

Life saving sheep innovation

BY HENRY KING

Over 5 years ago, a conversation between a fine wool grower in Victoria and an Industrial Chemist, about the harsh effects of cold weather on the mortality of shorn sheep, sparked the development of a product which has truly made its mark on numerous growers throughout Australia and New Zealand.

The product known as Thermoskin®, having been in development and undergone numerous trials, was released last year after proving itself over and over again to maintain the sheep condition for up to 6 weeks after shearing in cold weather.

Henry King, the Industrial Chemist that developed this innovative spray when presented with the idea, managed to hit his mark because the product leaves a very fine coating over the whole animal in a very timely cost effective manner.

Thermoskin® protects animals post shearing by maintaining the condition of the animal pre-shearing, and in helping to prevent hypothermia for up to 6 weeks after shearing. In most cases there is a weight gain for the treated animals as opposed to that of the untreated animals over the first four weeks. The main aim of the product is to maintain the pre-shorn condition of the animal after it is shorn to minimize mortality and stock losses from inclement weather. Thermoskin® assists with maintaining the normal body temperature of the animal, reducing stress to the animal after shearing.

Thermoskin®, is based on lanolin with all other ingredients apart from the solvent being natural, physiologically harmless, biodegradable and environmentally friendly. This product is best and most efficiently applied through a Thermoskin® Spray system, takes 1-2 seconds per animal, dries in two minutes and you can expose your sheep to wind, rain, snow or sleet 10-15 minutes after application without affecting the efficacy of the product. It is an extremely fast and efficient way of protecting your animal.

By coating the entire animal with this fine spray, any shearing nicks and cuts are also covered which in turn promotes faster healing and reduces potential contamination. The film will not block the anus, vulva, pizzle, eyes, ears or mouth of the animal. If any residual is left on the fleece, it is easily removed with normal scouring practices.

Whilst initially being marketed in Australia, Thermoskin® meets all EU requirements and has been exempted for registration by both the APVMA and NZ ACVM. It is cost effective and labour saving by not having to house animals or



Spray machine

apply and remove coats. If other treatments are being used on animals such as back lining for lice etc, Thermoskin® is compatible with solvent based treatments. If using water based treatments, the animal must be totally dry before applying it.

Trials have been carried out in the Eden Monaro region, Taralga, Dunkeld, highlands of East Gippsland, New England region, Tasmania and New Zealand. Thermoskin® has also been successfully used on angora goats, British and cross breed sheep in the Boorowa and Wee Jasper regions of NSW.



Spray machine in action

