

Livestock Parasite Management Group: 2022-2023 evaluation findings

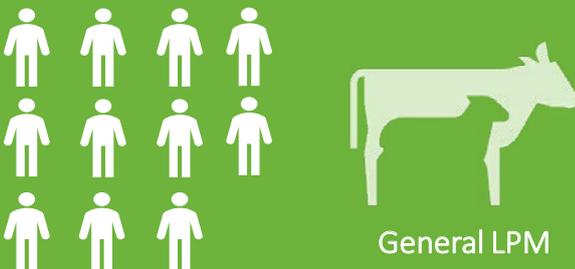


As part of their livestock parasite management (LPM) campaign, Beef + Lamb New Zealand formed a LPM group at the end of 2022. Approximately 12 sheep and beef farmers from the Wairarapa region form the group. They meet four times a year to consolidate and build their LPM knowledge.

Four meetings have been held since the group's inception. Each meeting has involved an evaluation component, to track the group's progress and processes.

Meeting attendance and topics

September 2022



General LPM practices

January 2023



Parasite management plans and monitoring

March 2023



Genetics

June 2023



Farm systems and profitability

Evaluation activities



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Critical success factor

Farmer to farmer learning



Farmers in this group are **enjoying the opportunities to share and collaborate with other farmers**. Farmers are also sharing livestock parasite information and insights with farmers outside of the group.

Farmer progress



Some farmers are **taking a variety of actions that reflect their whole farm**. Six farmers have put strategies in place to manage internal parasites - four of them were to combat drench resistance.

Farmers' **confidence levels are good**, the majority of farmers at the January and March 2023 meetings (7 out of 10 and 6 out of 8 farmers) felt they could confidently explain their parasite management practices and give good advice on parasite management principles.

Farmers have a **good level of customised skills, knowledge and practices**. At the September 2022 meeting, the majority of farmers (8 out of 11 farmers) said that they follow their parasite management plan that they developed with their vet *most of the time*.

Farmers have a **range of general skills, knowledge and practices, but they are not consistent across the group**. The varied responses demonstrates the differences in farmers' skills, knowledge and, therefore, approaches.

Parasites and parasite management are **top of mind** for farmers. Almost all farmers who attended the September 2022 meeting (10 out of 11 farmers) said **parasites were the number one health issue** their animals faced on-farm.

Future considerations

Partner with others to **create consistent messages** to increase farmers knowledge and confidence.

Maintain **regular feedback loops** to ensure meetings' content includes **what farmers need the most**.

Encourage farmers to **seek expert support** on delivering their whole farm parasite management plan.

