



# WormFax NSW

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## March 2006

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### Welcome

Welcome to this edition of WormFax, a monthly summary of WormTesting results (in sheep) from around New South Wales. WormFax is sent by e-mail, but also appears on the web. See

#### Worms on the Web

[www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/sheep-internal](http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/sheep-internal)

### Sources of Data

WormFax is based on sheep WormTest (worm egg count monitoring) data from [NSW DPI Regional Veterinary Laboratories](#) at Orange and Camden/Menangle (EMAI) as well as from Armidale-based private laboratories, [Veterinary Health Research](#), and [New England Veterinary Centres](#). Owner details are not disclosed.

### Explanatory Notes

**“Mean Egg Counts”:** the mean or average of all the WormTest mean worm egg counts for a given Rural Lands Protection Board district. Each

WormTest generally consists of egg counts for 10 individual sheep from a mob. The individual and mean faecal egg counts (FECs) for each WormTest are reported as ‘eggs per gram’ (EPG) of faeces. In addition to egg counts, a larval differentiation or “worm typing” is often done as well.

**“High WormTest”:** highest WormTest mean FEC. Note that individual egg counts within a given WormTest may be 2-4 or more times higher than the WormTest mean.

**“H>40%”:** for each district, the number of WormTests where more than 40% of worms are barber’s pole worm (*Haemonchus contortus*).

**“H>500”:** the number of WormTests where the mean *H. contortus* count is greater than 500 epg. Note that the “H>40%” and “H>500” figures may be underestimates – a number of

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WormTests with high eggs do not have “worm typing” done (not requested by submitter/owner).

**“No. WormTests”:** For each district, the number of WormTests (roundworm egg counts +/- fluke egg counts). This does not include ‘fluke-only’ counts.

**“[Fluke]”:** for each district, the number of positive liver fluke (egg count) tests out of the total number performed.

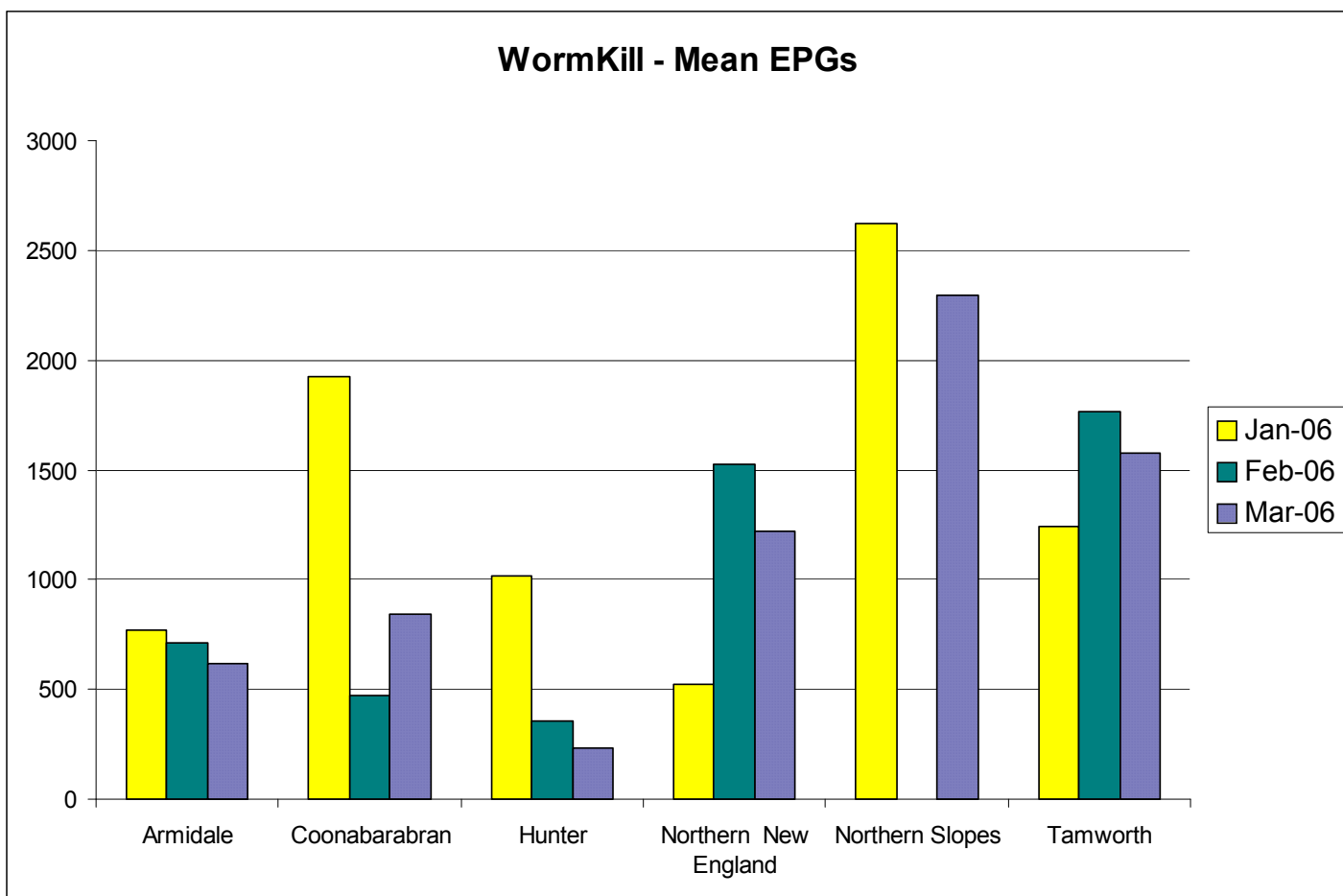


Released 11 March 2005

CDs from Elders, Landmark, CRT or go to the website <[www.wormboss.com.au](http://www.wormboss.com.au)>

**“WormKill” region**

RLPB	Mean EPGs				[Fluke]	High Worm Test	H>500	H>40%	No. Worm Tests
	Mar 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06					
Armidale	630	772	715	615	7 ex 45	7828	42	116	205
Coonabarabran	112	1928	473	842		8540	5	9	23
Hunter		1020	356	229		680			5
Northern New England	843	521	1529	1220	1 ex 5	6276	5	5	31
Northern Slopes	28	2620		2292		4500	0	1	2
Tamworth	1377	1245	1765	1574	0 ex 6	9824	6	11	16



**NSW Department of Primary Industries Regional Veterinary Labs**

[www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/das-laboratory](http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/das-laboratory)

“NATA accredited (to ISO 17025) and unsurpassed for breadth and quality of services”.

Camden/Menangle (EMAI)

tel (02) 4640 6327

Orange

tel (02) 6391 3858

Wollongbar

tel (02) 6626 1261

**Private laboratories contributing data to WormFax**

Veterinary Health Research, Armidale [www.vhr.com.au](http://www.vhr.com.au)

tel (02) 6771 1358

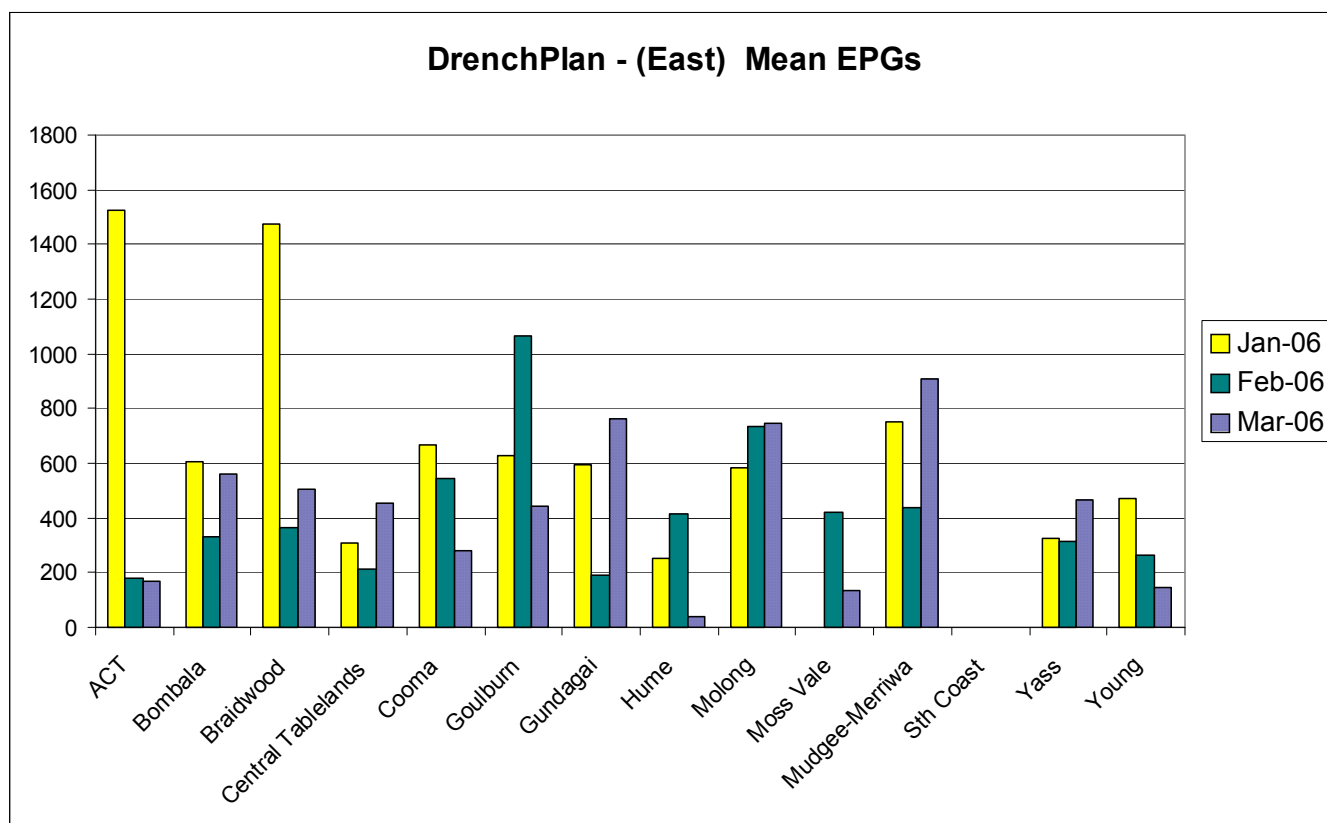
New England Veterinary Centres, Armidale

tel (02) 6771 2022

[www.armidalevet.com.au](http://www.armidalevet.com.au)

## “DrenchPlan – (East)” region

RLPB	Mean EPGs				[Fluke]	High Worm Test	H>500	H>40%	No. Worm Tests
	Mar 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06					
ACT	40	1527	182	167		240			3
Bombala	222	606	330	560	1 ex 1	796	1	2	2
Braidwood	1005	1477	363	503	0 ex 1	1920	1	2	6
Central Tablelands	204	311	211	453	3 ex 10	2900	5	11	28
Cooma	360	665	545	279		504	1	1	3
Goulburn	124	627	1066	441	0 ex 3	2040	2	3	9
Gundagai	250	597	189	760	1 ex 2	5056			11
Hume	142	254	417	41		164	0	0	6
Molong	178	585	732	746	0 ex 1	2440	5	10	22
Moss Vale	1651		419	132		264			2
Mudgee-Merriwa	356	753	436	906		7600	7	8	28
Sth Coast	602								0
Yass	223	326	316	464	0 ex 15	3172	1	3	29
Young	125	470	264	145	0 ex 1	880			38



**For more information, ask your vet or other professional adviser.**

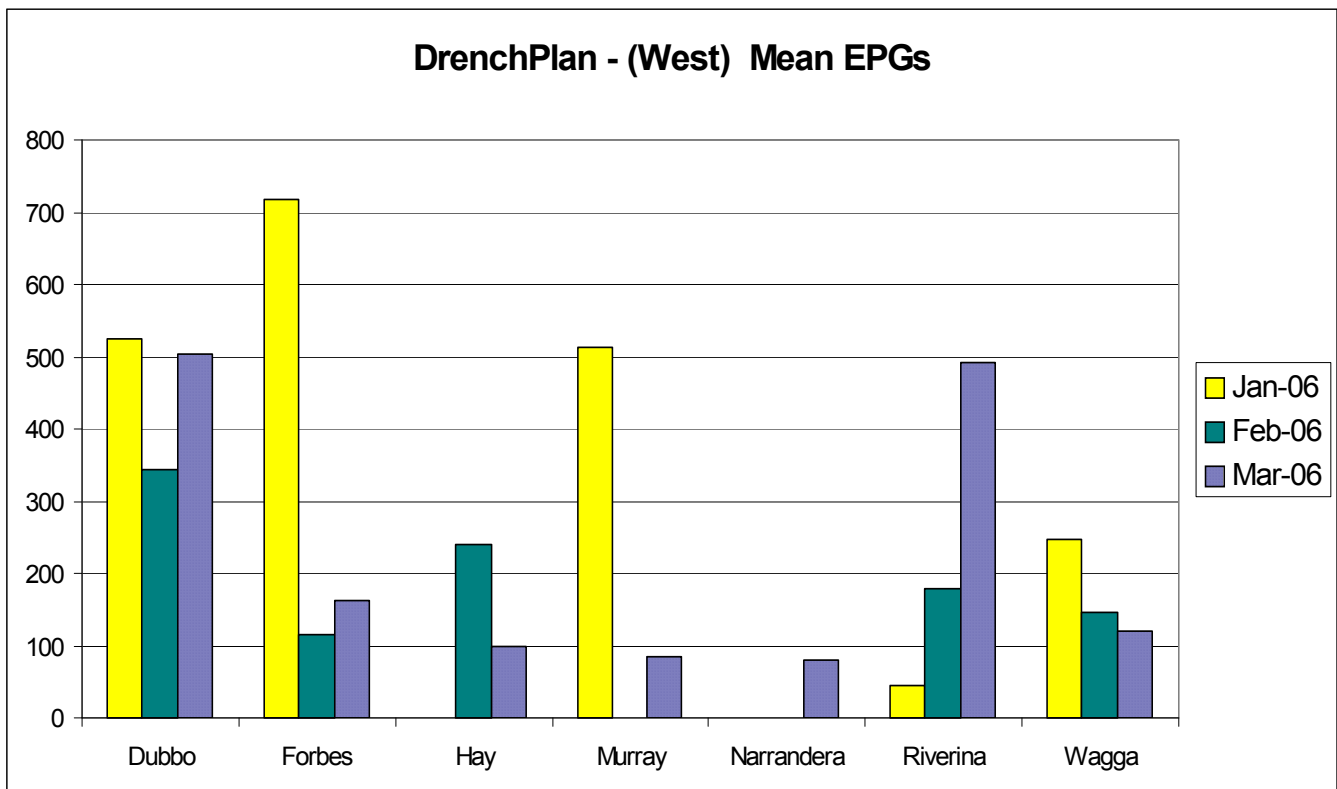
**Also see “Worms on the Web”:** [www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/sheep-internal](http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/sheep-internal)

**Have you seen The Boss?**

[www.wormboss.com.au](http://www.wormboss.com.au) or pick up a CD from your drench reseller

## “DrenchPlan – (West)” region

RLPB	Mean EPGs				[Fluke]	High Worm Test	H>500	H>40%	No. Worm Tests
	Mar 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06					
Dubbo	524	524	344	503		2460	1	3	10
Forbes	100	718	115	163		524			10
Hay	24		240	100		220			4
Murray		514		85		272			5
Narrandera	212			80		100			2
Riverina	140	44	179	492		380			11
Wagga	22	248	147	121	1 ex 1	660	0	2	42



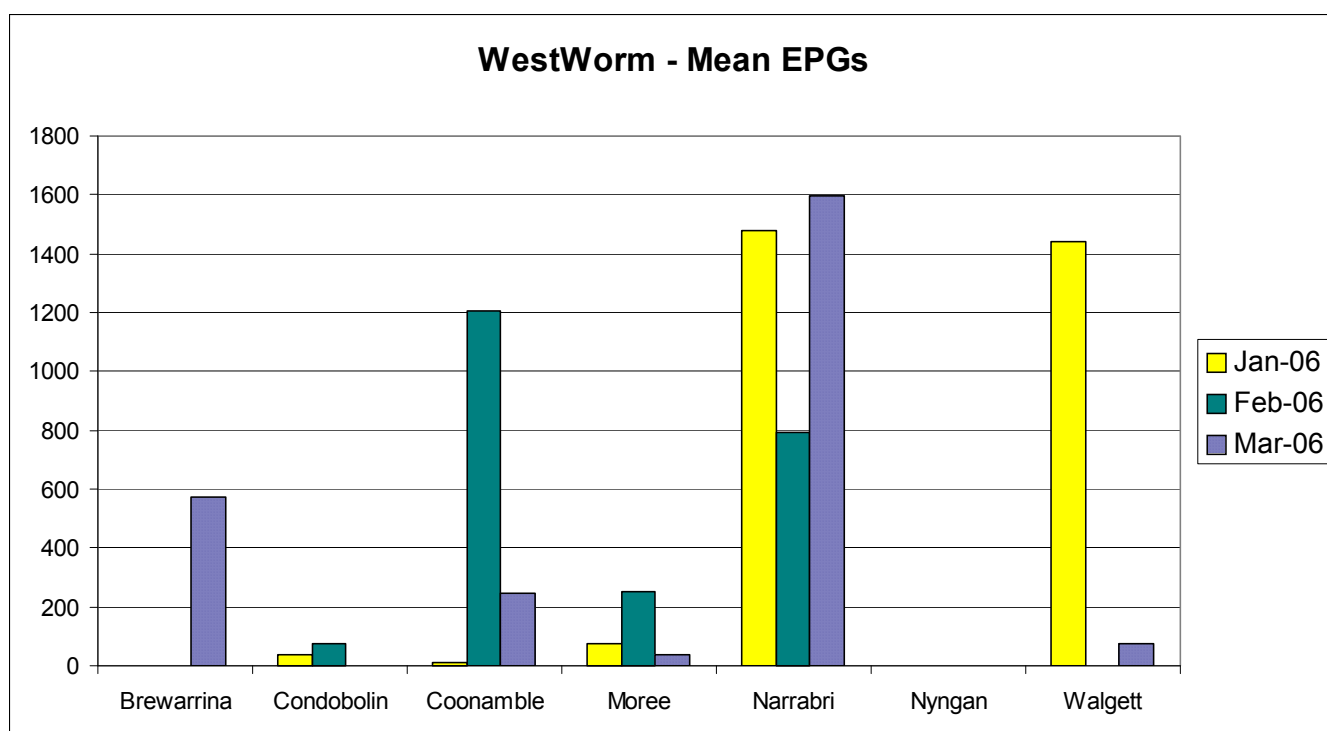
The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (April 2006). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of New South Wales Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

Recognising that some of the information in this document is provided by third parties, the State of New South Wales, the author and the publisher take no responsibility for the accuracy, currency, reliability and correctness of any information included in the document provided by third parties.



## “WestWorm” region

RLPB	Mean EPGs				[Fluke]	High Worm Test	H>500	H>40%	No. Worm Tests
	Mar 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06					
Brewarrina				572		572			1
Condobolin		40	73						0
Coonamble	54	12	1208	248		540	0	0	3
Moree	190	76	253	37		84	0	0	3
Narrabri	600	1479	791	1594	0 ex 5	3460	5	5	7
Nyngan	32	0							0
Walgett	1848	1443		75		168	0	0	5



## “FarWestWorm” region

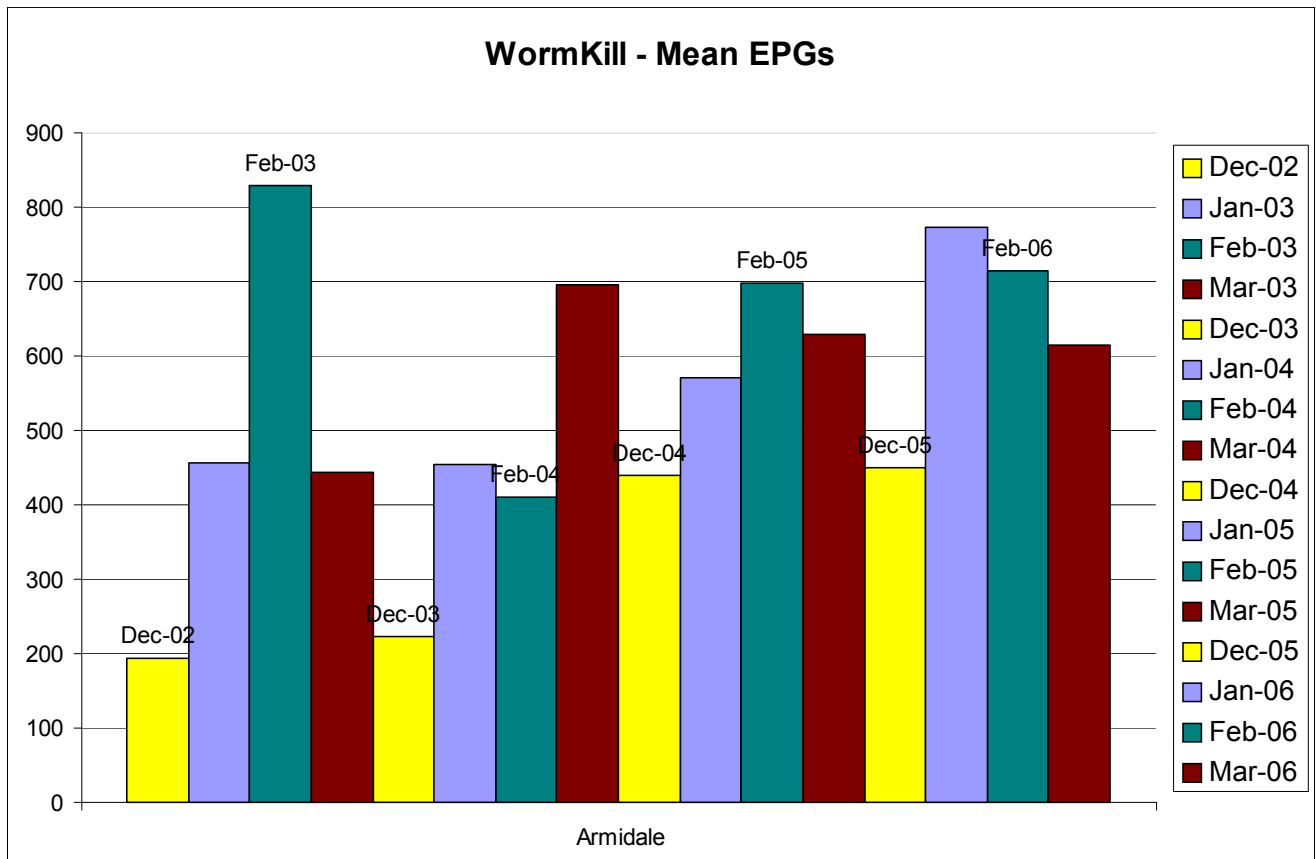
RLPB	Mean EPGs				[Fluke]	High Worm Test	H>500	H>40%	No. Worm Tests
	Mar 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06					
Balranald		1680		696		696			1
Bourke									0
Broken Hill									0
Cobar			416						0
Hillston			44						0
Milparinka									0
Wanaaring									0
Wentworth	12								0
Wilcannia									0

**'Bad Haemonchus year' in Northern Tablelands and elsewhere**

Many have observed that *Haemonchus* was 'bad' this year in the Northern Tablelands (where *Haemonchus* is commonly a problem), but also in other parts of NSW (eg Goulburn, central tablelands, parts of the southern tablelands etc). Below is a graph of average worm egg counts (WECs) for the Armidale district for this and some previous summers. The table shows some recent weather data for Armidale.

Some comments:

- This is 'average' data. Some individual WormTests had much, much higher WECs (eg from Armidale/March 2006: one WormTest with average 7828 eggs per gram of faeces (epg) - average of 10 counts; highest individual count in that test was 16920 eggs per gram).
- Rainfall and other conditions varied quite a lot over the tablelands: Guyra for example got a lot more rain than other localities. Likewise, there were more cases of haemonchosis in some areas than others.
- In some cases, sheep were dying of acute haemonchosis ie clinical signs and even deaths were occurring before WECs rapidly escalated. This indicates a rapid intake of larvae, and significant blood loss from these before reaching breeding/egg-laying stage.
- Management factors were doubtless another factor. Were effective drenches used? Were sheep set-stocked (greater risk of parasitism) or was there some system of grazing management?
- Rainfall for Armidale city was around average or even below average, after a flying start with double the average in November 2005. Once there is a certain minimum amount of monthly rainfall (say, 50mm) to keep *Haemonchus* 'ticking over', other factors such as number of rain days/frequency of rain may well become as or more important than total rain received in a month. Bear in mind that *Haemonchus* eggs freshly deposited on pasture in faeces need adequate moisture within about a week in order for the eggs to develop and hatch. Otherwise the eggs die.



Weather - Armidale city: Nov 2005 – March 2006			
Month	Rain – observed / [average] (mm)	Evaporation (mm)	Rain days –observed / [average]
Nov05	161 [80]	120	12 [9]
Dec05	88 [89]	172	9 [10]
Jan06	73 [105]	138	11 [10]
Feb06	67 [87]	126	16 [10]
Mar06	94 [65]	98	13 [9.5]