

# Wales – Sheep Scab Winter 2022

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PREPARED BY DR NEIL PATON.

# Pilot of Scab control plans

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- Following on from work carried out last winter.
  - 2 farms to be identified
  - Farm with *Psoroptes ovis* infestation identified and confirmed through skin scrapes
  - Contiguous farms identified and blood sampling for ELISA testing carried out
  - Treatment of all animals on farms using Dipping contractors
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- 1 Common to be identified and all farms using that common to be screened with ELISA and treated as required.

# Progress to date

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## Area 1

- 5 farms in total
- 4 tested
  - 3 Positive,
  - 1 result pending
- 1 farm not compliant
- 3 positive farms dipped

## Area 2

- 8 Farms
- 8 tested
  - 2 positive
  - 3 negative
  - 3 Pending
- 3 positive farms dipped

# Other activity

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Veterinary CPD

Contract Dipper training

Stakeholder days

# Overall

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We are working to ensure the industry is in a good place to work on eradication of scab

SCOPS Sheep Scab Press Briefing

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

Paul Crawford BVetMed CertVA MRCVS

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# Northern Ireland Sheep Scab Control and Eradication Group

## Sheep Scab

**Stamp SCAB Out!**

Get an accurate  
diagnosis

Get the best plan  
for YOUR farm  
from your VET  
today!

**Keep SCAB Out!**

Don't buy it in  
Quarantine &  
biosecurity  
Start today



You cannot  
afford NOT to!

# Origins of the group

- 2018-2019 Industry wide concern expressed informally
- 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Open meeting held for all industry stakeholders

- Presentation – Neil Paton, Q&A

Indication of widespread support for further action

# Representation

- Farmers
- Ulster Farmers Union and the National Sheep Association
- Educational sector (CAFRE)
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Veterinary profession (AVSPNI, SVS, NIVA)
- Farm merchants
- Agri-Press
- AFBI & AHWNI
- DAERA observers



# Activity

- Explored barriers to better control
- Liaison with experts

Diagnosis; Policy; Environment

- Information sharing

Print media; radio; online resources

- Lobbying

Assembly members; Agriculture and Rural Affairs committee;  
Minister Poots

# Research

- Survey undertaken spring 2021
  - Part of a PhD programme at Harper Adams University

Results are in peer review

- Broadly indicates:

Knowledge gaps

Poor practice

More sheep scab than DAERA figures suggest

Cases throughout the 6 counties of N Ireland

## Next steps

- Grant application submitted to BBSRC for a one year project
- Focused on endemic disease, using sheep scab as a case study
  - Explore and address knowledge gaps
  - More detailed prevalence study
  - Explore barriers to effective control at farm level
  - Economic & environmental cost
- Team: Moredun, AHWNI, AFBI and our group.

# Conclusion

- Strong group with industry wide buy-in and support
- Ultimately want to see scab eradicated
- Need further research before we can implement a programme to achieve this
- Which requires funding
- And legislative support

in particular to undertake tracings and neighbour notifications

# Questions:



Please feel free to contact me after this briefing now,  
or in the future:

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