

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR VICTORIAN CLIENTS

Administering pain-relief when mulesing sheep

As you are aware the new Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA) Regulations 2019 commenced on 14th December 2019. One of the regulations to have a delayed commencement was the requirement to provide pain-relief when mulesing sheep.

From 1st July 2020, if a person is mulesing sheep in Victoria, they must administer pain relief to those animals. This requirement is being introduced as part of the recent POCTA Regulations 2019.

This means using a pain-relieving product registered for use on sheep by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. Anyone unsure about what products they should be using should speak to their veterinary practitioner.

Producers are being reminded that they are legally required to keep records of agricultural and veterinary chemical product(s) used on their farm, therefore full records of use of the registered pain relief product(s) must be kept. Details of these requirements can be found here: <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/chemicals/record-keeping/veterinary-chemical-use-records>. Producers are also being encouraged to keep thorough records of their husbandry practices and pain-relief product purchases, including receipt of purchase and any other relevant details or documentation.

For sheep producers who use mulesing in their flock, the requirement for pain relief provides better animal welfare outcomes, has productivity and financial benefits, and enhances the reputation of Victoria's sheep industry.

From July 2020, if anyone mules' a sheep without providing pain relief they may be fined \$496 or, if taken to court a penalty of up to \$3304 may be imposed.

You can find more information on the POCTA Regulations 2019 at <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-legislation/prevention-of-cruelty-to-animals-legislation>.

For further information on pain relief requirements refer to the VFF website <https://bit.ly/2XyG23i>. If you have any queries or require any clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

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