This allows us to access predicted breeding values due to genetics for our young sheep.

We have found that we can make enormous progress in just two generations of breeding towards Dohnes from Merinos. We have ceased mulesing our Dohnes quite some time ago. We simply do not need to do it.

For those sheep breeders who want to avoid the need to make a dramatic change, and choose to be proactive early, we can provide genetic options.