



RURAL UPDATE

SUMMER, 1991

Vaccine project to aid sheep industry



Part of the Vaccine Project Team at RVL Hamilton together with Mr Jim Field and Dr John Klose from Young Animal Health.

The cost of worms in 1990 to an average Victorian farmer with 2,000 sheep is approximately \$7,000 per year. In the present economic climate this amount could make or break a farm.

Overall, internal roundworm parasites are estimated to cost Australian sheep producers more than \$400 million a year in lost production.

A collaborative project is underway between the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Youngs Animal Health Pty Ltd to develop a commercial vaccine against roundworm parasites of sheep.

The potential market for an effective vaccine against worm

parasites is estimated to be about \$500 million a year. Under the agreement, Youngs will provide \$630,000 over the next five years. The research will be carried out at DARA's Regional Veterinary Laboratory, Hamilton.

Vaccination is the most attractive long term viable alternative to chemical drenches for the control of sheep worm parasites.

The research program is being supported by the Australian Wool Corporation and has also been supported by the Australian Meat and Livestock Research and Development Corporation.

Contact: Dr George Riffkin
(055) 73 0700

DARA move gathers speed

Minister, Barry Rowe, has announced plans to move DARA's head office to either Ballarat or Bendigo.

A consultant's report released by Mr Rowe in December has identified Ballarat and Bendigo as equally suitable locations for head office.

Mr Rowe said the Government will consider the report and make a final decision later this month.

"Many excellent cases were put forward in the 17 submissions for head office relocation. In particular, the committee found it difficult to choose between the excellent facilities offered by both Bendigo and Ballarat.

The report, by agribusiness consultant, Rod Polkinghorne, concluded that DARA's move could boost a region's economy by more than \$200 million over a 20 year period based on present values. The report also found relocation was practical, costing approximately \$5 million over a three year period.

The planned relocation is an example of the Government's Regional Development Policy and will serve as a model for other relocations of Government departments to rural Victoria.

Contact: Bill Brown
651 7119