



# WormFax NSW

ISSN 1444-3783



## April 2006

Editor: Stephen Love, Veterinarian/State worm control coordinator  
NSW Department of Primary Industries, Armidale

### 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

### In this issue

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Introduction/notes             | 1 |
| WormKill region                | 2 |
| Lab phone numbers              | 2 |
| Further information            | 3 |
| DrenchPlan region              |   |
| (East)                         | 3 |
| (West)                         | 4 |
| Disclaimer                     | 4 |
| WestWorm & FarWestWorm regions | 5 |

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.

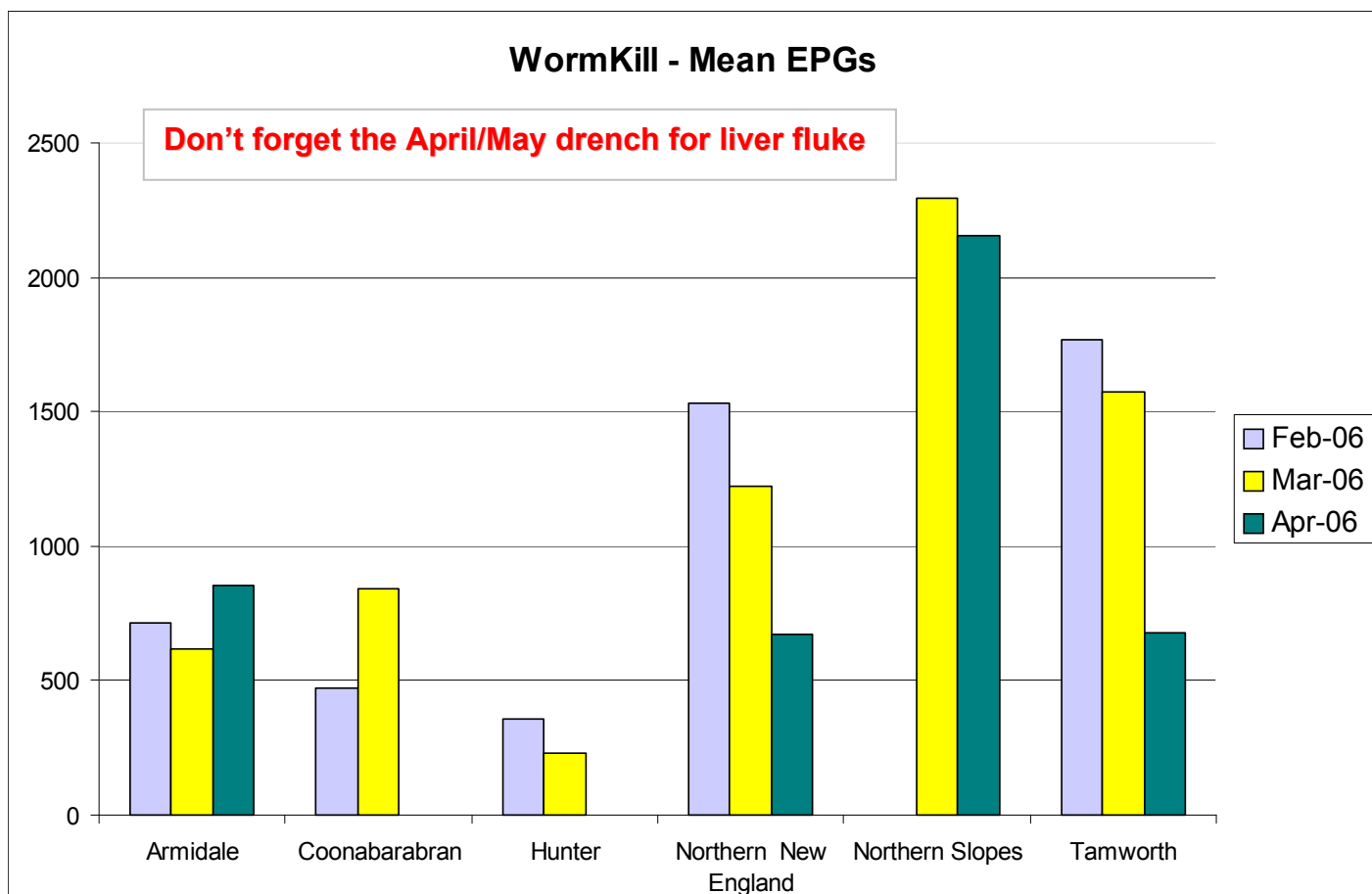


Released 11 March 2005

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 |
|----------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------------|-------|-------|----------------|
|                      | Apr 05    | Feb 06 | Mar 06 | Apr 06 |         |                |       |       |                |
| Armidale             | 917       | 715    | 615    | 852    | 5 ex 36 | 13,512         | 52    | 78    | 151            |
| Coonabarabran        | 259       | 473    | 842    |        |         |                |       |       | 0              |
| Hunter               | 2512      | 356    | 229    |        |         |                |       |       | 0              |
| Northern New England | 491       | 1529   | 1220   | 672    | 1 ex 3  | 3172           | 9     | 17    | 25             |
| Northern Slopes      | 57        |        | 2292   | 2156   |         | 5820           |       |       | 4              |
| Tamworth             | 307       | 1765   | 1574   | 676    |         | 4288           | 9     | 17    | 14             |



**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

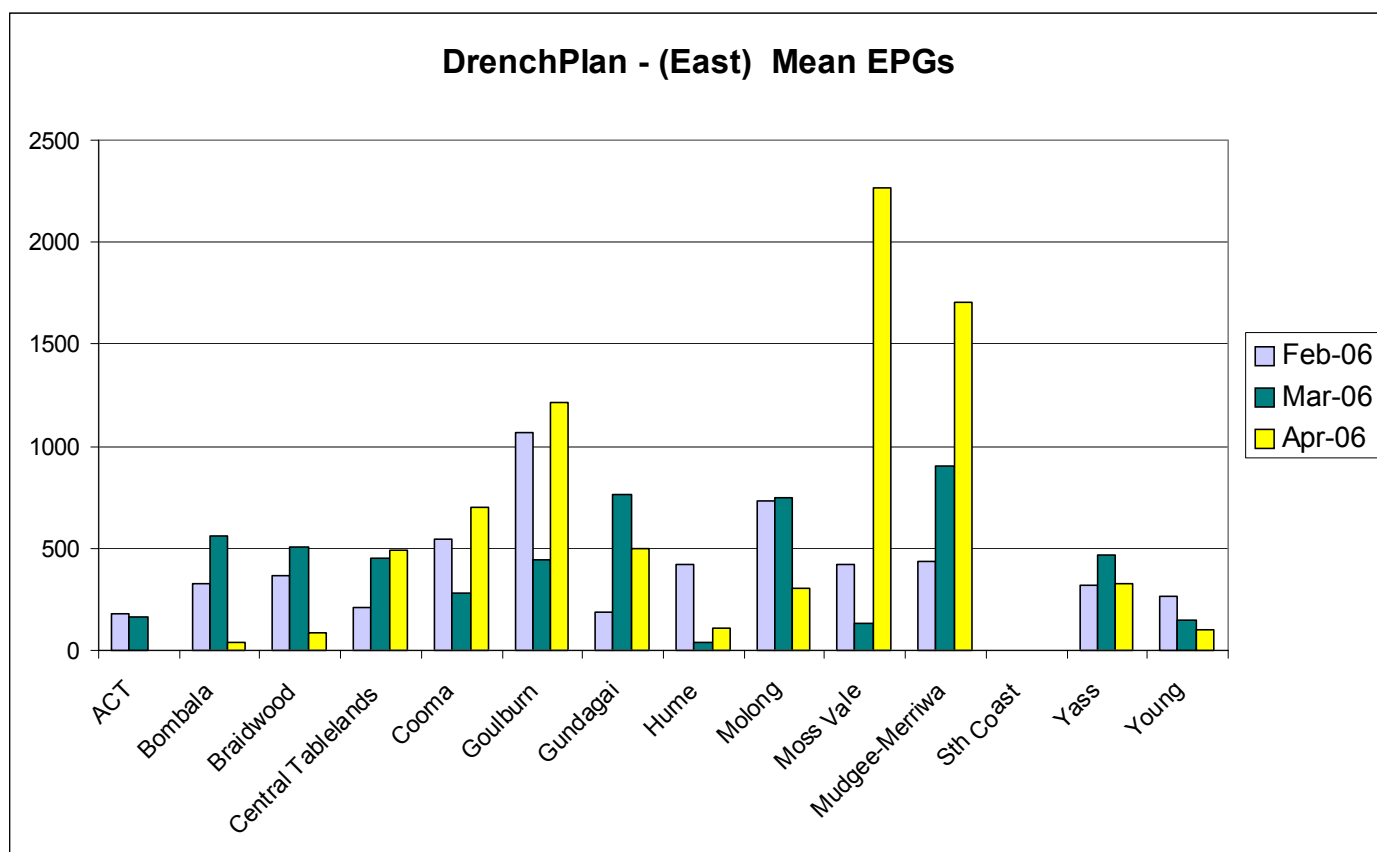
[www.armidalevet.com.au](http://www.armidalevet.com.au)

**Don't forget the April/May drench for liver fluke**

*Don't guess-WormTest!*

## “DrenchPlan – (East)” region

| RLPB               | Mean EPGs |        |        |        | [Fluke] | High Worm Test | H>500 | H>40% | No. Worm Tests |
|--------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------------|-------|-------|----------------|
|                    | Apr 05    | Feb 06 | Mar 06 | Apr 06 |         |                |       |       |                |
| ACT                | 40        | 182    | 167    |        |         |                |       |       | 0              |
| Bombala            | 190       | 330    | 560    | 42     | 0 ex 2  | 164            |       |       | 5              |
| Braidwood          | 1252      | 363    | 503    | 84     |         | 212            |       |       | 3              |
| Central Tablelands | 925       | 211    | 453    | 492    |         | 1500           |       |       | 6              |
| Cooma              | 379       | 545    | 279    | 704    | 2 ex 2  | 2930           | 1     | 1     | 7              |
| Goulburn           | 594       | 1066   | 441    | 1218   | 0 ex 1  | 2920           | 1     | 2     | 7              |
| Gundagai           | 1138      | 189    | 760    | 498    |         | 700            | 0     | 0     | 4              |
| Hume               | 183       | 417    | 41     | 111    |         | 212            |       |       | 3              |
| Molong             | 573       | 732    | 746    | 305    |         | 700            | 0     | 2     | 6              |
| Moss Vale          |           | 419    | 132    | 2268   |         | 2268           |       |       | 1              |
| Mudgee-Merriwa     | 740       | 436    | 906    | 1707   |         | 12160          | 3     | 4     | 11             |
| Sth Coast          | 180       |        |        |        |         |                |       |       | 0              |
| Yass               | 142       | 316    | 464    | 327    | 0 ex 2  | 1732           | 1     | 2     | 7              |
| Young              | 136       | 264    | 145    | 100    | 0 ex 2  | 1520           | 0     | 0     | 21             |



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

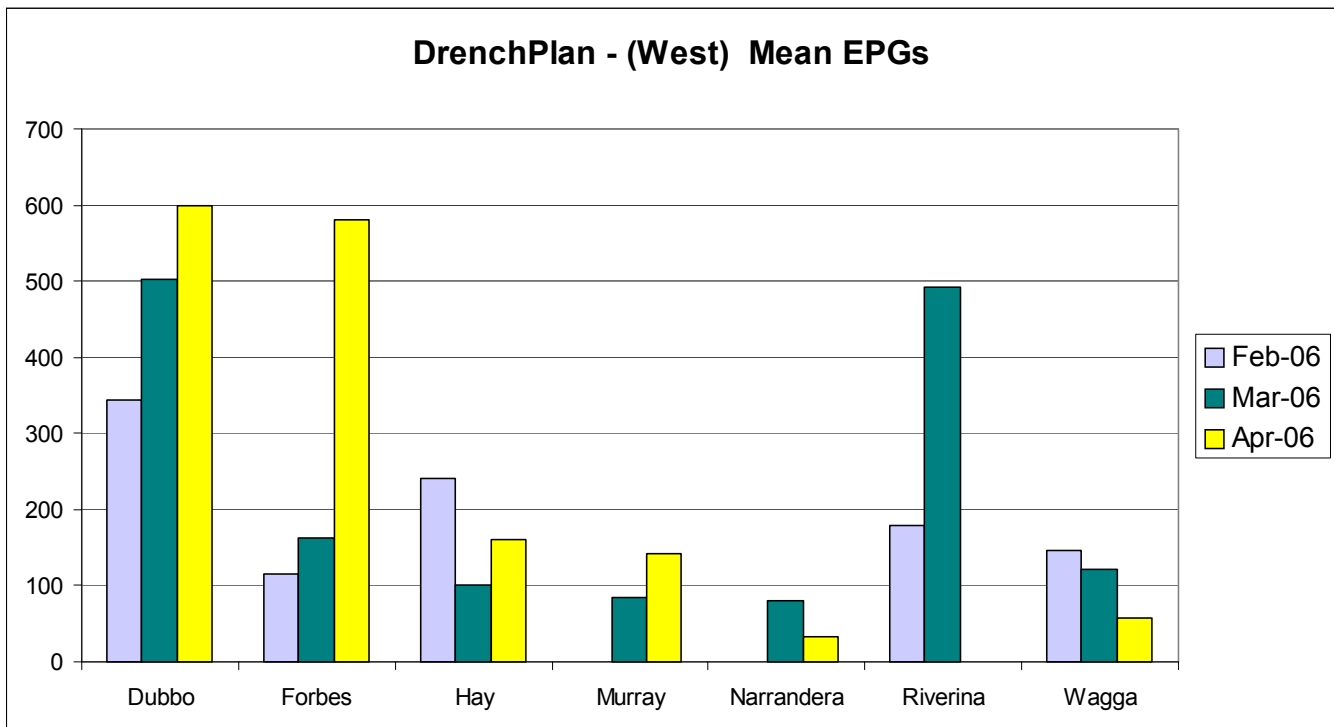
**Also see “Worms on the Web”:** [www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/sheep-internal](http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/sheep-internal)

**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 |
|------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------------|-------|-------|----------------|
|            | Apr 05    | Feb 06 | Mar 06 | Apr 06 |         |                |       |       |                |
| Dubbo      | 606       | 344    | 503    | 600    |         | 1040           | 1     | 1     | 9              |
| Forbes     |           | 115    | 163    | 581    |         | 1180           | 0     | 1     | 4              |
| Hay        |           | 240    | 100    | 160    |         | 160            |       |       | 1              |
| Murray     |           |        | 85     | 143    |         | 348            |       |       | 3              |
| Narrandera |           |        | 80     | 32     |         | 32             |       |       | 1              |
| Riverina   | 52        | 179    | 492    |        |         |                |       |       | 0              |
| Wagga      | 157       | 147    | 121    | 57     |         | 280            | 0     | 3     | 8              |



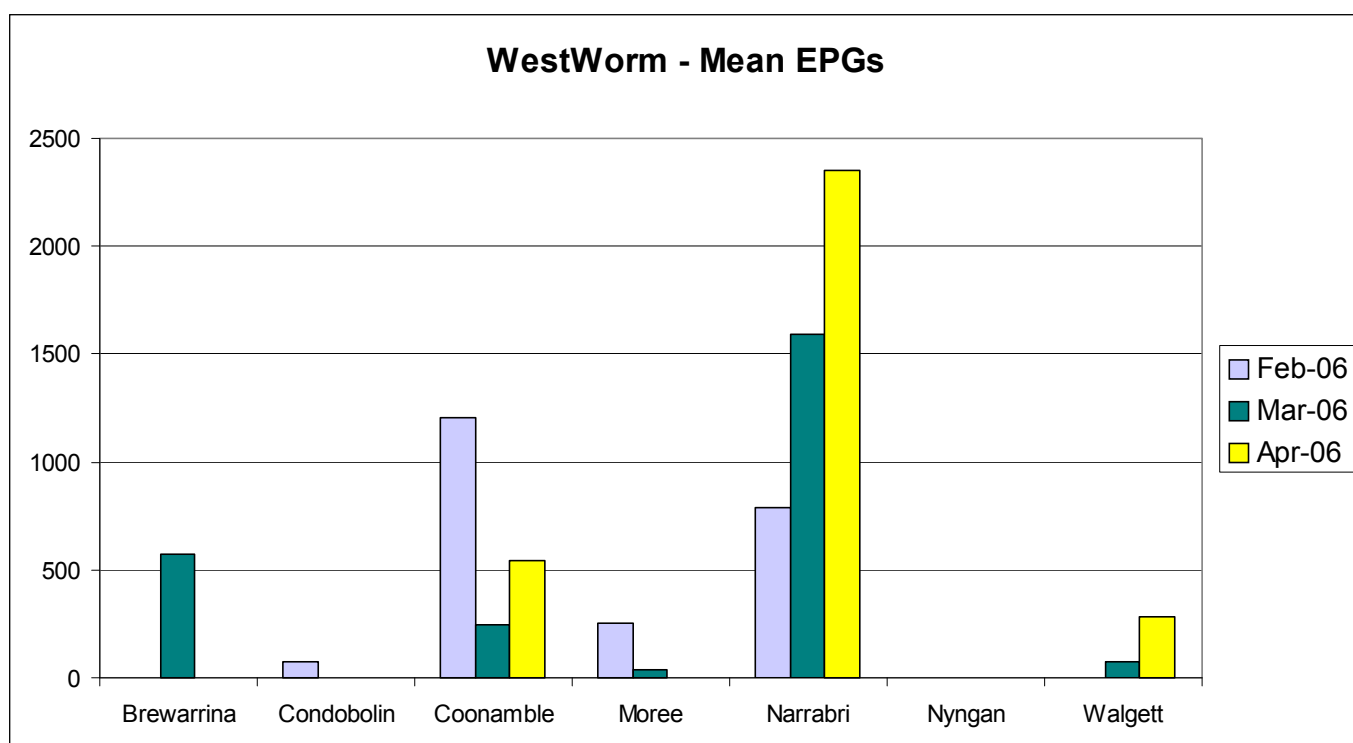
The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (May 2006). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with 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 |
|------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------------|-------|-------|----------------|
|            | Apr 05    | Feb 06 | Mar 06 | Apr 06 |         |                |       |       |                |
| Brewarrina |           |        | 572    |        |         |                |       |       | 0              |
| Condobolin | 88        | 73     |        |        |         |                |       |       | 0              |
| Coonamble  | 389       | 1208   | 248    | 541    |         | 1700           | 4     | 4     | 13             |
| Moree      | 1615      | 253    | 37     | 0      |         | 0              |       |       | 1              |
| Narrabri   | 668       | 791    | 1594   | 2348   |         | 2348           | 1     | 1     | 1              |
| Nyngan     | 0         |        |        |        |         |                |       |       | 0              |
| Walgett    |           |        | 75     | 280    |         | 344            |       |       | 2              |



## “FarWestWorm” region

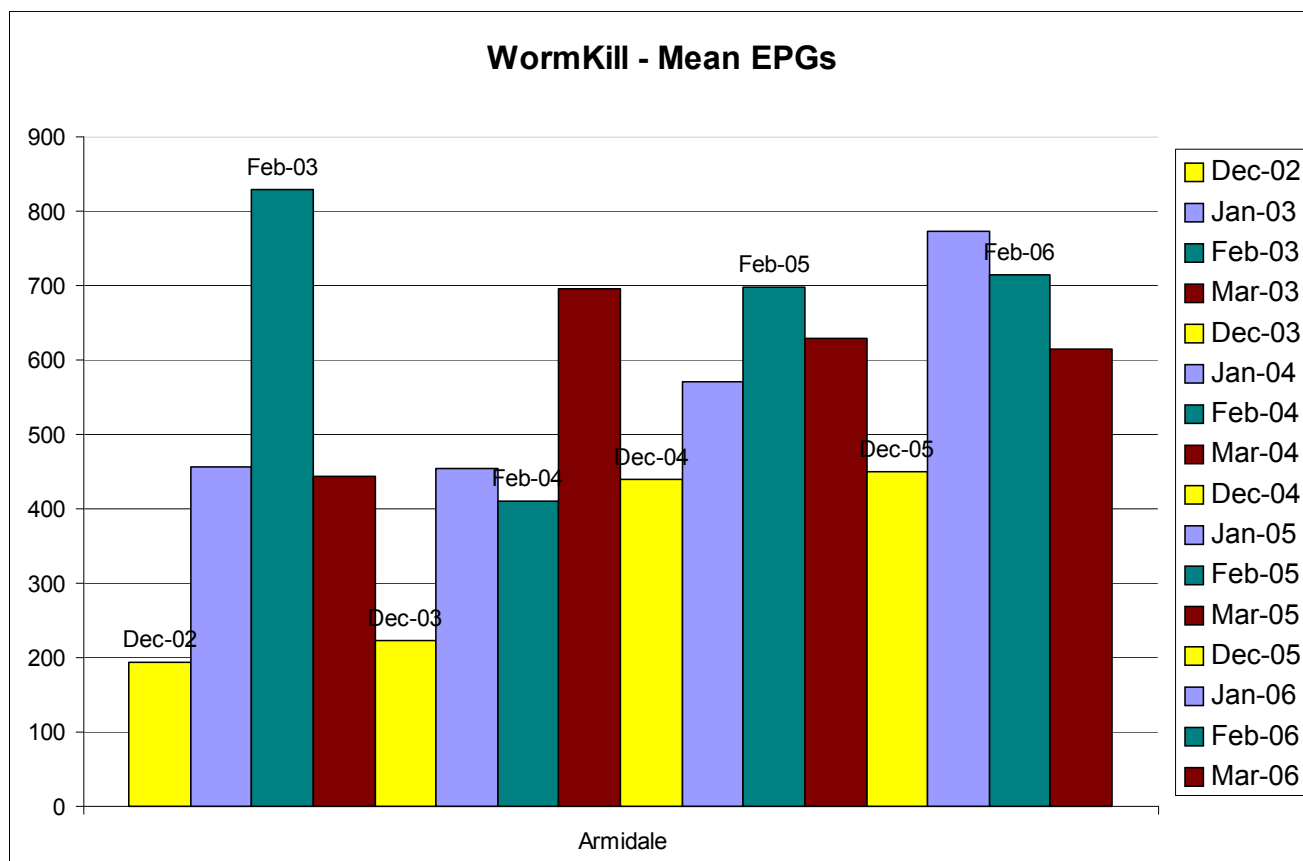
| RLPB        | Mean EPGs |        |        |        | [Fluke] | High Worm Test | H>500 | H>40% | No. Worm Tests |
|-------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------------|-------|-------|----------------|
|             | Apr 05    | Feb 06 | Mar 06 | Apr 06 |         |      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