

# September Newsletter

## Fly management

In what has been a particularly bad season for fly strike, due to the warm wet weather and so on going prevention treatments should be considered to cover sheep for at least the next few months.

### What causes flystrike in sheep

Blowfly strike results from the opportunistic invasion of living tissue by the larvae of *Lucilia sericata* (greenbottle flies)

Greenbottles initiate strike on living sheep with soiled fleece or wounds, while secondary flies such as bluebottles and blackbottles only attack areas which are already struck or damaged.

Blowfly populations are greatest during the summer months, although the risk period can be from March to December.

### The entire life cycle from egg to adult can occur in less than 10 days in optimal conditions.

Adult female flies deposit eggs on dead animals or soiled fleeces and eggs hatch into first stage larvae within about 12 hours.

These larvae feed on skin and faecal material, becoming mature third-stage maggots in as little as 3 days if temperature and humidity are at optimum levels.

Third-stage maggots then drop to the ground and pupate; mature flies emerge after 3 to 7 days between May and September.

Flies can over-winter in the soil as pupae and emerge as soil temperatures rise during the spring.

### Clinical signs

Adults flies are attracted to areas of soiled fleece surrounding the tail or breech, and less commonly to wounds, footrot lesions, lumpy wool lesions on the skin, and urine scalding around the prepuce. The main clinical signs include:

- Isolation from the flock
- Discoloured wool/ large area of faecal staining on rear end.
- Agitation and kicking or nibbling at the affected area
- Disturbed grazing
- Repeated tail wagging
- Tissue decay
- Toxaemia
- Death

### Treatment

There are a range of different products listed over the page for the prevention and treatment of flystrike.

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New In Stock

## Livestock Eye Care

Any eyes that are irritated or showing signs of fly worry there is a new livestock eye care spray. This spray



can be used directly onto the eye and surrounding area to prevent spread to other sheep in the flock. Pink eye can be very contagious and if left untreated can become very severe, sometimes leading to loss of sight.

Chemical	Product name	Treatment/Protection	Withdrawal period
Cypermethrin	Crovect, Ectofly, Vectocert 1.25%	Treats, 6-8 weeks' protection	8 days
Alpha-cypermethrin	Dysect, Zermasect Sheep	Treats, 8-10 weeks' protection	49 days
Diazinon	Osmonds Golden Fleece, Paracide 62	Treats, Up to 6 weeks' protection	49-70 days (depending on product)
Deltamethrin	Deltanil, Fly & Lice Spot On, Spotinor 10mg/ml	Treatment only	35 days
Dicyclanil	CLiK, CLiK Extra, CLiKZIN	8-19 weeks' protection (depending on product)	7-40 days (depending on product)
Cyromazine	Vetrazin	10 weeks' protection	28 days

***Our flock health club is going really well and if you are a member you now get 50% discount on all telephone consultations and advice.***

***Don't forget to send in a pooled faecal sample from your flock before you reach for a wormer as a lot of our recent worm egg counts have shown that worming treatments have not been necessary saving a lot of money and time.***

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