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PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

M E D I A R E L E A S E

DAFF05/71C

2 December 2005

New weapon against livestock parasites

Australian cattle, sheep and other livestock will be better off thanks to a new guide to the safe and effective use of ectoparasiticides — the chemicals used to fight parasites such as cattle ticks and blowfly larvae.

The proper use of ectoparasiticides is the subject of a new publication for farmers launched today by the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Senator Richard Colbeck.

Ectoparasiticide use in Contemporary Australian Livestock Production, produced by Avcare, the National Association for Crop Production and Animal Health, also addresses broader issues such as resistance and animal welfare, as well as community perceptions of chemical use," Senator Colbeck said.

"There is no doubt that continually evolving consumer and community expectations are placing heavier demands on our livestock production industries," he said.

"Ectoparasiticides have a long history of animal welfare benefits for these industries and the chemicals used have reached high levels of safety for people, animals and the environment.

"But despite this, consumers and international markets are increasing the pressure on producers to reduce the amount of chemicals used in livestock production.

"A major challenge for the industry is clearly going to be balancing its production, animal welfare objectives and the domestic and international community's perceptions.

"Through this publication, the industry has taken an important step forward and will be in a better position to meet its challenges," Senator Colbeck said.

Ectoparasiticide use in Contemporary Australian Livestock Production will be available online at www.avcare.org.au. Hard copies can be ordered by contacting Avcare on (02) 6230 6399.

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