



# Top 5

January 17th, 2023

Welcome to 2023!

## VITAMIN E

With sheep and weaners grazing stubbles, dry pasture, and grain-based diets for long periods of time, Vitamin E deficiency becomes a problem. Vitamin E in combination with selenium is essential for immune function, growth, reproduction, and prevention of white muscle disease.

Signs to look out for include poor growth, reluctance to move, lameness, stiff gate, or death.

Prevention: give oral drench or provide vitamin E treated grain if sheep are on dry pasture/grain-based diets for 6 weeks or more. Vitamin E application rate of 2.5g per head. To apply to grain mix 10kg of product with 20L of water and apply up the auger. For a 50% active this will apply 5000g of product which will treat 2000 sheep. At 250g/hd sheep feed you treat 0.5T of grain with the above formulation. This is for Rovimix E50AD.

Further info on Vitamin E deficiency [LINK](#). Application guide [LINK](#) or find it in the FactSheet section in the Client Login area of the website.

## MLA MEATUP FORUM 2023 ALBANY!

Registrations are now open for the 2023 MLA MeatUp Forum, in Albany on 23rd March. With



a line up of interesting topics and speakers from across Australia, join us to hear about all things red meat.

From business topics with John Francis (Agrista) on farm capital investment to the world of shedding sheep with Ed and local producer David Stade. Mick Clews will focus on increasing reproduction rates in cattle, and we will look at the new Australian Feedbase Monitor with Alastair Raynor (CiboLabs).

Keep your eye out for the program coming out soon! Tickets for MLA members are \$25 and \$50 for non-members.

Follow the link to [REGISTER NOW](#)



The poster for the MeatUp Forum 2023 in Albany features the 'meatup FORUM' logo at the top left and the 'mla MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA' logo at the top right. Below the logos is a collage of three images: a group of cattle, a person in a blue shirt working in a field, and a group of sheep. The background of the poster is orange. Text on the poster includes 'For the latest in red meat R&D', 'REGISTER NOW', 'Albany, 28 March 2023', and 'mla.com.au/meatup'. At the bottom right, contact information for Georgia Reid-Smith is provided: 'Georgia Reid-Smith', 'AgPro Management', '044 752 3110', and 'georgia@agpromanagement.com'.

## ACIDOSIS

Barley is the main problem- once reach 0.5kg/day, there are risks with high starch (acidosis). Acid buffers or add lime- covers calcium needs too!

Signs of acidosis include depressed appearance and laying down, diarrhoea, dehydration, bloating and death.

To prevent acidosis, introduce barley slowly at 50g/hd/day and increase by 25% every 3 days,

until desired ration reached. This will allow the bug that utilises starch in the rumen, to increase in levels. This applies to moving stock into fresh stubbles too- fill their bellies with hay before they move to reduce impact. Ensure 20% of the diet consists of roughage- older stubbles, straw, or hay.

If affected remove from the source immediately and feed on hay to increase fibre intake. Straw isn't as palatable, so they won't eat as easily. For individuals (eg expensive rams!) drenching with Bicarb soda can help (13g bicarb in ~2L water, but check with a vet!)

For more info listen to [Episode 11 with Adrian Baker](#) on AgPro Cast.

## ARE YOU UN-AUSTRALIA?

The new 2023 MLA Lamb ad is out! If you haven't had a chance to watch it yet, follow the link for a bit of a laugh [LINK](#).

## TOXIC WEEDS

Keep an eye out for some of the toxic weeds this summer. Generally, they are unpalatable to sheep but will be eaten if it's the only green pick available. Signs of poisoning include ill thrift, photosensitisation, weakness and sudden death. Remove stock from paddock immediately if you see these signs.

1. Lesser Loosestrife – toxic, found in wet areas of paddock, effected animals suffer kidney/liver damage resulting in death.



2. Box Poison– native shrub plant up to 1m high with orange/yellow flower, contains natural 1080.



3. Mint Weed – has a strong mint odour, stock can suffer from nitrate poisoning if newly introduced or consumed in large amounts.



4. Caltrop – contains toxin causing liver damage, green plants have higher amounts of toxin compared to dead plants.

