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Registration assures Trisolfen supply

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IN WHAT is being called a ground-breaking step in animal welfare, Trisolfen's registration by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Association (APVMA) on December 14 will provide a much needed supply guarantee for wool producers.



Trisolfen, previously licensed only on a temporary use permit, is now registered with the APVMA.

This should provide security of availability said Animal Ethics director of research and development Meredith Sheils (Animal Ethics created Trisolfen, which is now owned by Bayer) because under its previous temporary permit situation its licence for use had to be repermited every two to three years.

This does not, however, change the fact it must be issued by veterinarian prescription being a schedule 4 chemical, an APVMA spokesperson said.

Souring the celebrations of a welfare win for the industry was word from animal welfare lobby organisation Animal Liberation that it was researching what the change in registration of Trisolfen meant for farmers who mulesed without the use of an analgesic.

Animal Liberation told FarmOnline it was waiting to hear whether the change in registration would expose those who were not using analgesic when mulesing – which currently includes 30 per cent of sheep mulesed – to breaking the law.

The potential to prosecute could fall under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979, section 24, 1B.

It states that procedures conducted on an animal must be done so in “a manner that inflicted no unnecessary pain upon the animal”.

Animal Liberation executive director Mark Pearson said the increased accessibility of Trisolfen would potentially mean there was no excuse for sheep producers not to use Trisolfen during mulesing.

He claimed to have already met with the assistant police commissioner for rural crime Geoff McKechnie, his senior legal advisor detective Mark Minehan, and RSPCA chief inspector David Oshannessey.

One issue raised with them was if pain relief was readily available, would it be an offence for farmers to perform mulesing without it.

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