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# Town & Country Magazine

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## Sheep protection can be skin deep

By STEPHANIE ANDERSON

TRADITIONAL methods of protecting sheep from winter weather were challenged last week with a demonstration of Thermoskin at Laggan property "Corona".

Shepherd Operations' principal Anthony Shepherd was raised on a merino farm near Crookwell and returned to the area last Tuesday to demonstrate the company's liquid lanolin-based spray.

"I work through CRT in Taralga and Crookwell, and a combination of those guys helped organise it," Mr Shepherd said.

"We had about 25 people turn up, growers and a few industry people."

The demonstration was based around the new technology, showing those gathered how the biodegradable liquid was designed for application after shearing, offering protection for up to six weeks as it set into a hardened coat in two minutes.

"It's insurance against mortality and also maintains the same condition on the sheep as before you take the wool off," Mr Shepherd said.

"There's no weight loss."

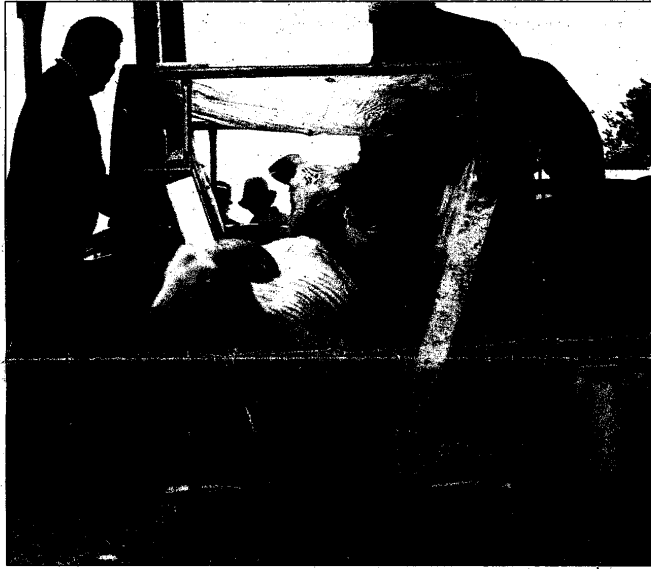
Bigga grazier Donald Burbidge attended the demonstration, but remained uncertain on its reliability.

"It's got potential, but I'd have to experience it myself to be sure that it's going to work," Mr Burbidge said.

"I actually use cover combs, which leave a few inches of wool on the sheep as insulation. It is effective."

The demonstration - using animals from Garry Seaman's Lochness Merino Stud - involved participation from local farming supply stores of Crookwell and Taralga, with John McGeechan of McGeechan Farm Supplies, Crookwell, admitting that the demonstration went "really well".

Down Under Technologies rep-



• NOT TOO BAA-D: Henry King (right) gives animals from Garry Seaman's "Lochness" Merino stud the Thermoskin treatment during a demonstration of the product at the "Corona" sheepyards while other producers looked on.

resentative Henry King agreed.

"There were a considerable number present and all were very impressed," Mr King said.

Having been trialled at studs and properties from Woolbrook, Eden Monaro, Yass, Highlands of East Gippsland, Dunkeld and Alexandria

(NZ), Mr Shepherd assured those gathered that Thermoskin was effective in not only protecting shorn sheep from weather conditions, but trials also showed that most sheep treated with Thermoskin gained substantially more weight than untreated animals.

"For the trials down in Monaro, on average they put on about 2.5kg over the other animals over a two week period," Mr Shepherd said.

Using approximately 50mL per animal, the current cost of Thermoskin is \$1.50 per head, plus GST.

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cloud  
seeding  
expands

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Vale Michael Nicholls  
Farmers  
pay  
tribute



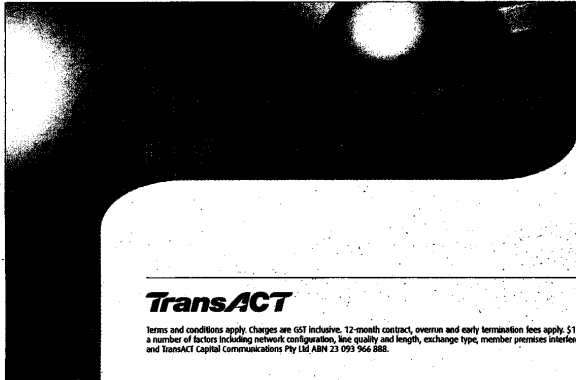
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