



Trade Mark of Excellence

Hamilton Region Report March 2011

Our region has been blessed with plenty of rain without the floods and now most growers have more grass than they know what to do with.

However, there has been a downside, some crops didn't get harvested and stories of bogged headers are plentiful. Harvesting hay and straw was difficult with most harvests weather damaged. Demand for hay has been very low, with so much grass around; few people are interested in purchasing.

The humid conditions proved a paradise for flies and most people have experienced the worst fly strikes in living memory. Body strike was horrific in some flocks, particularly autumn, late winter and early spring shorn flocks. Thousands of sheep deaths from fly strike have occurred throughout the districts. Many woolgrowers are questioning the wisdom of having stopped mulsing their sheep, yet mulsing doesn't stop body strike. Some method of getting rid of the flies sounds a good idea at present!

Regardless of all this there is still plenty to smile about, lamb and mutton prices have been tremendous, wool is now on the boil and the normal summer fire danger period was non-existent.

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