



ENHANCED ABATTOIR SURVEILLANCE

Bruising



CONDITION SUMMARY



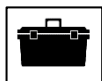
Bruising of the carcass is caused by external trauma. It results in muscle discolouration and bleeding and must be trimmed from the carcass.



Bruising is a condition of welfare importance.

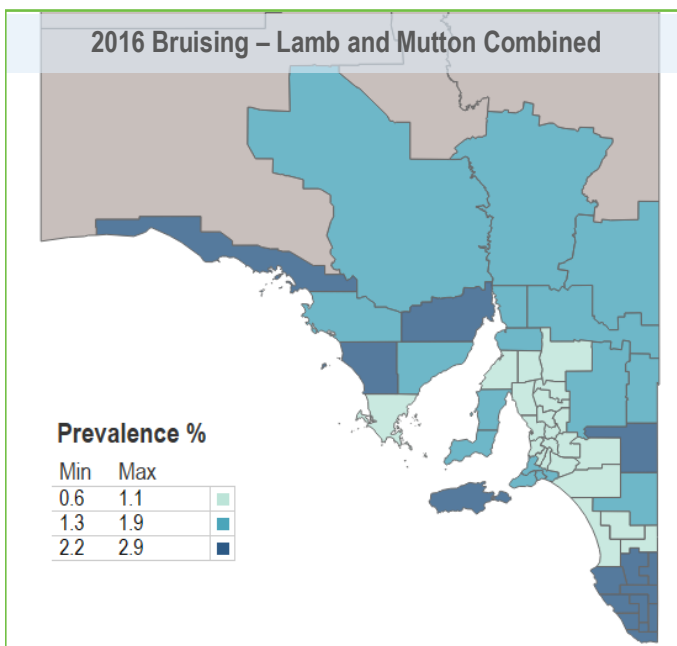


Bruised areas are trimmed resulting in reduced carcass weight (depending on severity). If bruising is extensive or deep entire legs may be trimmed. Occasionally carcasses may be condemned for bruising (e.g. in the instance of trampled stock).



Bruising can be avoided/minimised by good yard design, quiet stock handling and correct transport processes.

BRUISING IN SA



In 2016, **~1 in 3** SA producers consigned bruised stock.

The prevalence of bruising has nearly doubled when compared to the previous year with **1% of lambs** affected (range of 0% to 3% across the state) and **3% of mutton** affected (range of 0% to 6% across the state).

Within affected lines **~1 in 11 carcasses** are bruised.

Possible causes of this increase are currently being investigated.

WHAT CAUSES BRUISING?

Bruising may be a result of any one (or a combination) of the following:

- Dog bites (even if the skin is not penetrated),
- Lifting sheep by their wool,
- Drafting gates being shut on sheep/lambs,
- Injury from poorly designed yards, races, loading ramps and trucks,
- Trauma during handling (shearing, crutching etc.),
- Injury during transport – trampling etc.; and
- The use of sticks/other implements in yard.

PREVENTION OF BRUISING

1. Yard design

- Ensure handling facilities encourage easy movement of sheep; and
- Check for and address sharp protrusions (e.g. wire, gate latches etc.) that sheep are likely to catch themselves on.

2. Handle stock calmly

- Exhausted or frightened animals bruise more readily.

3. Dogs in yards

- Minimise the use of dogs and muzzle dogs if necessary.
- If sheep are not accustomed to being handled with dogs and transporters use dogs for loading, they are more likely to bruise.

4. Transport

- Avoid overloading or under loading trucks,
- Minimise transport distance and time where possible; and
- Check trucks for, and address, any protrusions that sheep might catch themselves on.

5. Consigning off-shears

- Stock consigned within 2 weeks of shearing (or other husbandry procedures) are at an increased risk of being bruised at the time of processing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: contact the Enhanced Abattoir Surveillance Program manager Dr Allison Crawley (Phone: 08 8429 0866 or Email: Allison.Crawley@sa.gov.au), your local veterinarian, livestock consultant or PIRSA Animal Health Officer.

FOR BENCHMARKING INFORMATION: to compare your results with others in your region please go to www.pir.sa.gov.au/eas