



Hopefully these last few hot and dry weeks have meant a successful harvest period with plenty of good forages now stored ready for the winter months ahead – and not too much sun burn!

## MSD Lameness Month

This month we want to encourage you to focus on lameness in your flock alongside the national campaign, **Lameness Month**. The initiative is to raise awareness of the incidence of sheep lameness and how to take the first steps towards better control on farm.

As we turn our attention to the breeding season, these later summer months are a brilliant opportunity to start implementing robust protocols to stamp out lameness issues on farm. It is worth knowing that **any ewes suffering from lameness can have up to a 15% reduced conception rate** as well as costing you **approximately £8.38 per ewe** based on a flock with 25% lameness – this is for all ewes not just the lame ones (FAI data). To ensure your flock is achieving optimal fertility rates address lameness well before tupping.

You will likely have heard us speak about the **'Five-Point Plan'** before; this provides a comprehensive structure to use as a management programme on farm.

There are **5 Key Areas** under the 'Five-Point Plan' – each of the five preventative and therapeutic areas holds **equal weighting** and need to be carried out in conjunction with the other 4 in order to ensure the most effective lameness control on farm.

### 1. Cull

- Any ewes identified as lame and treated should be clearly marked and monitored for signs of continuing lameness.
- Cull any ewes if they present lame **2 times** in a season. A **strict culling policy** is crucial in the first year of implementing the Five Point Plan. This may seem harsh but it is vital to reduce the infection level circulating in the flock.

### 2. Avoid

- Are you buying in any new stock for the coming breeding season? **Avoid buying in problems!** Ask questions about farm lameness history and inspect feet before agreeing to a sale.
- Where possible, **buy in from known sources** with a low level of lameness.
- Ensure your **handling facilities are dry and clean**. When collecting stock for the shearer or for pre tupping checks, are you using **clean concreted areas**? Clean and disinfect holding pens and handling facilities after jobs so it is ready for the next use. Avoid gathering in dirty and wet areas where potential spread of lameness will be high. **Spread lime and woodchip** in all high traffic areas e.g. around feed troughs/water troughs
- Avoid gathering lame and sound animals together. Where possible **separate groups** and do not gather sound animals where any lame sheep have been

### 3. Treat

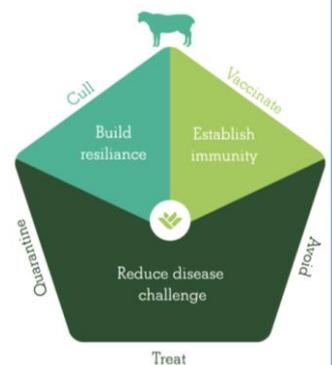
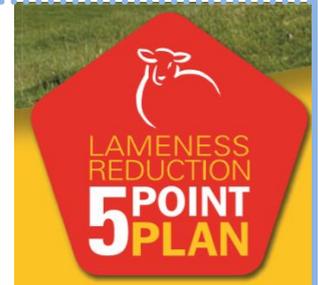
- Identify lame ewes on a daily basis and **treat within 3 days of identification**
- **Diagnose correctly to treat correctly!** If you are unsure, please seek correct veterinary diagnosis and treatment advice
- **DO NOT TRIM** – loose horn does **not** cause lameness, the infection is the problem – trimming unnecessarily delays healing and resolution of infection and increases risk of infection spread
- Mark and identify any treated ewes – **marking the affected leg** is useful for identifying repeat cases or issues with treatment regimes i.e. antibiotic resistance or arthritic ewes.

### 4. Quarantine

- All incoming stock, ewes and rams, must be quarantined for a **MINIMUM of 28 days (4wks)**
- New stock should arrive at least **8 weeks prior to the start of the breeding season**. This will allow plenty of time to assess and treat and identify any lameness not seen at sale.

### 5. Vaccinate

- Footvax can significantly reduce the incidence of lameness, reduce clinical signs associated with footrot and **improve overall flock immunity**. It can be **used in the face of an outbreak** and has been shown improve overall foot health in **helping to reduce CODD risk**



- Footvax treatment should include **the whole flock - vaccinate any bought in replacements on arrival!**
- Footvax can be used initially as 2 doses 6 weeks apart in high prevalence flocks or at 6 month intervals in lower incidence flocks – most flock can reduce vaccination to yearly, once lameness is controlled. Maximum immunity is achieved by using the vaccine 4 weeks before high risk periods. Speak to your vet about the correct regime for your flock as it is not a one size fits all programme.
- Footvax is NOT to be administered 4 week pre or post lambing or 6-8 weeks pre shearing.

Speak to us if you are unsure of your current Footvax protocol or if you are interested in trailing Footvax in your flock.



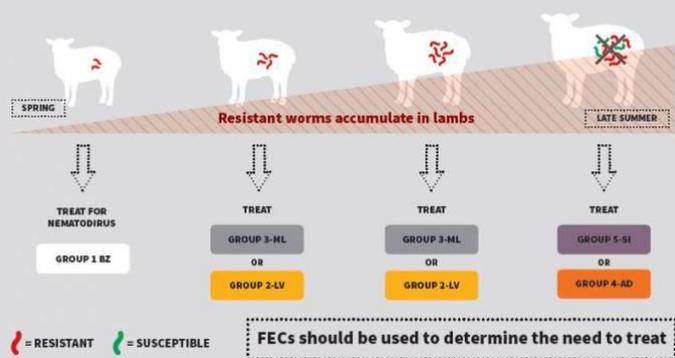
## Worming Resistance

Last month, SCOPS and the NSA released a worrying report revealing the first incidence of Zolvix resistance in the UK. Monepantel (Zolvix) was the first new anthelmintic drug to be released for use in sheep for 25 years and has only been on the UK market since 2010. This new report of UK resistance highlights an enormous and long term problem for the national sheep industry.

In the farm associated with the report, resistance to Zolvix was achieved in **only 3 years** of using the product on farm – demonstrating how quickly a perfect storm can be created on farm.

**In order to prevent this same situation occurring on any of your farms, please adhere to the following guidelines for Zolvix use:**

### Mid/late season treatment for growing lambs to reduce the development of anthelmintic resistance



- Zolvix should **NOT** be used a routine wormer – it's use should be based on veterinary discussion
- Zolvix can be used as an **END OF SEASON clear out drench** for young growing lambs based on veterinary advice and results of faecal egg count. Use should be reserved for late summer. Utilising other wormers correctly throughout the year will potentially still select for low levels of resistant worms. In growing young stock, to ensure accumulated resistant worms are removed, Zolvix is used as a 'one off' clear out drench.
- Zolvix can be used as a **QUARANTINE drench**; any incoming stock, especially in the lead up to breeding season, should be given a single quarantine drench e.g. Zolvix. This aims to **clear out any potential 'imported' resistant worms** in sheep from other sources. In all situations quarantined stock must be isolated from the main flock for up to 4 weeks. After drenching, new stock should be yarded for **24-48hr** before being put **onto a separate 'dirty' pasture** away from the main flock. This allows them to pick up your own farms' worms.
- **IN ALL CASES**, you should **NEVER** worm and move sheep immediately onto clean pasture. Sheep should always remain on current pasture for a minimum of **4 days before moving**. This avoids any resistant worms and eggs being shed directly onto clean pasture and so creating further resistant worm populations.

## RAMS & RAM VASECTOMIES

Now is the time to check your tups for the upcoming breeding season.

Sperm production and maturation **takes 6-8 weeks** – so book in breeding soundness exams early! This will give tups plenty of time to be treated for infections or for replacements to be sourced!

For those of you who are thinking of teaser rams, vasectomies must be **completed 4-6 weeks** before intended use.

**Speak to us at the practice to arrange breeding soundness exams and vasectomy procedures.**

## VACCINE REMINDER

It's fast approaching the time of year to consider your **Enzovax** and **Toxovax** vaccinations.

Every year most of the country orders at the same time and production struggles to keep up.

To beat the vaccine rush and guarantee stock please try to order your vaccines early this year.

We are taking orders from now on

**Call us at the practice to place your orders**