

PROTECT YOUR **FLOCK** AND YOUR **PROFITS**

The importance of
isolation and quarantine
in reducing the risk
of incoming disease



**Farm
Health
Planning**

**Healthy Animals
Healthy Profits**

A HEALTHY FLOCK MEANS HEALTHY PROFITS

An industry-led initiative in association with Defra

Preventing disease from entering your flock will save time and money and will safeguard the welfare of your animals.

It's costly to ignore precautions

Enzootic abortion continues to be a significant source of loss to the industry. If the disease was introduced to a naïve flock and 10% of the ewes abort at the next lambing this would amount to a loss of about £8500 in a 500 ewe flock.

If the new ewes had been sourced carefully and vaccinated the problem may never have arisen, and it would only have cost £300 to vaccinate 100 ewes. Vaccination would have saved £8200.

The following recommendations apply to all domestic movements of incoming sheep, including:

New sheep

- rams
- ewes and ewe lambs
- store lambs

and any animal returning from

- tack
- market
- shows
- common grazing

All new sheep pose a particular threat to the health of the resident flock and should be assumed to be carrying:

- **Sheep scab**
- **Resistant worms**
- **Foot rot**





'Taking a preventative approach to incoming disease pays every time – a stitch in time!'

Know the history

When buying new sheep be sure to ask the vendor for as much information about the sheep as possible, including vaccinations already received and any recent treatments (last two months).

The lowest risk sheep come direct from the farm of origin.

Isolate

On arrival sheep should be kept in isolation from the home flock for 21 days or more and treated for sheep scab, resistant worms and foot rot. Treatment may not be needed if a totally reliable guarantee can be given as to the health status of the new sheep.

Observe

During the quarantine period animals must be observed regularly for symptoms of other diseases such as lice, CODD and orf, and if necessary treated accordingly. If you are uncertain ask your vet for a diagnosis. Some diseases may not manifest themselves during the quarantine period so treatment must be carried out on the basis of known risk e.g. fluke.

All new stock should be given the vaccinations that have been routinely given to the resident flock as soon after arrival as possible to ensure full protection from existing disease threats (according to the farm's flock health plan).

Recommended treatments on arrival:

Disease	Treatment
Sheep Scab	Inject with Doramectin* or dip in OP
Resistant worms	Levamisole (LM yellow) wormer followed by Macrocylic Lactone* (ML clear) drench or injectable*.
Foot rot	Foot bath in 10% zinc sulphate or 3% formalin as soon as sheep arrive on farm and repeat twice during the isolation period.

**Note that ML injectables treat both worms and sheep scab, but care should be taken to follow the manufacturer's guidelines according to parasite, dose rate and treatment protocols.*

OP dipping and levamisole wormers can only be used 14 days apart (under review).

When worming – do not mix products together.



Animals returning to the farm

Any sheep returning to your farm must also be kept in quarantine for 21 days in case they have contracted any disease. In many situations you will be aware of the possible disease risks associated with off-farm grazing (e.g. common grazing) and will treat accordingly (e.g. exposure to worms or sheep scab) but returns from markets can be less certain. Foot bathing on return to the farm would be advisable but other routine treatments may not be required, particularly if stock have been treated shortly before leaving the farm and have not been off the farm for more than a few days. However stock should be closely monitored during the isolation period for development of disease symptoms.

Treat correctly

Whatever the drug or disease it is vital that the correct dose is given to each animal. Always:

- Get the correct diagnosis – ask your vet if in doubt
- Check the dosing gun/vaccinator to make sure that the correct dose is delivered every time
- Weigh animals accurately to work out the required dose rate and treat to the heaviest in the group if treating large numbers of animals
- Administer the drug correctly e.g. under the skin or into the muscle as directed by the manufacturer. Jetting and showering are not effective against sheep scab.



Isolation facilities

Designated isolation facilities (buildings or fields) need to be completely separate from any other area and should be a minimum of three metres from any other livestock. An isolated building or a grass field surrounded by arable fields would be ideal. Stock-proof double fencing would be desirable.

Remember clothing, footwear and vehicles can carry disease so restrict access and clean and disinfect footwear and equipment between sites. Sensible precautions e.g. dedicated clothing, will make the quarantine period worthwhile.

Defra-approved isolation facilities

These are approved by a Divisional Veterinary Manager and can only be used for certain movements to be exempt from the standstill rules e.g. to or from a show, movement of rams (and bulls) between 1 August to 30 November each year. Animals in these facilities must be individually identified. Further information on the movements allowed and also the conditions on the use of these facilities can be found on Defra's website at: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh Alternatively farmers can contact their local Animal Health Divisional Office for advice.

Specific information on biosecurity relating to imports of animals from other countries can also be found on the Defra web site.





Protecting your flock by implementing good isolation and quarantine is one part of bringing farm health planning to your farm. This leaflet is part of a series produced by farmers, vets and other specialists to show you the practical steps you can take on the journey to Improve Your Bottom Line through farm health planning. You can visit the websites at www.nationalsheep.org.uk and www.defra.gov.uk/fhp for other information or complete the reply-paid card in the Improve Your Bottom Line brochure. Once you have registered an interest in Sheep Farm Health Planning we can send you new information as it is published.

The English Sheep Farm Health Planning Initiative
www.defra.gov.uk/fhp/sheep
www.nationalsheep.org.uk



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