It's dipping time

Department of Agriculture, Western Australia

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ANNUAL dipping is compulsory within six weeks of shearing.

Here are the main points to keep in mind for successful and trouble-free dipping:

1. Carefully follow the maker's instructions on the dipping preparation you use.
2. Arsenical dips give good control of lice and keep itch mite in check.
3. Allow two weeks for shear cuts to heal.
4. Avoid wet, humid, or very cold weather.
5. Avoid dipping sheep that are overheated from driving, are thirsty, or too full of food.
6. Yard near dipping site some hours before dipping.
7. Lambs should not be dipped until at least six weeks old.
8. Don't dip rams during the mating season or in arsenical preparations less than six weeks before mating.
10. Top up with dipping preparation as concentration is reduced.
11. Allow dipped sheep to drain thoroughly, preferably in the shade.
12. Avoid overheating sheep after dipping.
13. If not weaned, allow lambs two hours before rejoining with their mothers.
14. Sign dipping declaration and forward to your nearest stock inspector.
15. Dip all sheep on the property at the same time so that no undipped sheep will remain to re-infest the rest of the flock.

When dipping, plunge each sheep's head under twice, using a gentle backward push. Give the second plunge just before the sheep reaches the exit slope. Never hold a sheep under the surface of the dipping fluid.

Your veterinary officer or stock inspector at Perth or country centres will gladly give further advice on dipping methods and regulations.
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