**Anthelmintics - getting it right**

Choosing the right product and getting the most from it are key factors not only in the fight against anthelmintic resistance but also in ensuring optimum sheep performance at least cost.

In practice, however, this is easier said than done. Working your way through the wide range of products available, the chemical groups, withdrawal periods etc. is difficult and time consuming.

To try and tackle this problem and in response to requests from farmers at meetings and events, SCOPS have put together this leaflet. The aim is to provide accurate, easy to use information on the products available in the various chemical groups and the parasites they control. We want you to get the most out of an anthelmintic every time you use it, by helping you to:

- Choose the right product. Targeting the parasites correctly means better results and reduces the risk you will need to treat again.
- Source a narrow spectrum product where appropriate, which will reduce selection for resistance to the broad spectrum groups.
- Use combination products only when they are necessary.
- Administer anthelmintics effectively and handle and store them correctly.
- Do not mix anthelmintics with any other product prior to administration.

Remember, it is not too late to slow the development of anthelmintic resistance on most farms. Act now and safeguard the future of worm control on your farm.

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**Do you drench and inject correctly?**

1. **Weigh - don’t guess**
   
   Underestimating the weight of sheep is a common cause of under dosing. Select and weigh the biggest sheep in the group to determine the correct dose. If there is a wide range of weights, consider splitting the group, then weigh the heaviest in each section. Don’t forget to check that the weighcrates is accurate before you start!

2. **Calibrate and maintain equipment**
   
   Always check the gun is delivering the right amount before you drench. Calibrate using a graduated pot (shown) or remove the plunger from a 10ml syringe and put your finger over the end and squirt the dose into it. Make sure there are no air bubbles. Adjust until correct. Clean with warm soapy water after use and check for kinks and worn seals or springs. Use clean, sterile needles for injecting and always follow manufacturer instructions carefully.

3. **Drench and inject correctly**
   
   The drenching technique is a vital part of ensuring that the wormer does its job effectively. Make sure the sheep are properly restrained and can’t leap around when you are drenching, so they swallow the whole amount. Sheep can also suffer serious injury, or even death, if they are unrestrained and the gun penetrates the tissues at the back of the mouth. Place a hand under the head and tilt slightly to the side. Slot the nozzle in the gap between molar and incisor teeth and then over the back of the tongue. Intramuscular injections go into the mid neck with a 2.5-4cm needle aiming inwards and upwards towards the head. Moxidectin 2% LA is given at the base of the ear. Massage the site of any injection gently after administration.

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**Storage**

Wormers should be stored securely, away from direct sunlight at 4-25°C. Check the ‘use by’ date and once open use within the time shown on the packaging. Shake well before use, particularly the white (BZ) products.

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**From 2011, manufacturers who are members of NOAH, began to add symbols to their packaging clearly denoting which group the product belongs to. This should help you choose the most appropriate product more easily.**

*SCOPS - Sustainable Control Of Parasites in Sheep*

SCOPS is a group representing the interests of the sheep industry. It recognises that if left unchecked, anthelmintic resistance is one of the biggest challenges the industry faces in the next few years.

SCOPS is led by Peter Baber, NSA, and includes representatives from the following organisations: AHDA; AMTRA; Defra; NOAH; NIAMA; SAC; Sheep Veterinary Society; SEPRAD; AHVLA; MVD; Welsh Assembly and an independent adviser.

As a group, SCOPS has developed eight new recommendations aimed specifically to reduce the threat of anthelmintic resistance.

More information on SCOPS can also be found at www.scops.org.uk

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The information provided was correct at the time of publication but you should always check the datasheet before using any product.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parasite Covered</th>
<th>Use</th>
<th>Period (days)</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
<th>Meat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roundworm, Lungworm, Nasal bots</td>
<td>Oral</td>
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<td>104</td>
<td>104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roundworm, Lungworm, Fluke (including immature fluke)</td>
<td>Injection</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
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<td>Injection</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roundworm, Lungworm, Fluke (including early immature fluke)</td>
<td>Injection</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roundworm, Lungworm, Tapeworm</td>
<td>Injection</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roundworm, Lungworm, Tapeworm, Fluke (including immature fluke)</td>
<td>Injection</td>
<td>56</td>
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</tbody>
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**Note:** *Injection S/C = intramuscular, I/M = intramuscular, SC = subcutaneous.*