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for

Premium

Quality

Wool

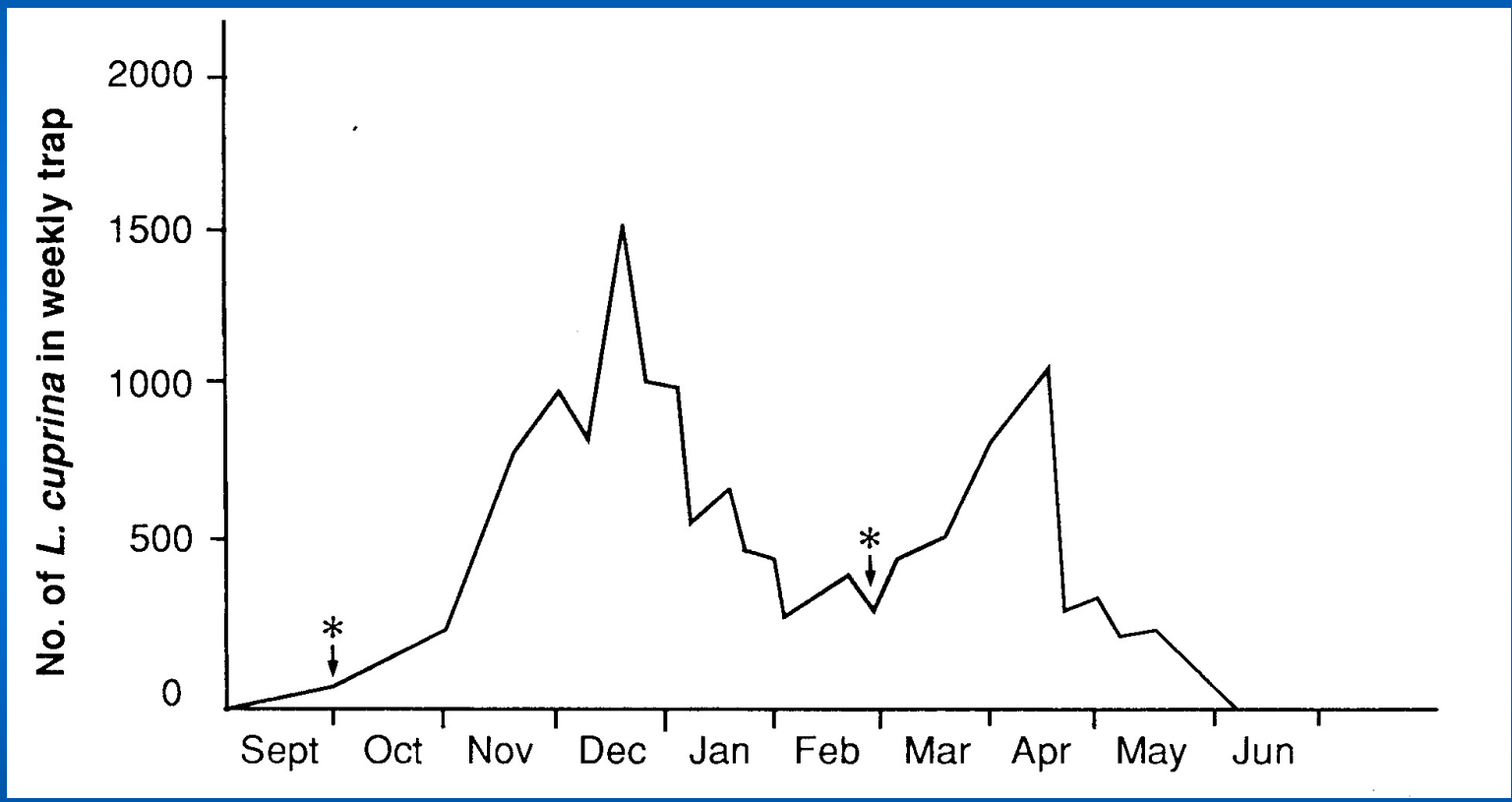
Factors Affecting the Incidence of Blowfly Strike

Produced for the CRC for Premium Quality Wool undergraduate program by;
Dr. Steve Walkden-Brown and Dr. Brad Crook, The University of New England.



Mean trapped blowfly numbers over an 8 year period near Canberra

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Steve Walkden-Brown



Host factors - Damaged skin

- Wounds (e.g. mulesing, poll strike)
- Infections (e.g. footrot, scabby mouth)
- Dermatitis (inflammation of the skin)
 - Fleece rot
 - Lumpy wool (Dermatophilosis)
 - Scald (urine, scours)

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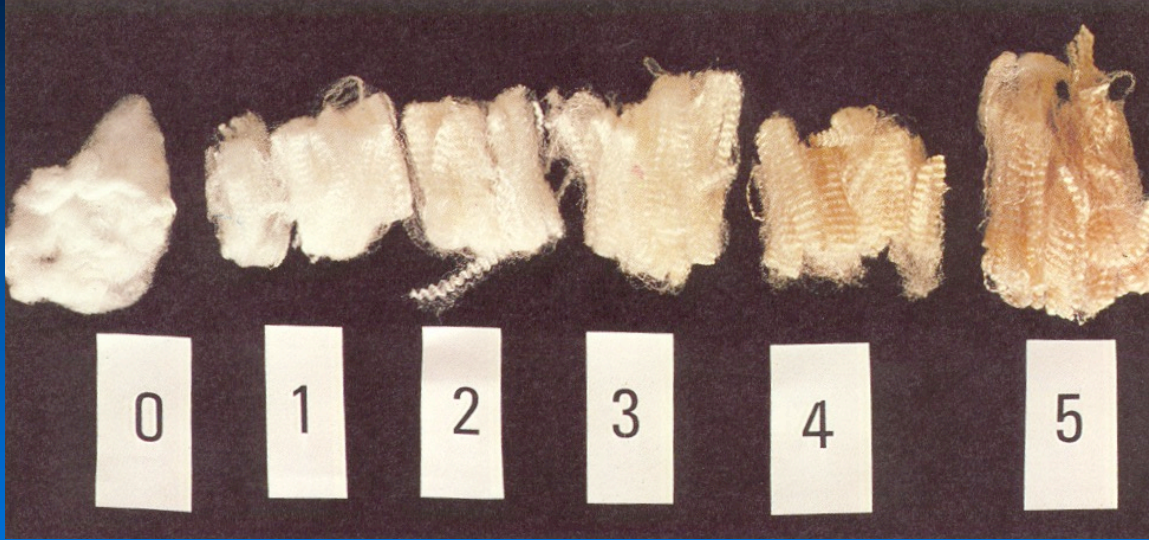
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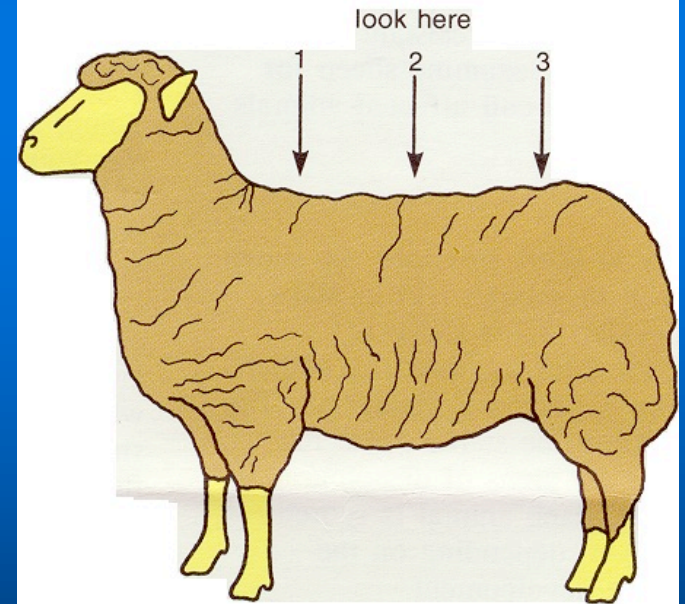
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Look for fleece rot by opening the fleece along the back line of the sheep.





Lumpy wool (Dermatophilosis, Dermo)

- Contagious bacterial dermatitis disease caused by *Dermatophilus congolensis*
- Infection of the lower legs causes strawberry footrot
- Disease mainly of weaners and hoggets
- Scabs and yellow discolouration of wool - can form extensive crusty plates
- Predisposing factor for body strike
- Spread by contact between wet sheep or infected dips
- Treated with antibiotics
- Control by adding 1% zinc sulphate to dips

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Host Factors - Phenotype

- Length of wool
 - Little body strike with <4months wool - long wool dries slowly
- Fleece type (via affect on dermatitis)
- Conformation
 - “Devils grip” facilitates skin wetting along backline and wrinkly breeches facilitate breech strike
- Mules operation and tail length (3rd joint)
- Close set horns in rams predispose to poll strike

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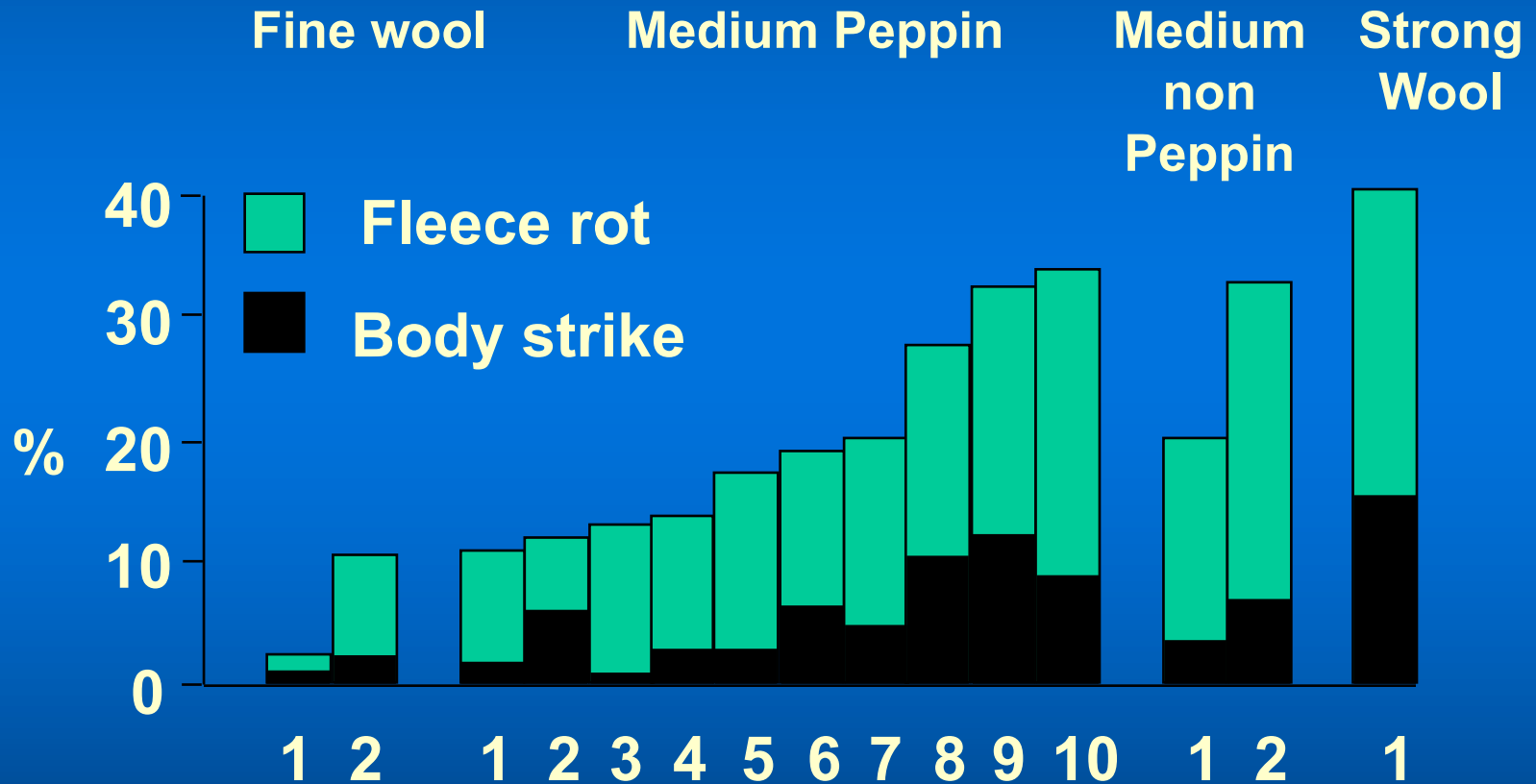
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Differences in susceptibility to fleece rot and body strike within and between strains of merino



Steve Walkden-Brown
Source: Atkins, K.D. & McGuirk, B.J., (1979)