

Getting the best from your **Fluketest**

Fluketest indicates whether a particular mob or herd has **adult** liver fluke infection.

Where in Tasmania does liver fluke infection occur

Liver fluke disease is likely to occur in the valleys and tributaries of the North and South Esk, Central Plateau, Derwent Valley, Central North and Midlands, in the North-East, along the East Coast (in certain years) and on Flinders Island. No fluke infections have been recorded from the North-West Coast (west of Devonport), in the Huon Valley or on King Island.

A positive **Fluketest** for home-bred stock indicates that the freshwater snail, which is needed for the fluke life cycle, **is on your property**. For properties bordering natural watercourses, liver fluke can cause considerable production loss and stock deaths.

What types of grazing can lead to Fluke infection

Infected stock grazing on irrigated pasture and poorly drained or swampy areas will pass fluke eggs in their dung. New fluke infections are generally picked up grazing these contaminated areas during the late summer, autumn and early winter.

Fluketest as a monitor of Liver Fluke control

Allowing fluke infections to continue unchecked may cause loss in wool production, decreased live weight gain or death. By treating stock for fluke when advised, infection in the following year can be reduced considerably.

Some years can be worse for fluke infection than others.

Fluketest can be used as a check on the effectiveness of your fluke control program.

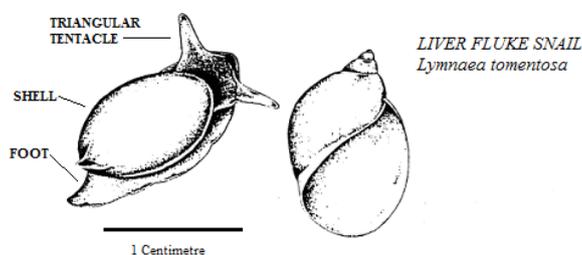
Fluketest is primarily used to determine if specific fluke drenches are needed to reduce fluke egg contamination.

Ewes and wethers are the main sources of fluke infection. **Fluketest** conducted on older age stock will indicate how effective your fluke control has been in the past.

For **weaners or hoggets** grazing 'at risk' pastures (particularly in those years that are favourable for fluke transmission) a **Fluketest** in the period from late autumn through winter will indicate if fluke drench is required.

Liver fluke take 10 to 12 weeks to mature and start producing eggs. **Fluketest can only detect the presence of mature liver fluke.**

Fluketest cannot detect recently acquired fluke infections. For further advice, consult your veterinary adviser.



For more information on this service contact your veterinarian or

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