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In this issue: Sheep Scab, Buying in Cattle, Thank You from the Students, Lambing Meeting 23rd and 28th February

Sheep scab: Psoroptes ovis

This is a very itchy, allergic dermatitis caused by faeces of the *Psoroptes ovis* mite. Most cases are seen September to April. The life cycle lasts 14 days. Mites can survive off the sheep in vehicles, in tags of wool, on contaminated clothing etc for up to 16 days.

In the early stages of infection sheep can look normal. Animals can take 4 weeks to show signs, and may show very few signs for 7-8 weeks after infection! However during this time, the mite population will be rapidly increasing exponentially and providing a source of infection to other sheep. This is why it is so important to allow a decent quarantine period for any newly purchased sheep.

The first signs are nibbling and minimal lesions of wool loss. **As the disease progresses**, affected sheep will show loss of condition as well as being very restless, rubbing, head shaking, and nibbling. Areas of wool are lost leaving wet, sticky, yellow areas.

Diagnosis: hair plucks and skin scrapes are examined under a microscope in order to visualise the mite. It is important to get a diagnosis to ensure correct treatment, since the treatment for lice and mites is different.

Treatment for sheep scab once diagnosed: Either treat with an organophosphate dip; or injectable moxidectin / doramectin / ivermectin. **THE WHOLE FLOCK MUST BE TREATED.**

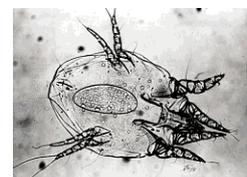
Moxidectin 1%	Cydectin 1%	2 injections 10 d apart. No need to move	28 days protection	s/c in neck	70 d meat withhold
Moxidectin 2%	Cydectin 2%	Single injection. No need to move	60 days protection	s/c base of ear	104 day
Doramectin	Dectomax	Single injection. Move after treatment	No prevention	i/m	63 day
Ivermectin (no persistency)	Panomec	2 injections 7 d apart. Move after 1 st dose	No prevention	s/c in neck	37 day

Quarantine treatment for bought in sheep:

Drench with a wormer from either the 4-AD or 5-SI groups (Zolvix or Startect)

AND

Inject with moxidectin 1% (Cydectin 1%)



Buying Cattle

Buying in cattle will always pose a risk to your herd – you may introduce disease. However, this risk can be minimized by asking the right questions and taking appropriate measures. These four key points should be remembered:

1. Know the health status of **your own herd**.
2. **Know what you are buying**.
3. **Quarantine** purchased animals.
4. **Assess** and then **act** to reduce the risks.

Some questions to ask when purchasing cattle (not a complete list):

- Is the source herd CHECS accredited?
- Has the source herd bought in animals in the last 6 months?

BVD: this disease can cause infertility, abortions, & calf pneumonia. If infected during pregnancy, then cows may give birth to a persistently infected (PI) calf that is a source of infection to other animals and will die prematurely.

- Is the herd accredited free of BVD? Do they vaccinate against BVD?
- Is the animal being purchased pregnant? If so, the calf should be tested at birth.
- Has the animals been tested for BVD antigen (to prove that it is not a PI)?

IBR: this disease can cause poor fertility, abortions, respiratory signs, & milk drop. Once infected then an animal may carry the virus for life.

- Is the herd accredited free of IBR? Do they vaccinate against IBR?
- Does the animal test antibody positive (i.e. has it been exposed to IBR)?

Leptospirosis: a bacterial disease that can also infect people. It causes poor fertility and milk drop in cattle.

- Is the herd accredited free of Lepto? Do they vaccinate?

Johnes: a slow onset disease that causes poor productivity, wasting, scours and death.

- Is the herd accredited free of Johnes?
- Does the source herd screen for Johnes disease and what results have they had?

Neospora: a protozoal parasite that can cause abortions.

- Have cases of Neospora been confirmed in the herd?
- Has the animal to be purchased been tested?

TB: Has the herd had reactors or inconclusive reactors in the last 4 years?

Parasites: gut worms / lung worms / liver fluke / lice / mites.

- Does the herd have an active programme for controlling parasites? When was the last treatment?

Before introducing purchased cattle to the rest of your herd, they should be **isolated** for a period of time (length of time depending on risk). This means they should be housed in a separate building or at least 3 metres away from other stock. This period of isolation allows for:

- **Observation** – are there any signs of infectious disease?
- **Testing** – what is their disease status?
- **Vaccinations and prophylactic treatments** – to protect the new animals and your herd.

Please contact us at the practice for further information.

“Thank You” from the Vet Students

From all those extra unfamiliar faces that periodically roll up in the passenger seat with the vet on a call!

Since starting university my “holidays” have been devoted to gaining as much experience in the veterinary field as possible. For the first few years this involved a variety of work, including lambing; milking; working with pigs and even volunteering for a bird of prey centre. For the last few years I’ve been hopping between veterinary practices, this being my third visit to Damory. With this experience I am gaining confidence in a variety of the clinical aspects of veterinary medicine, from something as simple as giving an injection to developing familiarity with the more personal parts of a cow – inside and out.



For those of you who have welcomed me onto your farm; I just want to say a huge thank you for letting me get involved; it makes a massive difference and will definitely make me a better vet when the time comes for me to be in the driver’s seat!

Beccy McNaughton

5th year vet student, Glasgow University (*I’m the Scottish one*)

Lambing Meeting: Monday 23rd and Saturday 28th February

You are invited to our lambing meeting, where Alice Wilkinson will present on the following topics:



- Ewe management
- Pre-lambing preparation
- Practical lambing tips
- Conditions and treatments

The same meeting will be held on two dates – Monday 23rd February with a 7pm start; and Saturday 28th February with a 12pm start. Both meetings will be held at Longthorns Farm (next to Monkey World), near Wareham, BH20 6HH.

Tea, coffee and hot food will be provided. Please let us know at the practice if you are planning on attending. We hope to see you there!