



THE  
**WOOD  
VETERINARY  
GROUP**



**Time for a fresh start?** It's that time of year where you may be thinking of buying in some new stock. It is vital to follow strict quarantine procedures before introducing them to your flock as new stock can be a big disease risk.

## QUARANTINE PROTOCOL

### 1. Keep your new sheep separate from your original flock for 4 weeks

This gives you time for health conditions (e.g. CODD, Footrot, Orf etc.) to become apparent before spreading through your naïve sheep. It also allows for any additional blood tests to be done that weren't available at purchase

### 2. Combat anthelmintic resistant worms

#### Applications for the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway have re-opened!

This is a government initiative providing funding for on-farm veterinary consultations. With regards to sheep, the pathway focuses on worm egg counts and resistance testing.

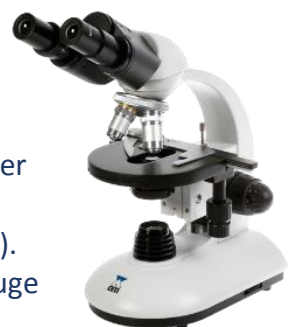
**Testing MUST be used within a six month window of application so this is the perfect time of year to apply for the funding as worm egg counts are most useful in grazing lambs!**

The last thing you want is your new sheep bringing worms onto your pasture that are resistant to worming products. It is important drench your incoming stock with an orange wormer (Monepantal e.g. Zolvix). You should also worm with Dequantel (e.g. Startect) [GOLD STANDARD] or Ivermectin [SILVER STANDARD] to reduce the chance of resistant worms surviving treatment. You can give the two products at the same time but DO NOT mix products together in same drench gun. It is important to ensure you are dosing correctly – check the dose rate of each product and dose to the correct weight, making sure your drenching gun is calibrated correctly. After worming, yard the sheep for 48 hours after dosing to give time for products to work and then move onto 'dirty' pasture that has previously been grazed so that any worms that survived the drenches will be diluted by other worms on the dirty pasture.



### 3. Perform faecal egg count resistance testing post worming treatment

With resistance to worming products increasing, it is good to take faecal samples after treatment to test the efficacy of wormers. The time after treatment depends on the anthelmintic used (7 days for Levamisole or 14 days for Benzimidazole or Ivermectin). Other factors, e.g. dosing technique, can affect the results but it is a good way to gauge anthelmintic resistance.



### 4. Prevent Sheep Scab

It is advisable to blood sample incoming stock 2 weeks post arrival for antibodies for sheep scab. If positive, it shows that the sheep have been previously exposed to the Psoroptes mite (sheep scab) and so should be treated. Doramectin (e.g. Dectomax) can be used if you are able to move sheep to clean pasture that has

not housed sheep for over 18 days. Moxidectin (e.g. Cydectin) can be used if you do not have clean pasture as this has residual activity – although be careful not to use Cydectin 1% if vaccinating with Footvax. Dipping sheep in organophosphates can also be used as treatment but never do this in late pregnancy. All of these products have high resistance, hence the reason for blood testing before treatment to avoid overusing them when not necessary.



### 5. Inspect feet and run through footbath

It is so important to check feet for signs of Footrot, Scald, CODD and poor conformation, ideally before purchasing, and footbath incomers using Formalin or Zinc sulfate. Depending on what product you use, it is important to follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding solution concentration and standing times to ensure the procedure is as effective as possible. Feet should be clean on entry to the footbath so run sheep through a clean water footbath initially and ensure that footbaths are deep enough to submerge the entire foot. Post foot bathing, sheep should stand on a hard surface for an hour to allow time for feet to dry, before being turned out onto clean dry pasture.

### 6. Treat for fluke

New sheep should be treated with a flukicide on arrival. Triclabendazole products can be used to remove fluke of all life cycle stages. Sheep continue to pass fluke eggs for a while so they should be kept in quarantine for at least four weeks post treatment. Faecal egg counts or coproantigen tests should be performed in the subsequent months to detect any residual burden.

### 7. Screen for Iceberg diseases

The iceberg diseases are Border disease (BD), Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA), Maedi Visna (MV), Ovine Johne's disease (OJD) and Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma (OPA). There is no treatment for these diseases and they cause various symptoms including wasting and ill thrift hence the need to screen for them in your flock. These diseases need to be screened ahead of purchase if possible to avoid culling newly purchased sheep.



### Love Lamb Week 2023



This years 'Love Lamb Week' runs from 1-7 September. It is a campaign ran by AHDB designed to showcase the excellent lamb we produce here in UK. AHDB have a range of free marketing resources (e.g. recipe leaflets, posters, farmgate banners) which can be used to advertise your amazing produce. Use the hashtags #LoveLambWeek and #ShepherdsAndTheirPies in your social media



### Drug Orders



Don't miss out – be sure to order your **Toxovax, Enzovax and Scabiguard** well in advance given the vaccine shortages.

### Medicines Updates

You may have seen some press relating to the prescription and dispensing of certain medication types and how it is changing in September relating especially to Antibiotics. We will be releasing the fine details of how these changes will affect different farms and what adjustments will occur in the coming weeks and help everyone to transition to the new guidance.

It is important to protect the antibiotics and anthelmintics we have available to us and this means an industry wide effort to use less product but also use it in the right dose, frequency and route each time every time so please read labels and any additional vet notes on labels.



Wood Vets Farm Team



@woodvetsfarmteam