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Breeding for Disease Resistance in Sheep

Produced for the CRC for Premium Quality Wool undergraduate program by;
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Threats to existing control measures

- **Gastro-intestinal parasites**
 - Anthelmintic resistance
- **Sheep Blowfly**
 - Animal welfare issues (mulesing)
 - Pesticide residues
 - Resistance to pesticides
- **Lice**
 - Pesticide residues
 - Pesticide resistance

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Breeding for disease resistance - What is the down-side?

- Extra trait to improve
 - effect on selection pressure
 - correlations with production traits
- Physiological cost?
- May need to deliberately challenge
 - Challenge varies spatially and temporally
- Difficulties with economic weights

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Other complications

- **Alternative control measures uncertain**
- **Production losses difficult to quantify**
- **Treatment costs usually non-linear**
- **Distributions rarely continuous or normal**

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