It's marking time

Department of Agriculture, Western Australia

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<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>H</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ratio*</td>
<td>360.0</td>
<td>187.6</td>
<td>108.4</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>63.3</td>
<td>45.8</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>360.0</td>
<td>87.5</td>
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<td>Speed m.p.h.</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>0.73</td>
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</table>


Many thousands of lambs will be marked this month! When marking, remember:—

1. **Marking time can be the beginning of blowfly control over the life of the sheep.**
2. **Give them a medium length tail, i.e., tail tip level with tip of vulva. This is VERY important.**
3. **Lambs can be mulesed and tailstripped during marking.**
4. **Mark lambs young—two-three weeks old.**
5. **Use the knife. Observe strict hygiene.**
6. **Mark in clean temporary yards in the paddocks.**
7. **Mark on a mild day—finish early in the day.**
8. **Leave a few well grown ram lambs entire and with long tails. Vasectomize them for use as teasers.**

A common docking fault is incorrect tail length. Most flocks are a mixture of short, medium, and long tails. This lack of correct and uniform tail length is more costly in terms of fly control than is generally realized.

The medium length tail with the cut tail-tip level with the vulva tip is the correct length for maximum protection. This length of tail significantly reduces moisture content (urine) in the crutch. The drying effect thus achieved makes the area less attractive to the fly. **The end result is much less crutch strike.**

Departmental officers are available to demonstrate and instruct any or all of the above techniques. Applications should be made to the Officer in Charge, Sheep and Wool Section, or to the local Adviser.
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