Parasite control guide 2026

A comprehensive product list for parasite treatment in cattle and sheep

Contents

For more information, see **scops.org.uk** and **cattleparasites.org.uk**

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Introduction

Responsible and sustainable use of parasiticide products

Using medicines responsibly ensures products are used only when necessary, ideally supported by a diagnosis or a risk assessment.

Choosing the right product and getting the most from it are key factors in ensuring optimum livestock performance for the least cost while reducing the risk of drug resistance developing.

The aim of this booklet is to provide an accurate, easy-to-use reference guide on all available parasiticide products[1] in their various chemical groups and summarise the parasites they have been licensed to treat.

As little product as possible but as much as necessary

Farmers, vets and SQPs (suitably qualified person) or RAMAs (registered animal medicine advisor) should work together to reduce the risk of parasite infection in stock, with the emphasis on using as little product as possible but as much as necessary to optimise animal and environmental health.

Decisions on the choice of product should be discussed with your vet, SQP or RAMA.

Environmental considerations

Many of the compounds used to treat parasites have the potential to negatively impact invertebrates such as dung beetles, flies and aquatic fauna. This can occur when the active ingredients or their metabolites are excreted from treated animals, or if the ingredients leach into the environment. Avoiding unnecessary use minimises the risks these medicines pose to the environment. Treatment decisions should form part of an integrated approach to parasite management.

To minimise environmental risk, it is vital that products are:

- Only used where there is a genuine risk to animal health and welfare, supported by appropriate diagnostic testing, clinical signs and forecasting information
- Stored in the right conditions
- Selected appropriately and applied to the animal correctly, following manufacturer guidelines
- Effective – post-treatment testing is encouraged to help avoid future ineffective product selection
- Disposed of responsibly (includes packaging), following manufacturer guidelines and local guidance on any precautions

The activity of a medicine within the animal and the environment are not the same thing. The meat/milk withdrawal period of a product has no direct relationship to the risk to the environment.

Detection and diagnostic tools

Tests to detect and diagnose parasitic infections form a vital part of responsible parasite control and treatment.

A faecal egg count (FEC) provides information about the number of worm eggs present in faeces and is an indication of the number of adult worms present in the animal. It is a useful management tool that can determine timing of any need to treat, test the efficacy of a treatment and provide an indication of the amount of contamination going onto the pasture. The faecal samples required to produce a reliable and representative sample should be fresh and collected from 10–15 animals within a mob that are representative of the group. The interpretation of a faecal egg count is crucial – what does the result mean in terms of treatment and/or next steps?

FECs should not be used as a diagnostic tool and several other factors should be considered – how the

[1] Coccidiocides are not currently included in this booklet. For further information on these products, please consult your vet.

animals are performing, what is their condition, what health factors are at play, what age are the animals and what previous treatments have been used.

Knowing the parasites contributing to the FEC may also be useful and could require additional laboratory testing. For example, in sheep, a high strongyle count can be indicative of the presence of haemonchus, but this can only be validated using a laboratory speciation test. Ideally, FECs should be carried out regularly (every 2–4 weeks) during the grazing season.

Alternatives to FEC include ELISA-based testing methods, which can detect either the immune response of an infected animal or the presence of parasite antigens. These methods are carried out on blood, milk (individual or bulk milk), faeces or saliva samples. A new lateral flow test, similar to Covid testing, for liver fluke can be used to monitor exposure in first-season grazing animals. Skin scrapes and post-mortems also offer valuable insight.

If you suspect that a product has not been effective, or has resulted in adverse symptoms or reactions, it is important that this information is reported to the relevant authorities. See **gov.uk/report-veterinary-medicine-problem**

What type of wormer should be used?

Anthelmintics (wormers) are used to treat and prevent parasite infections – roundworm, tapeworm, lungworm and liver fluke.

These products fall into the following groups:

- **Group 1:** Benzimidazoles (BZ) (White)
- **Group 2:** Levamisole (LV) (Yellow)
- **Group 3:** Macrocyclic Lactones (ML) (Clear)
- **Group 4:** Amino-acetonitrile Derivatives (AD) (Orange)
- **Group 5:** Spiroindoles (SI) available as a multi-active (Purple)

Anthelmintics belonging to these groups are active against the major species of gut roundworms and lungworms. Some will also have activity against liver fluke and tapeworms. ML (Group 3) injectables and pour-ons also have activity against some ectoparasites.

Other products are more specific in the parasites they will kill, i.e. narrow spectrum. Most anthelmintics in this category are active against liver fluke or ectoparasites.

Choosing the most appropriate product for the parasites present is vital. Targeting the right parasite will give predictable results and may mean retreatment is less likely to be needed. This may also reduce unnecessary selection pressure for drug resistance.

Administering wormers effectively

When using any medicine or vaccine, it is important to read the product label and package insert to ensure you understand how it needs to be administered to the animal. If you do not understand something or need further information, ask your vet or SQP/RAMA.

- Choose the most appropriate product for the parasite(s) present
- Store wormers in accordance with instructions, usually away from direct sunlight, avoiding extremes of temperature
- Always read the label before using each product to check it is suitable for the livestock you want to treat and note any precautions for its use
- Make sure the dosing equipment is compatible with the product you are using and check it is clean and measuring the correct volume

Only use a product before its expiry date and check how long it is usable after opening.

- Administer product according to the manufacturer's instructions, paying particular attention to specific methods for ear injections and intraruminal (rumen) boluses
- Dose according to liveweight, as detailed in the manufacturer's instructions. Weigh your animals to get an accurate weight. If there is a large weight range, split the group into batches by weight
- Record accurately all wormer products administered (batch number, amount and expiry date), animal identity, treatment dates and withdrawal periods
- Note withdrawal periods for milk and meat and ensure they are adhered to. Be aware that withdrawal periods do not relate to the length of activity of a product (this will be shown elsewhere on the label)
- Do not mix different wormers together or with other products, as this can inactivate active ingredients

Before using any product, even if you have used it before, read the product information on the packaging and/or the leaflet inside the pack because manufacturer guidance can change.

For more information, consult the data sheet or the summary of product characteristics (SPC), which contains additional details and any recent changes to specifications, such as withdrawal periods.

Data sheets can be found on **noahcompendium.co.uk** and the NOAH Compendium app; SPCs can be found on **vmd.defra.gov.uk**

Manufacturers can be contacted directly if these sources do not provide the information you are seeking.

Product purchase checklist

Do you need to treat?

- Which animals are at risk?
- Have animals been grazing high-risk pastures?
- Have weather/grazing conditions increased the risks (e.g. wet conditions and liver fluke infection)?
- Has the risk been monitored, e.g. using faecal egg counts (FECs)?
- Can management be used to reduce the risk and the need to treat (e.g. move lambs/calves to lower-risk grazing)?

Consult your vet, SQP or RAMA for further advice when purchasing anthelmintics if you require clarification.

Product choice

What are the target parasites?

Treatments should be chosen according to the target parasites, the life-cycle stage, time of year and objective (curative or preventative). Use combination products only when the target parasites are present.

Avoid overuse of the same products

Consider alternative chemical groups, where possible, to reduce selection for resistance to one group.

Withdrawal periods

Consider withdrawal periods carefully when choosing a product.

What pack size is required?

If a pack size is slightly less than required, leave one or two fit animals undosed; never underdose the whole group.

Do not mix wormers with any other product prior to administration.

Administer effectively

Make sure you have the right equipment, it is properly calibrated and you know the correct dose rate for the weight of animal to be treated. Avoid underdosing or overdosing. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations, store products correctly and do not use out-of-date product.

Cattle parasite control: endoparasiticides and ectoparasiticides

1-BZ Group 1: Benzimidazoles (BZ) (White)

Product	Use	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled									Trace elements	Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)
				Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Mites	Warbles	Lice	Hornflies	Eyeworm			
Albacert 2.5%	Oral drench	Downland	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Co, Se	14 days	60 hours
Albex 10%	Oral drench	Chanelle Pharma	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	-	14 days	60 hours
Albex 2.5% SC	Oral drench	Chanelle Pharma	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Co, Se	14 days	60 hours
Benzimole 25 mg/ml SC	Oral drench	Mole Valley	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Co, Se	14 days	60 hours
Bovex 2.265%	Oral drench	Chanelle Pharma	Oxfendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	-	19 days	84 hours
Endospec SC 2.5%	Oral drench	Bimeda	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Co, Se	14 days	60 hours
Endospec SC 10%	Oral drench	Bimeda	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Co, Se	14 days	60 hours
Ovidrench S & C 2.5%	Oral drench	United Farmers	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes – *Moniezia* spp.	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Co, Se	14 days	60 hours
Panacur bolus	Continuous release bolus	MSD AH	Fenbendazole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-	200 days	⊘
Panacur 10%	Oral drench	MSD AH	Fenbendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No		12 days	120 hours
Tramazole 2.5% SC	Oral drench	Tulivin Labs	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes – *Moniezia* spp.	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Co, Se	14 days	60 hours
Tramazole 100 mg/ml	Oral drench	Tulivin Labs	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes – *Moniezia* spp.	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	-	14 days	60 hours
Zerofen 2.5%	Oral drench	Chanelle Pharma	Fenbendazole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-	14 days	132 hours
Zerofen 10%	Oral drench	Chanelle Pharma	Fenbendazole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-	14 days	132 hours

2-LV Group 2: Levamisole (LV) (Yellow)

Product	Use	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled									Trace elements	Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)
				Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Fluke	Mites	Warbles	Lice	Hornflies	Eyeworm			
Chanaverm 7.5%	Oral drench	Chanelle Pharma	Levamisole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-	20 days	⊘
Levacide low volume 7.5%	Oral drench	Norbrook Labs	Levamisole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-	14 days	⊘
Levacur SC 3%	Oral drench	MSD AH	Levamisole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Co, Se	20 days	⊘
Levamole 75 mg/ml	Oral drench	Mole Valley	Levamisole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	-	20 days	⊘

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Check product labels for full and final details

3-ML Group 3: Macrocyclic Lactones (ML) (Clear)

Product	Use	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled									Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)
				Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Mites	Warbles	Lice	Hornflies	Eyeworm		
Animec 10 mg/ml	Injection SC	Chanelle Pharma	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	49 days	60* days
Animec 0.5%	Pour-on	Chanelle Pharma	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	28 days	60* days
Bimectin 10 mg/ml	Injection SC	Bimeda	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	49 days	60* days
Bimamec	Pour-on	Bimeda	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15 days	60* days
Cydectin 0.5%	Pour-on	Zoetis	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	14 days	144 hours
Cydectin 10% LA	Ear injection	Zoetis	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	108 days	80* days
Dectomax 10 mg/ml	Injection SC	Elanco AH	Doramectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	70 days	⊘
Dectomax 5 mg/ml	Pour-on	Elanco AH	Doramectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	35 days	60* days
Doramax 5 mg/ml	Pour-on	Chanelle Pharma	Doramectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	35 days	60* days
Doramax 10 mg/ml	Injection SC	Chanelle Pharma	Doramectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	70 days	60* days
Ecomectin 10 mg/ml	Injection SC	ECO AH	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	49 days	⊘
Enovex 0.5%	Pour-on	Norbrook Labs	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	28 days	⊘
Eprecis 20 mg/ml	Injection SC	CEVA	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	63 days	0 hours
Epricert 5 mg/ml	Pour-on	Chanelle Pharma	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	15 days	0 hours
EpriMole 5 mg/ml	Pour-on	Mole Valley	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	15 days	0 hours
Eprinex	Pour-on	Boehringer Ingelheim	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	15 days	0 hours
Eprinex Multi 5 mg/ml	Pour-on	Boehringer Ingelheim	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	15 days	0 hours
Eprizero 5 mg/ml	Pour-on	Norbrook Labs	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	10 days	0 hours
Epromec 5 mg/ml	Pour-on	Chanelle Pharma	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	15 days	0 hours
Ivomec Classic	Injection SC	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	49 days	60* days
Ivomec Classic	Pour-on	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15 days	60* days
Molemec Pour-on 5 mg/ml	Pour-on	Mole Valley	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	15 days	60* days
Molemec Injection 10 mg/ml	Injection SC	Mole Valley	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	49 days	60* days
Moxisolv LA 100 mg/ml	Ear injection	Bimeda	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	108 days	80* days
Moxodex 5 mg/ml	Pour-on	Chanelle Pharma	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	14 days	144 hours

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SC = subcutaneous, LA = long acting

Check the datasheets of individual products for mite species activity as it does vary.

Check product labels for full and final details

3-ML Group 3: Macrocyclic Lactones (ML) (Clear) (continued)

Product	Use	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled									Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)
				Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Mites	Warbles	Lice	Hornflies	Eyeworm		
Moxodex LA 100 mg/ml	Ear injection	Chanelle Pharma	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	108 days	80* days
Noromectin 1%	Injection SC	Norbrook Labs	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	49 days	60* days
Noromectin 0.5%	Pour-on	Norbrook Labs	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	28 days	60* days
Panomec	Injection SC	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	49 days	60* days
Premadex 10 mg/ml	Injection SC	Downland	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	49 days	60* days
Premadex 0.5%	Pour-on	Downland	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	28 days	60* days
Taurador 5 mg/ml	Pour-on	Norbrook Labs	Doramectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	35 days	60* days
Taurador 10 mg/ml	Injection SC	Norbrook Labs	Doramectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	70 days	60* days
Tauramox 5 mg/ml	Pour-on	Norbrook Labs	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	14 days	144 hours
Virbamec 5 mg/ml	Pour-on	Virbac	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	28 days	60* days
Virbamec 1%	Injection SC	Virbac	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	49 days	60* days
Zermex 0.5%	Pour-on	Downland	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	14 days	144 hours
Zermex 100 mg/ml LA	Ear injection	Downland	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	108 days	80* days

Combination products

Product	Use	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled									Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)
				Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Mites	Warbles	Lice	Hornflies	Eyeworm		
Animec	Injection SC	Chanelle Pharma	Ivermectin Clorsulon	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	66 days	60* days
Bimectin Plus	Injection SC	Bimeda	Ivermectin Clorsulon	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	66 days	60* days
Closamectin	Pour-on	Norbrook Labs	Ivermectin Closantel	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult and immature over 7 weeks)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	58 days	⊘
Combinex Cattle	Oral drench	Elanco AH	Levamisole Triclabendazole	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult and immature from 2 weeks)	No	No	No	No	No	56 days	⊘
Cydectin TriclaMox	Pour-on	Zoetis	Moxidectin Triclabendazole	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult and immature 6–8 weeks)	No	No	Yes	No	No	143 days	⊘
Downland Fluke & Worm	Oral drench	Downland	Levamisole Oxyclozanide	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	5 days	⊘
Ivomec Super	Injection SC	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin Clorsulon	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	66 days	60* days
Levafas Diamond	Oral drench	Norbrook Labs	Levamisole Oxyclozanide	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	5 days	⊘
Molemec Super	Injection SC	Mole Valley	Ivermectin Clorsulon	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	66 days	60* days

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Check product labels for full and final details

Combination products (continued)

Product	Use	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled									Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)
				Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Mites	Warbles	Lice	Hornflies	Eyeworm		
Norofas	Pour-on	Downland	Ivermectin Closantel	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult and immature over 7 weeks)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	58 days	⊘
Supremadex	Injection SC	Downland	Ivermectin Clorsulon	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	66 days	60* days
Virbamec Super	Injection SC	Virbac	Ivermectin Clorsulon	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	66 days	60* days

Flukicides

Product	Use	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled									Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)
				Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Mites	Warbles	Lice	Hornflies	Eyeworm		
Endofluke 100 mg/ml	Oral drench	Bimeda	Triclabendazole	No	No	No	Yes – all stages	No	No	No	No	No	56 days	45 days + 48 hours*
Fasinex 240	Oral drench	Elanco AH	Triclabendazole	No	No	No	Yes – all stages	No	No	No	No	No	52 days	50* days
Rumenil 34 mg/ml	Oral drench	Chanelle Pharma	Oxyclozanide	No	No	Yes – *Moniezia* spp. segments only	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	13 days	108 hours
Solantel 200 mg/ml	Pour-on	Norbrook Labs	Closantel	No	No	No	Yes (adult and immature over 7 weeks)	No	No	No	No	No	63 days	⊘
Tribex 10%	Oral drench	Chanelle Pharma	Triclabendazole	No	No	No	Yes – all stages	No	No	No	No	No	56 days	41 days + 84 hours
Triclacert 10%	Oral drench	Downland	Triclabendazole	No	No	No	Yes – all stages	No	No	No	No	No	56 days	41 days + 84 hours

Ectoparasiticides – synthetic pyrethroids

Product	Use	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled										Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)
				Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Mites	Warbles	Lice	Flies	Hornflies	Eyeworm		
Butox Swish 7.5 mg/ml	Pour-on	MSD AH	Deltamethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	20 days	0 hours
Dectospot 10 mg/ml	Spot-on	Bimeda	Deltamethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	17 days	0 hours
Deltanil 10 mg/ml	Pour-on	Virbac	Deltamethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	17 days	0 hours
Deltamole 7.5 mg/ml	Pour-on	Mole Valley	Deltamethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	20 days	0 hours
Dysect Cattle	Pour-on	Zoetis	Alphacypermethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	28 days	0 hours
Flectron Fly Tags	Ear tag	Zoetis	Cypermethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	0 days	0 hours
Flypor 4%	Pour-on	Elanco AH	Permethrin	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3 days	6 hours
Fly & Lice Spot On 1%	Spot-on	Zoetis	Deltamethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	17 days	0 hours
Flydown Delta	Pour-on	Downland	Deltamethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	17 days	0 hours
Spotinor 10 mg/ml	Spot-on	Norbrook Labs	Deltamethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	17 days	0 hours

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SC = subcutaneous

Check the datasheets of individual products for mite species activity as it does vary.

Check product labels for full and final details

Cattle treatment best practice

Dosing cattle correctly

Whichever method of administration is selected, it is important to read the manufacturer's instructions carefully. Particular attention should be paid to:

- Class of stock for which the drug is recommended and any limitations regarding use
- Dose rate and any recommended increases to deal with different parasite species or developmental stages
- Meat withholding period before slaughter
- Individual liveweight assessment, using scales or a weigh band, to avoid under- or overdosing
- Dose accurately against individual liveweights. For a group of well-matched cattle, it is acceptable to weigh a sample of animals and treat the group accordingly

- Correct storage of wormers, i.e. away from direct sunlight, avoiding extremes of temperature. Check the use-by date and, once open, use within the time shown on the packaging. Some products need to be shaken well before use
- Appropriate equipment selection for the product and calibration to deliver the dose accurately

Pour-ons

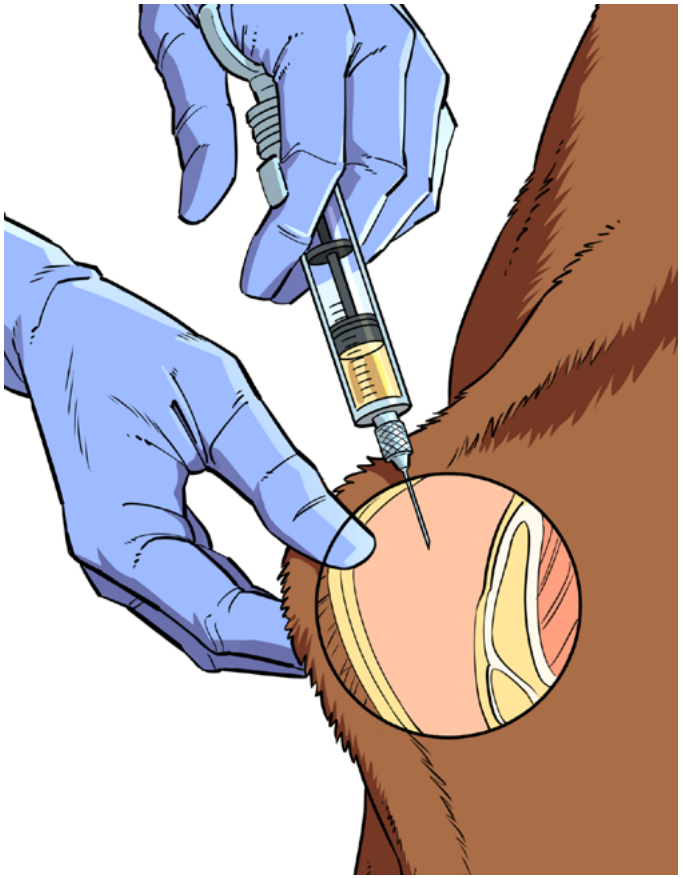
These should be applied along the length of the flattest part of the animal's back, from the withers to the tail head.

In general, animals should not be treated when the hair is wet or if rain is anticipated within two hours of treatment. However, some products are waterproof and can be used on wet animals. Areas of damaged skin should be avoided, as should areas contaminated with mud or manure.

Injectables

Injectables should be given according to the manufacturer's instructions at the recommended injection site.

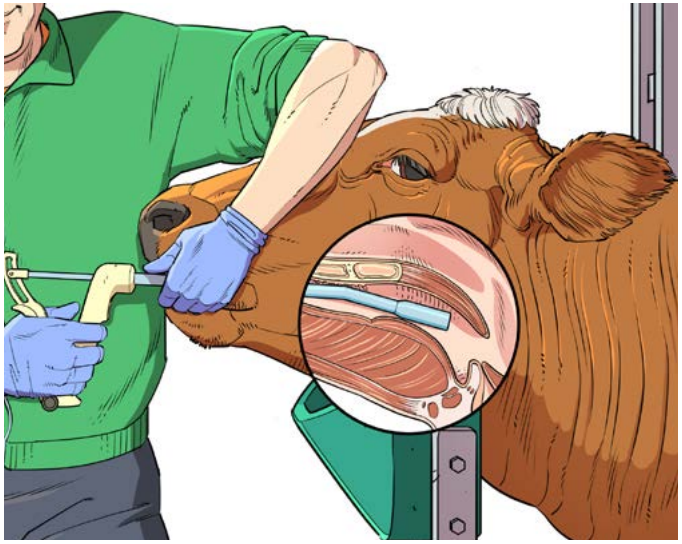
- Always use a clean, sterile syringe and needle. If using a multiple injection gun, ensure the needle is disinfected between injections, e.g. with an automatic sterilisation system
- If the site to be injected is dirty, clean the skin and swab with an alcohol-impregnated wipe or cotton wool
- Before injecting, check the expiry date and read the instructions of the product to be used. Some products need to be shaken before use
- Use the correct-sized needle according to the size of the animal and site of injection
- Ensure the animal is adequately restrained before attempting the injection
- To ensure subcutaneous injections are not administered intramuscularly, raise a fold of skin at the injection site (mainly neck, but some are ear) as recommended by the manufacturer and inject into the space created
- If a large dose is to be delivered, it may be advisable to split the dose between two injection sites. After the injection, briefly massage the site to improve the dispersal of the injected product
- Dispose of the needle and syringe in appropriate clinical waste and sharps containers



Boluses

These types of wormers are administered orally using product-specific equipment.

Closely follow the manufacturer's instructions to ensure that the boluses are delivered over the back of the tongue, so they can be swallowed. Avoid any excess force, as this can cause damage to the throat, and do not depress the plunger until you are satisfied with the positioning of the bolus.



It is important that the animal stays as calm as possible and can swallow. This is normally achieved by keeping the head and neck in a straight line. It is very difficult to successfully and safely complete administration if the neck is twisted and the animal is fighting you.

Oral drenches

Oral drenching guns are designed to deliver the treatment towards the back of the mouth over the tongue, so the entire dose is swallowed at once to optimise efficacy.

- Make sure animals are properly restrained, with their head held up
- Slide the nozzle of the dosing gun into the side of the mouth and over the tongue so that the entire dose is swallowed immediately
- Drenching equipment must be correctly calibrated and in good working order
- Calibrate the gun using the product just before treatment starts by delivering two or more doses into a graduated measuring cylinder

Faulty equipment, or attempting to dose too quickly, may mean that the barrel of the gun does not fill properly or that the liquid is full of bubbles, which may lead to underdosing.

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. Some products require shaking before use.

The product may be compromised by incorrect storage.

Combination products

Products that combine a wormer and flukicide can seem like an attractive option for broad-spectrum control with a single administration.

It is recommended that they are only used if the following apply:

- Cattle require treatment for both worms and fluke
- The wormer is effective against the stages of the target worms present and the value of any persistent activity is assessed
- The flukicide has the appropriate activity for the stages of liver fluke likely to be present

To ensure you choose the right product and administer it in the right way, consult your vet or SQP/RAMA for more detailed advice.

Sheep parasite control: endoparasiticides and ectoparasiticides

1-BZ Group 1: Benzimidazoles (BZ) (White)

Product	Use	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled						Trace elements	Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)
				Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Nasal bots	Sheep scab			
Albacert 2.5%	Oral drench	Downland	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	Co, Se	5 days	⊘
Albex 2.5%	Oral drench	Chanelle Pharma	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	Co, Se	5 days	⊘
Albex 10%	Oral drench	Chanelle Pharma	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	-	5 days	⊘
Benzimole 25 mg/ml	Oral drench	Mole Valley	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	Co, Se	5 days	⊘
Bovex 2.265%	Oral drench	Chanelle Pharma	Oxfendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	-	24 days	⊘
Endospec SC 2.5%	Oral drench	Bimeda	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	Co, Se	4 days	⊘
Endospec SC 10%	Oral drench	Bimeda	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	Co, Se	4 days	⊘
Ovidrench S & C 2.5%	Oral drench	United Farmers	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes – *Moniezia* spp.	Yes (adult only)	No	No	Co, Se	4 days	⊘
Ovidrench S & C 10%	Oral drench	United Farmers	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes – *Moniezia* spp.	Yes (adult only)	No	No	Co, Se	4 days	⊘
Panacur 10%	Oral drench	MSD AH	Fenbendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	-	15 days	7 days
Rycoben SC 2.5%	Oral drench	Elanco AH	Ricobendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	Co, Se	3 days	⊘
Tramazole 2.5%	Oral drench	Tulivin Labs	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes - *Moniezia* spp.	Yes (adult only)	No	No	Co, Se	4 days	⊘
Tramazole 100 mg/ml	Oral drench	Tulivin Labs	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes - *Moniezia* spp.	Yes (adult only)	No	No	-	4 days	⊘
Zerofen 2.5%	Oral drench	Chanelle Pharma	Fenbendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes - *Moniezia* spp.	No	No	No	-	21 days	⊘
Zerofen 10%	Oral drench	Chanelle Pharma	Fenbendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes - *Moniezia* spp.	No	No	No	-	21 days	⊘

2-LV Group 2: Levamisole (LV) (Yellow)

Product	Use	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled						Trace elements	Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)
				Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Nasal bots	Sheep scab			
Chanaverm 7.5%	Oral Drench	Chanelle Pharma	Levamisole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	-	20 days	⊘
Levacide Low Volume 7.5%	Oral Drench	Norbrook Labs	Levamisole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	-	21 days	⊘
Levacure SC 3%	Oral Drench	MSD AH	Levamisole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Co, Se	20 days	⊘
Levamole 75 mg/ml	Oral Drench	Mole Valley	Levamisole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	-	20 days	⊘

Sheep must not be drenched with a Group 2: levamisole (yellow) anthelmintic for at least 14 days prior to and 14 days after dipping.

⊘ = not for use in sheep producing milk for human consumption.

Check product labels for full and final details

3-ML Group 3: Macrocyclic Lactones (ML) (Clear)

Product	Use	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled						Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)
				Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Nasal bots	Sheep scab		
Animec 0.8 mg/ml	Oral drench	Chanelle Pharma	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	10 days	⊘
Bimectin 10 mg/ml	Injection SC	Bimeda	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	42 days	⊘
Cydectin 0.1%	Oral drench	Zoetis	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	14 days	5 days
Cydectin 1%	Injection SC	Zoetis	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	70 days	⊘
Cydectin 20 mg/ml LA	Injection SC	Zoetis	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	104 days	⊘
Dectomax 10 mg/ml	Injection IM	Elanco AH	Doramectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	70 days	⊘
Doramax 10 mg/ml	Injection IM	Chanelle Pharma	Doramectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	70 days	⊘
Ecomectin 10 mg/ml	Injection SC	ECO AH	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	42 days	⊘
Eprecis 20 mg/ml	Injection SC	CEVA	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	42 days	0 days
Eprinex Multi 5 mg/ml	Pour-on	Boehringer Ingelheim	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	2 days	0 days
Ivomec Classic	Injection SC	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	37 days	⊘
Molemec Drench 0.8 mg/ml	Oral drench	Mole Valley	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	6 days	⊘
Molemec Injection 10 mg/ml	Injection SC	Mole Valley	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	37 days	⊘
Moxodex 1 mg/ml	Oral drench	Chanelle Pharma	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	14 days	5 days
Noromectin 0.08%	Oral drench	Norbrook Labs	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	14 days	⊘
Noromectin 1%	Injection SC	Norbrook Labs	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	42 days	⊘
Oramec Drench	Oral drench	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	6 days	⊘
Panomec	Injection SC	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	37 days	⊘
Premadex 10 mg/ml	Injection SC	Downland	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	42 days	⊘
Premadex 0.8 mg/ml	Oral drench	Downland	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	10 days	⊘
Taurador 10 mg/ml	Injection IM	Norbrook Labs	Doramectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	70 days	⊘
Zermex 0.1%	Oral drench	Downland	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	14 days	5 days
Zermex 20 mg/ml LA	Injection SC	Downland	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	104 days	⊘

IM = intramuscular, SC = subcutaneous, LA = long acting

For the treatment of sheep scab, two injections may be required.

***Not to be used in any animals that have any history of previous vaccination against footrot.**

⊘ = not for use in sheep producing milk for human consumption.

Check product labels for full and final details

4-AD Group 4: Amino-acetonitrile Derivatives (AD) (Orange)

Product	Use	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled						Withdrawal period (meat)
				Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Nasal bots	Sheep scab	
Zolvix	Oral drench	Elanco AH	Monepantel	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	7 days

5-SI Group 5: Spiroindoles (SI) available as a multi-active (Purple)

Product	Use	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled						Withdrawal period (meat)
				Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Nasal bots	Sheep scab	
Startect Dual Active	Oral drench	Zoetis	Derquantel Abamectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	14 days

Combination products

Product	Use	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled						Withdrawal period (meat)
				Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Nasal bots	Sheep scab	
Closamectin	Injection SC	Norbrook Labs	Ivermectin Closantel	Yes	Yes	No	Yes – including immature fluke from 7 weeks of age	Yes	Yes	28 days
Combinex	Oral drench	Elanco AH	Levamisole Triclabendazole	Yes	Yes	No	Yes – including immature fluke from 2 days of age	No	No	56 days
Cydectin TriclaMox	Oral drench	Zoetis	Moxidectin Triclabendazole	Yes	Yes	No	Yes – including early immature fluke	No	No	31 days
Downland Fluke & Worm	Oral drench	Downland	Levamisole Oxyclozanide	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adults only)	No	No	5 days
Fasimec Duo	Oral drench	Elanco AH	Ivermectin Triclabendazole	Yes	Yes	No	Yes – including immature fluke from under 1 week of age	Yes	No	27 days
Levafas Diamond	Oral drench	Norbrook Labs	Levamisole Oxyclozanide	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adults only)	No	No	5 days
Supaverm	Oral drench	Elanco AH	Mebendazole Closantel	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (including immature fluke over 5 weeks of age)	No	No	65 days
Tribamec Duo	Oral drench	Chanelle Pharma	Ivermectin Triclabendazole	Yes	Yes	No	Yes – including immature fluke from under 1 week of age	Yes	No	27 days
Triclacert Duo	Oral drench	Downland	Triclabendazole Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	Yes – including immature fluke from under 1 week of age	Yes	No	27 days

SC = subcutaneous

Note: Lice – endectocides do not cover biting (chewing) lice, which are the species of importance in the UK.

None of the products listed on this page are licensed for sheep producing milk for human consumption.

Check product labels for full and final details

Narrow spectrum

Product	Use	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled							Withdrawal period (meat)
				Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Mange mites	Nasal bots	Sheep scab	
Endofluke 100 mg/ml	Oral drench	Bimeda	Triclabendazole	No	No	No	Yes – including immature fluke	No	No	No	56 days
Flukanide 30 mg/ml	Oral drench	Univet Ltd	Rafoxanide	No	No	No	Yes – including immature fluke over 6 weeks of age	No	No	No	78 days
Flukiver 5%	Oral drench	Elanco AH	Closantel	No	No	No	Yes – including immature fluke over 5 weeks of age *Haemonchus contortus**	No	Yes	No	42 days
Solantel 50 mg/ml	Oral drench	Norbrook Labs	Closantel	No	No	No	Yes – including immature fluke over 5 weeks of age *Haemonchus contortus**	No	Yes	No	42 days
Tribex 5%	Oral drench	Chanelle Pharma	Triclabendazole	No	No	No	Yes – including immature fluke	No	No	No	56 days
Triclacert 5%	Oral drench	Downland	Triclabendazole	No	No	No	Yes – including immature fluke	No	No	No	56 days

*Barber's pole worm

Injectables for sheep scab

Product	Company name	Chemical name	Sheep scab	Nasal bots	Move to clean pasture	Withdrawal period (meat)
Animec 10 mg/ml	Chanelle Pharma	Ivermectin	Two injections 7 days apart	Yes	Yes	25 days
Cydectin 1%	Zoetis	Moxidectin	28 days persistent activity for protection. Two injections 10 days apart to treat existing scab	Yes	No	70 days
Cydectin 20 mg/ml LA	Zoetis	Moxidectin	60 days persistent activity for protection. One injection to treat existing scab	Yes	No	104 days
Dectomax 10 mg/ml	Elanco AH	Doramectin	One injection	Yes	Yes	70 days
Doramax 10 mg/ml	Chanelle Pharma	Doramectin	One injection	Yes	Yes	70 days
Ecomectin 10 mg/ml	ECO AH	Ivermectin	Two injections 7 days apart	Yes	Yes	42 days
Ivomec Classic	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin	Two injections 7 days apart	Yes	Yes	37 days
Molemec 10 mg/ml	Mole Valley	Ivermectin	Two injections 7 days apart	Yes	Yes	37 days
Noromectin 1%	Norbrook Labs	Ivermectin	Two injections 7 days apart	Yes	Yes	42 days
Panomec	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin	Two injections 7 days apart	Yes	Yes	37 days
Premadex 10 mg/ml	Downland	Ivermectin	Two injections 7 days apart	Yes	Yes	42 days
Taurador 10 mg/ml	Norbrook Labs	Doramectin	One injection	Yes	Yes	70 days
Zermex 20 mg/ml LA	Downland	Moxidectin	60 days persistent activity for protection. One injection to treat	Yes	No	104 days

LA = long acting

None of the products listed on this page are licensed for sheep producing milk for human consumption.

***Not to be used in any animals that have any history of previous vaccination against footrot.**

Check product labels for full and final details

Plunge dips

Product	Company name	Chemical name	Blowfly	Sheep scab	Lice	Ticks	Withdrawal period (meat)
Gold Fleece Sheep Dip	Bimeda	Diazinon	60 days protection	60 days protection	60 days protection	Yes	49 days

Pour-on and spot-on solutions

Product	Use	Company name	Chemical name	Blowfly	Lice	Ticks	Withdrawal period (meat)
CLiK 50 mg/ml	Pour-on	Elanco AH	Dicyclanil	16 weeks P	No	No	40 days
CLiK EXTRA 65 mg/ml	Pour-on	Elanco AH	Dicyclanil	19 weeks P	No	No	40 days
CLiKZiN 12.5 mg/ml	Pour-on	Elanco AH	Dicyclanil	8 weeks P	No	No	7 days
Crovect 1.25%	Pour-on	Elanco AH	Cypermethrin	6–8 weeks P+T	Kills existing lice	Up to 10 weeks	8 days
Dectospot 10 mg/ml	Spot-on	Bimeda	Deltamethrin	Treats established strike only	4–6 week reduction in incidence	Up to 6 weeks	35 days
Deltanil 10 mg/ml	Pour-on	Virbac	Deltamethrin	Treats established strike only	4–6 week reduction in incidence	Up to 6 weeks	35 days
Dysect Sheep	Pour-on	Zoetis	Alphacypermethrin	8–10 weeks P+T	Kills existing lice	8–12 weeks	49 days
Ectofly 12.5 mg/ml	Pour-on	Bimeda	Cypermethrin	6–8 weeks P+T	Kills existing lice	Yes	8 days
Fly & Lice Insecticide 1%	Spot-on	Zoetis	Deltamethrin	Treats established strike only	4–6 week reduction in incidence	Up to 6 weeks	35 days
Flydown Delta 10 mg/ml	Pour-on	Downland	Deltamethrin	Treats established strike only	4–6 week reduction in incidence	Up to 6 weeks	35 days
Fly Off 12.5 mg/ml	Pour-on	United Farmers	Cypermethrin	6–8 weeks P+T	Kills existing lice	Up to 10 weeks	8 days
MoleEcto 12.5 mg/ml	Pour-on	Mole Valley	Cypermethrin	6–8 weeks P+T	Kills existing lice	Up to 10 weeks	8 days
Spotinor 10 mg/ml	Spot-on	Norbrook Labs	Deltamethrin	Treats established strike only	4–6 week reduction in incidence	Up to 6 weeks	35 days
Vectocert 1.25%	Pour-on	Downland	Cypermethrin	6–8 weeks P+T	Kills existing lice	Yes	8 days
Zermasect Sheep	Pour-on	Zoetis	Alphacypermethrin	8–10 weeks P+T	Kills existing lice	8–12 weeks	49 days

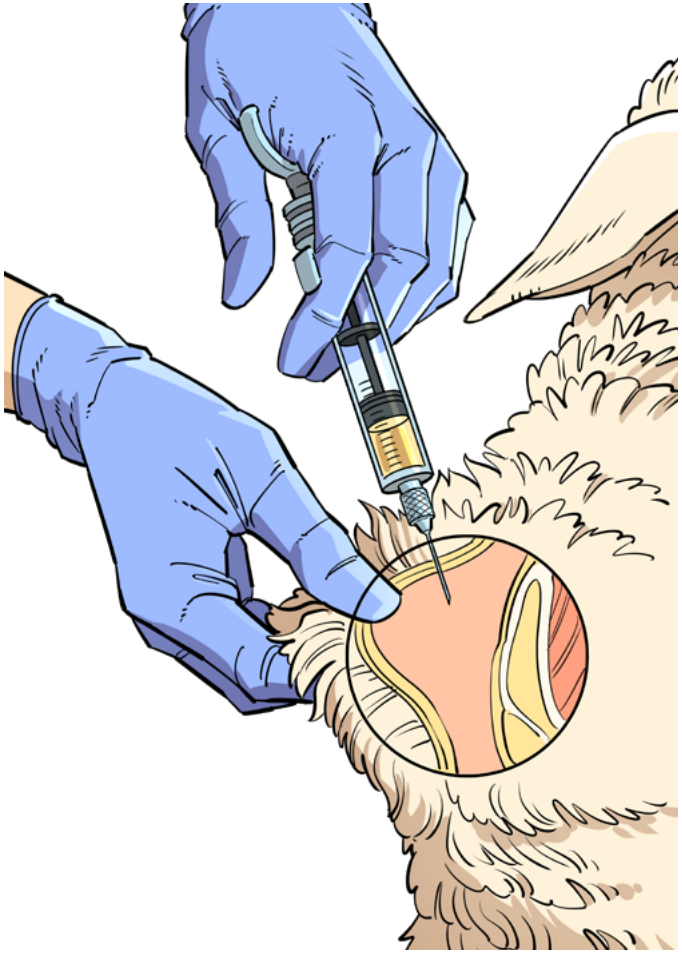
P = Prevention, T = Treatment

Check product labels for full and final details including milk withdrawal period

Sheep treatment best practice

Subcutaneous injections

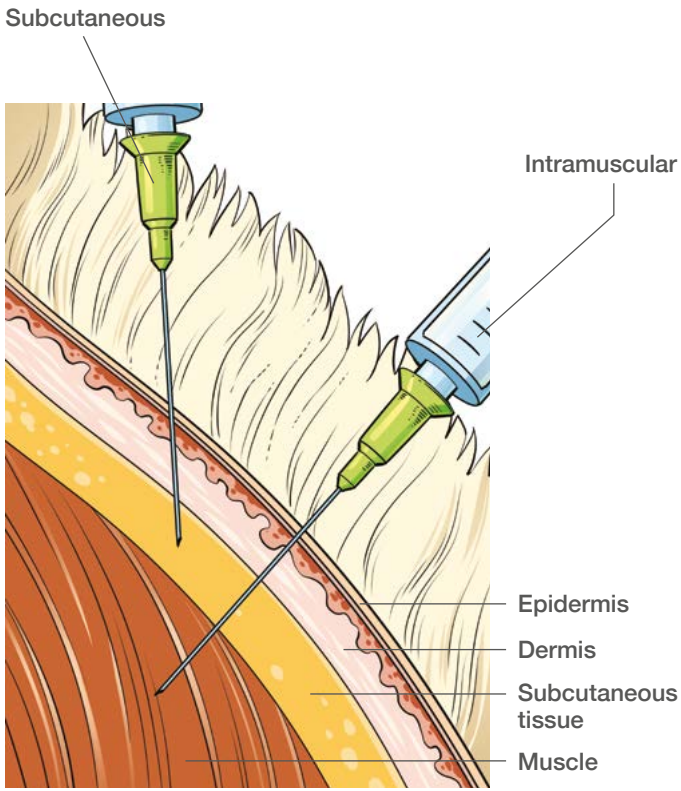
Subcutaneous injections need to be administered with care to ensure the product is placed under the skin and not into the fleece or muscle. The sheep needs to be well restrained and the skin 'tented' away from the underlying muscle. The preferred injection site is 10–15 cm (4–6 inches) below the ear on the side of the neck (see diagram below). Usually, a 1.6 cm (5/8 inch) needle is ideal. After administration, the site should be gently massaged.



Intramuscular injections

Intramuscular injections are made into muscle. Again, care is needed to ensure the product is deposited in muscle and not just under the skin. This requires sheep to be well restrained. The correct site is on the side of the neck 10–15 cm (4–6 inches) in front of the shoulder in the mid-neck area, well above the large jugular vein. Insert a 2.5–4 cm (1–1.5 inches) needle at a 60-degree angle to the neck, aiming inwards and upwards towards the head. Again, massage the site after administration.

Using the neck as the site for intramuscular injections ensures no valuable cut of meat is damaged, and the constant movement of the neck ensures good dispersion of product.



Pour-ons and spot-ons

Pour-ons and spot-ons need to be applied accurately, and each manufacturer may recommend subtle differences. These differences are important as incorrect application could impact the effectiveness of the product. Use appropriate and calibrated guns. Always clean with warm soapy water and then rinse after use. Store in a safe, dry place. When treating sheep with these products, make sure they are applied along the back line. If placed to one side, the product will not spread evenly around the body. No pour-on or spot-on is effective against sheep scab.

Dosing

Weigh – do not guess

Underestimating the weight of sheep is a common cause of underdosing. 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.

Do not forget to check that the weigh crate is accurate and correctly calibrated before starting.

Calibrate and maintain the drench gun

Always check the gun is delivering the right amount before you drench. Remove the plunger from a 10 ml syringe, put a thumb over the end and squirt the dose into it, making sure there are no air bubbles left. Adjust the gun until the dose delivered is correct. Drenching guns should also be well maintained and replaced regularly. Clean equipment with warm soapy water after use and check springs and tubes to make sure there are no kinks that will form air bubbles.

Storage

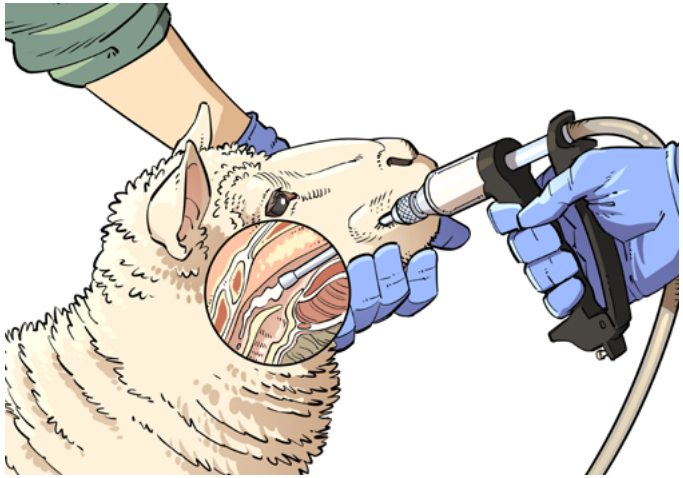
Wormers should be stored securely, away from direct sunlight at 4–25°C. Check the use-by date and, once open, use within the time shown on the packaging. Shake Group 1 – white (BZ) products well before use.

The product may be compromised by incorrect storage.

Drench 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 cannot leap around when they are being drenched, 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 the molar and incisor teeth and then over the back of the tongue. If the wormer is just put into the mouth, it will bypass the rumen as it escapes down the oesophageal groove and will be less effective. This is particularly important for Group 1 – white (BZ) drenches.



Showers and jetters

There are no medicinal products licensed for use in showers and/or jetters. Any blowfly, lice or scab treatments administered in this way are done so illegally.

Dipping

For plunge dipping, it is essential to know the capacity of the bath. Use only the two closed systems to check the bath and to top up. Always top up as per instructions; if not, the dip wash will strip out and later sheep will not carry enough product for it to be effective. Do not dip tired, thirsty or heat-stressed sheep. Allow dipped sheep to drain in designated draining pens, and do not return to pasture until excess dip has been shed.

When dipping, use protective clothing, handle equipment carefully and stick to the manufacturer's instructions.

Sheep dipping must be carried out professionally and must comply with all relevant legislation to safeguard animal welfare, human health and the environment. It is also vital to minimise the risk of resistance developing in sheep scab mites to organophosphates (OP).

For further information on dipping legislation, see the Mobile Sheep Dipping Code of Practice 2023, which is available at: scops.org.uk/external-parasites/code-of-practice-for-mobile-dippers

Organophosphate (OP) dips can only be purchased and used under the supervision of someone with a Certificate of Competence (NPTC Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Sheep Dip) – this can either be the farmer or a contract mobile dipper.

For plunge dipping to be effective against sheep scab, sheep have to be in the dip for at least one minute and the head needs to be immersed under water twice.

Make sure used sheep dip is discarded according to the regulations because it is potentially harmful if disposed of incorrectly.

Sheep must not be drenched with a levamisole (Group 2 – yellow) anthelmintic for at least 14 days prior to and 14 days after dipping.

Parasites in cattle and sheep

Parasite	Treatment advice	Product notes
Gastrointestinal roundworms in cattle (e.g. *Ostertagia* and *Cooperia*)	Approaches to control in the grazing season are usually either strategic or targeted/therapeutic. Consider strategic dosing early in the season to minimise pasture contamination. If no measures are taken to limit pasture contamination, closely monitor cattle and treat when clinical signs appear (therapeutic approach). Alternatively, tactical treatments can be given to at-risk groups in anticipation of losses. Check if youngstock need worming for gut worms at housing using faecal egg counts (FECs). If infection risk is high, use a product that carries a licence against inhibited *Ostertagia* worms to reduce the risk of type II ostertagiosis later in the winter.	Macrocyclic lactone (ML) products are active against inhibited larvae. Benzimidazoles may also be used, but their efficacy against inhibited larvae can be unpredictable. Levamisole is ineffective against larval *O. ostertagi*. NB: While FECs are an effective method of monitoring gastrointestinal nematode worm burdens and informing targeted and therapeutic dosing against these, they cannot be relied upon for diagnosis and monitoring of lungworm infections. Adult cattle should not require any treatment for gut worms.
Roundworms in sheep (e.g. *Teladorsagia*, *Nematodirus*, *Haemonchus* and *Trichostrongylus*)	There are several different species of sheep nematode parasites commonly found in the UK. Pathogenicity varies with species. FECs do not differentiate between the species, with many of them reported as strongyles. Further testing, known as speciation, which is done in a lab can diagnose the parasites present.	Knowing the parasite present will help determine the product choice. Consider the efficacy of the different anthelmintic classes against the different parasites, specific to your farm.
Lungworm in cattle	Lungworm (*Dictyocaulus viviparus*) causes parasitic bronchitis, commonly known as husk. Lungworm typically infects young cattle during their first grazing season. Vaccination should be considered for calves born into herds with an identified risk or previous history of lungworm. If considering using a lungworm vaccine, take veterinary advice to ensure correct use.	Avoid vaccination during the period of activity of long-acting anthelmintics, endectocides or long-acting bolus preparations. Do not use any anthelmintics or endectocides for 14 days after vaccination. Where anthelmintics are routinely used in the first grazing season, a one-off booster immunisation may be recommended ahead of the second grazing season. Similarly, where cattle of any age are bought in from lungworm free farms to those with a history of disease, vaccination may again be recommended.
Lungworm in sheep	Lungworm disease in sheep is usually less severe than that seen in cattle. The most important lungworm species (in sheep) is *Dictyocaulus filaria*.	Speak to your vet if your flock is demonstrating symptoms of lungworm (laboured breathing and/or coughing) to confirm if lungworm is the cause and discuss treatment options.
Liver fluke – cattle and sheep	Treatment of fluke (*Fasciola hepatica*) should take account of the particular risk, time of year and the stage of development of the fluke, with acute disease caused by juvenile flukes typically in late summer through to early winter, and chronic risk posed by adult fluke infections in late winter/early spring. Check your regional fluke forecasts and abattoir returns to monitor infection in your animals.	Different active ingredients will kill different stages (from immature flukes through to adults). Selecting the right product for the current risk and developmental stage is important. There are confirmed reports of triclabendazole resistance – the only product with efficacy against early-stage acute infection – in the UK. There are an increasing number of tests available for liver fluke – blood antibody testing via ELISA and lateral flow devices are more useful for monitoring acute disease risk in first-season animals in the autumn/early winter. The coproantigen test and fluke egg counts are more useful to identify chronic infection in animals of all ages in late winter/spring. Fluke egg counts can also be used in fluke treatment efficacy checks.

Parasite	Treatment advice	Product notes
Rumen fluke – cattle and sheep	The detection of rumen fluke (*Calicophoron daubneyi*) eggs indicates the presence of adult parasites in the rumen. In most cases, such adult infections are not associated with any disease or production loss, and no action is required. Co-infections of liver fluke and rumen fluke are common, with any treatment focused on the presence of liver fluke. Occasionally, disease is observed in association with large numbers of immature rumen flukes migrating through the duodenum (small intestines) in the early stages of infection as the result of a very high challenge on pasture.	There are no licensed treatments for rumen fluke. The only active ingredient that can kill them (oxyclozanide) has a low safety margin and must be used carefully. Oxyclozanide can only be prescribed by a vet for use against rumen fluke and should only be used where there is conclusive evidence that an infestation of rumen fluke infection is likely to be causing a health/welfare issue or production losses. If concerned about rumen fluke, discuss with your vet.
Ectoparasites – cattle and sheep (e.g. lice, mange, ticks, flies)	Ensure a diagnosis is provided before treatment for ectoparasites.	The range of ectoparasites controlled differs among formulations and species, so it is important to read the label of each product before use and apply according to the manufacturer's guidelines. It is important to note that some treatments, particularly MLs including moxidectin-based preparations, are both ecto- and endoparasiticides. To preserve their efficacy, repeated use of such formulation on farms multiple times a year is not recommended.

Bluetongue

It is worth noting that there is no evidence that insect repellents prevent or reduce bluetongue transmission. Applying insecticides to animals will not prevent midges biting livestock and, as such, should not be prescribed or administered to prevent or reduce transmission of bluetongue.

For the latest information on parasite forecasting, news and technical guidance, visit scops.org.uk or cattleparasites.org.uk

Further information

Other publications from AHDB

- Using medicines responsibly
- Worm control in sheep
- Liver fluke control in grazing livestock

For industry guidance please also visit:

scops.org.uk

cattleparasites.org.uk

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