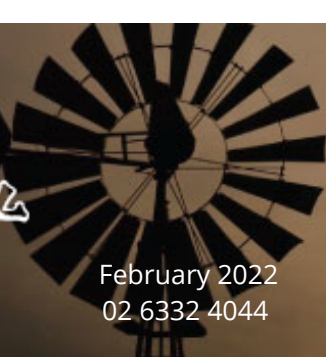


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## Lice in sheep - Avoiding dermatophilosis at dipping **liceboss**

Dermatophilosis, is a skin infection of sheep and occasionally other species, and is also called 'lumpy wool'. It makes sheep highly susceptible to flystrike, difficult to shear cleanly, interferes with the distribution of backline products, and is highly contagious when wet sheep come into close contact.

The disease occurs when the bacterium *Dermatophilus congolensis* gains access to skin and causes inflammation with exudation of protein and serum from skin, which goes on to form the scabs. When the scabs are found on the lower legs the condition is called strawberry footrot. Sheep usually self-heal after infection and develop a strong immunity, although some sheep may remain chronically infected and should be culled. Limiting the spread of dermo depends on eliminating events that bring sheep together in close confinement in damp weather conditions e.g. yarding and planned jetting or dipping events.

Zinc sulphate heptahydrate is registered as a bacteriostat to minimise the spread of dermo between sheep during dipping, but will not have any effect on active lesions. Product labels carry directions for the addition of 10 kg of zinc sulphate heptahydrate per 1000 litres of dip water (1% solution). More Information : <http://www.liceboss.com.au/sheep-goats/treating/avoiding-dermo-at-dipping.php>

Some dipping product labels suggest adding chlorhexidine disinfectants (e.g. Hibitane®) for general dip hygiene, but these have no registered claims against the spread of dermo. It is established that 1% zinc sulphate in dip wash inhibits dermo transmission. If mixed with some bore waters however, zinc sulphate can cause suspended clay particles to drop out of solution. Limiting the spread of dermo depends on eliminating events that bring sheep together in close confinement in damp weather conditions e.g. yarding and planned jetting or dipping events.



Central West Local Land Services have had a confirmed case of Three Day Sickness, also known as Bovine Ephemeral Fever (BEF). This is a significant disease of cattle that is carried by biting insects which pops up in our district periodically, especially during or following a wet summer.

The symptoms of BEF are a fever, inappetence, depression and reluctance to move. Typically affected animals recover in a few days (hence the name, Three Day Sickness), however some animals (particularly heavy animals such as bulls and cows) can take longer to get up and in some severe cases can die.

Full story [https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/news-and-events/news/cw-news/2022/three-day-sickness-confirmed-in-central-west?fbclid=IwAR3upN1DvoXbQfVBtND\\_Zv9qPhWn7Tw0DI5hS9iUp\\_YRH7wlhPiraLqLA8](https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/news-and-events/news/cw-news/2022/three-day-sickness-confirmed-in-central-west?fbclid=IwAR3upN1DvoXbQfVBtND_Zv9qPhWn7Tw0DI5hS9iUp_YRH7wlhPiraLqLA8)

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## Prolific and highly invasive serrated tussock becoming tolerant to herbicides on the NSW Central Tablelands

A highly invasive introduced grass, which can become a nightmare for farmers, is building resistance to herbicides on the New South Wales Central Tablelands.

A single plant of serrated tussock can produce up to 140,000 seeds and can take over a paddock in as little as four years. Stock do not like to eat it and, if they do, they can become malnourished.

The plant typically reacts to a slow-acting chemical called flupropanate designed to kill it over a six to 12-month period. However, some landowners near Bathurst and Oberon have raised the alarm because the herbicide has stopped working.

Lab tests have unearthed some populations have started building tolerance towards it.

Local weed authorities say it can be hard to tell if the chemical will not work on serrated tussock because before applying herbicide, the grass, resistant or not, looks the same.

### Key points:

- Serrated tussock spreads quickly, is drought tolerant and can create a monoculture if left untouched
- Landholders near Oberon and Bathurst have discovered the weed stopped responding to the use of flupropanate, the chemical designed to kill it
- The Central Tablelands Local Land Services has warned against the long-term use of the herbicide

[www.abc.net.au/news/2022-01-25/serrated-tussock-building-herbicide-resistance/100777146?](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-01-25/serrated-tussock-building-herbicide-resistance/100777146?)



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Viper is now registered for application to shorn sheep up to seven days after shearing and to unshorn lambs from two weeks to two months of age.

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