

Parasite control guide 2025

A comprehensive list of products for the treatment of internal and external parasites in cattle and sheep



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Sustainable and responsible use of anthelmintic and ectoparasiticide products

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

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

- Stored in the right conditions
- Applied to the animal correctly, following the manufacturer guidelines
- Known to work effectively (where this is not known, testing to determine efficacy is encouraged)
- Disposed of appropriately

A faecal egg count (FEC) is a count of the number of worm eggs present in faeces and is an indication of the number of adult worms present in the gut of the sheep. It is a useful management tool that can determine the 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 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, a high strongyle count can be indicative of the presence of haemonchus, but this can only be validated using a laboratory speciation test.

Farmers, vets and SPQs/RAMAs 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.

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.

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



Introduction

Parasite control – getting it right

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

The aim of this booklet is to provide an accurate, easy-to-use reference guide on all available anti-parasitic products in their various chemical groups and summarise the parasites they have been licensed to control. Decisions on the choice of product should be discussed with your vet, SQP (Suitably Qualified Person) or RAMA (Responsible Animal Medicine Advisor).

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:

1. (BZ) Benzimidazoles.
2. (LV) Levamisole (Imidazothiazoles).
3. (ML) Macrocyclic lactones, including avermectins and milbemycins.
4. (AD) Amino acetonitrile derivatives (Monepantel).
5. (SI) Spiroindoles (Derquantel available as a multi-active).

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 anthelmintic resistance.

Administering wormers (anthelmintics) 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 veterinary surgeon or SQP/RAMA.

- Choosing the most appropriate product for the parasites 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

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

- Make sure the dosing equipment is compatible with the product you are using and check it is clean and measuring the correct volume
- 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.

SPCs can be found on vmd.defra.gov.uk; data sheets can be found on noahcompendium.co.uk and the NOAH Compendium app. Manufacturers can be contacted directly if these sources do not provide the information you are seeking.

Cattle parasite control – endoparasiticides and ectoparasiticides



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

Product	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled									Use	Trace elements	Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)
			Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Mites	Warbles	Lice	Hornflies	Eyeworm				
Albacert 2.5% SC	Downland	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Oral drench	Co, Se	14 days	60 hours
Albex 10% oral suspension	Chanelle Pharma	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Oral drench		14 days	60 hours
Albex 2.5% SC oral suspension	Chanelle Pharma	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Oral drench	Co, Se	14 days	60 hours
Autoworm Finisher	Zoetis	Oxfendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Pulse release bolus		6 months	∅
Benzimole	Mole Valley	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Oral drench	Co, Se	14 days	60 hours
Bovex 2.265%	Chanelle Pharma	Oxfendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Oral drench		19 days	84 hours
Endospec 2.5% SC	Bimeda	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Oral drench	Co, Se	14 days	60 hours
Endospec 10% SC	Bimeda	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Oral drench	Co, Se	14 days	60 hours
Ovidrench S & C 2.5% w/v oral suspension for cattle	United Farmers	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes – <i>Moniezia</i> spp.	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Oral drench	Co, Se	14 days	60 hours
Ovidrench S & C 10% w/v oral drench for cattle	United Farmers	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes – <i>Moniezia</i> spp.	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Oral drench	Co, Se	14 days	60 hours
Panacur bolus	MSD AH	Fenbendazole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Bolus		200 days	∅
Panacur 10% oral suspension	MSD AH	Fenbendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Oral drench		12 days	120 hours
Tramazole 2.5% SC	Tulivin Labs	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Oral drench	Co, Se	14 days	60 hours
Tramazole 10% SC	Tulivin Labs	Albendazole	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Oral drench	Co, Se	14 days	60 hours
Zerofen 2.5%	Chanelle Pharma	Fenbendazole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Oral drench		14 days	132 hours
Zerofen 10%	Chanelle Pharma	Fenbendazole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Oral drench		14 days	132 hours

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

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

Check product labels for full and final details

∅ = not for use in cattle producing milk for human consumption.



3-ML

Group 3: Macrocyclic Lactones (ML) (Clear)

Product	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled									Use	Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)
			Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Mites	Warbles	Lice	Hornflies	Eyeworm			
Animec 10 mg/ml solution for injection	Chanelle Pharma	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Injection SC	49 days	60* days
Animec pour-on 0.5%	Chanelle Pharma	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Pour-on	28 days	60* days
Bimectin injection	Bimeda	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Injection SC	49 days	60* days
Bimectin pour-on for cattle	Bimeda	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Pour-on	31 days	60* days
Bimeprine 5 mg/ml pour-on solution for cattle	Bimeda	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Pour-on	15 days	0 days
Cydectin 0.5% pour-on for cattle	Zoetis	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Pour-on	14 days	6 days
Cydectin 10% LA for cattle	Zoetis	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Ear injection	108 days	80* days
Dectomax 10 mg/ml solution for injection for cattle and sheep	Elanco AH	Doramectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Injection SC	70 days	∅
Dectomax pour-on	Elanco AH	Doramectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Pour-on	35 days	∅
Doramax 5 mg/ml pour-on solution for cattle	Chanelle Pharma	Doramectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Pour-on	35 days	60* days
Ecomectin 10 mg/ml solution for injection	ECO AH	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Injection SC	49 days	∅
Ecomectin 5 mg/ml pour-on solution for cattle	ECO AH	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Pour-on	31 days	∅
Eprecis 20 mg/ml solution for injection for cattle	CEVA	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Injection SC	63 days	0 days
Epricert 5 mg/ml pour-on solution for beef and dairy cattle	Chanelle Pharma	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Pour-on	15 days	0 days
Eprimole pour-on	Mole Valley	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Pour-on	15 days	0 days
Eprinex pour-on	Boehringer Ingelheim	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Pour-on	15 days	0 days
Eprinex multi 5 mg/ml pour-on for beef and dairy cattle, sheep and goats	Boehringer Ingelheim	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Pour-on	15 days	0 days
Eprizero pour-on	Norbrook Labs	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Pour-on	10 days	0 days
Epromec 5 mg/ml pour-on solution for beef and dairy cattle	Chanelle Pharma	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Pour-on	15 days	0 days
Ivomec classic injection for cattle and sheep	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Injection SC	49 days	60* days
Ivomec classic pour-on for cattle	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Pour-on	15 days	60* days
Molemec pour-on for cattle	Mole Valley	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Pour-on	15 days	60* days
Moxisolv LA 100 mg/ml solution for injection	Bimeda	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Ear injection	108 days	0 days
Moxodex 5 mg/ml	Chanelle Pharma	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Pour-on	14 days	6 days

*Not permitted for use in cattle producing milk for human consumption or industrial purposes, or in dry cows and pregnant heifers within stated days before calving (check specific details).

∅ = not for use in cattle producing milk for human consumption.

Check product labels for full and final details



Product	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled									Use	Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)
			Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Mites	Warbles	Lice	Hornflies	Eyeworm			
Neopriniil 5 mg/ml pour-on solution for cattle	Virbac	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Pour-on	15 days	0 days
Noromectin multi injection	Norbrook Labs	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Injection SC	49 days	60* days
Noromectin pour-on	Norbrook Labs	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Pour-on	28 days	60* days
Panomec injection for cattle, sheep and pigs	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Injection SC	49 days	60* days
Premadex injection	Downland	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Injection SC	49 days	60* days
Premadex pour-on	Downland	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Pour-on	28 days	60* days
Taurador	Norbrook Labs	Doromectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Pour-on	35 days	60* days
Zermex 0.5% pour-on for cattle	Downland	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Pour-on	14 days	6 days
Zermex 100 mg/ml LA for cattle	Downland	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Ear injection	108 days	80* days

Combination products

Product	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled									Use	Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)
			Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Mites	Warbles	Lice	Hornflies	Eyeworm			
Animec super injection for cattle	Chanelle Pharma	Ivermectin Closulon	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Injection SC	66 days	60* days
Bimectin plus injection	Bimeda	Ivermectin Closulon	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Injection SC	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	Pour-on	58 days	∅
Combindex cattle	Elanco AH	Levamisole Triclabendazole	Yes	Yes	No	Yes – all stages	No	No	No	No	No	Oral drench	56 days	∅
Cydetin TriclaMox	Zoetis	Moxidectin Triclabendazole	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult and immature 6-8 weeks)	No	No	Yes	No	No	Pour-on	143 days	∅
Downland Fluke & Worm	Downland	Levamisole Oxyclozanide	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Oral drench	5 days	∅
Ivomec super injection for cattle	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin Closulon	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Injection SC	66 days	60* days
Levafas Diamond	Norbrook Labs	Levamisole Oxyclozanide	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	No	No	Oral drench	5 days	∅
Molemec super injection	Mole Valley	Ivermectin Closulon	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Injection SC	66 days	60* days
Norofas	Downland	Ivermectin Closantel	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult and immature over 7 weeks)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Pour-on	58 days	∅
Supremadex	Downland	Ivermectin Closulon	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Injection SC	66 days	60* days
Virbamec Super	Virbac	Ivermectin Closulon	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (adult only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Injection SC	66 days	60* days

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Check product labels for full and final details



Flukicides

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

Ectoparasiticides – synthetic pyrethroids

Product	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled										Use	Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)	
			Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Mites	Warbles	Lice	Flies	Hornflies	Eyeworm				
Butox Swish	MSD AH	Deltamethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Pour-on	20 days	0 days
Dectospot 10 mg/ml spot-on solution for cattle	Bimeda	Deltamethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Spot-on	17 days	0 days
Deltanil cattle and sheep	Virbac	Deltamethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Pour-on	17 days	0 days
Deltamole	Mole Valley	Deltamethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Pour-on	20 days	0 days
Dysect cattle pour-on	Zoetis	Alphacypermethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Pour-on	28 days	0 days
Electron fly tags	Zoetis	Cypermethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Ear tag	0 days	0 days
Flypor	Elanco AH	Permethrin	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Pour-on	3 days	6 hours
Fly & lice spot-on insecticide	Zoetis	Deltamethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Spot-on	17 days	0 days
Flydown	Downland	Deltamethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Spot-on	17 days	0 days
Spotinor 10 mg/ml	Norbrook	Deltamethrin	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Spot-on	17 days	0 days

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Check product labels for full and final details

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



- Dose according to individual liveweight, using scales or a weigh band. For a group of well-matched cattle, it's 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
- Ensure that the equipment is appropriate for the product and is calibrated to deliver the dose accurately. After use, rinse, clean and then dry the equipment before storage
- 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 material
- Dispose of the needle and syringe in appropriate clinical waste and sharps containers

Pour-ons

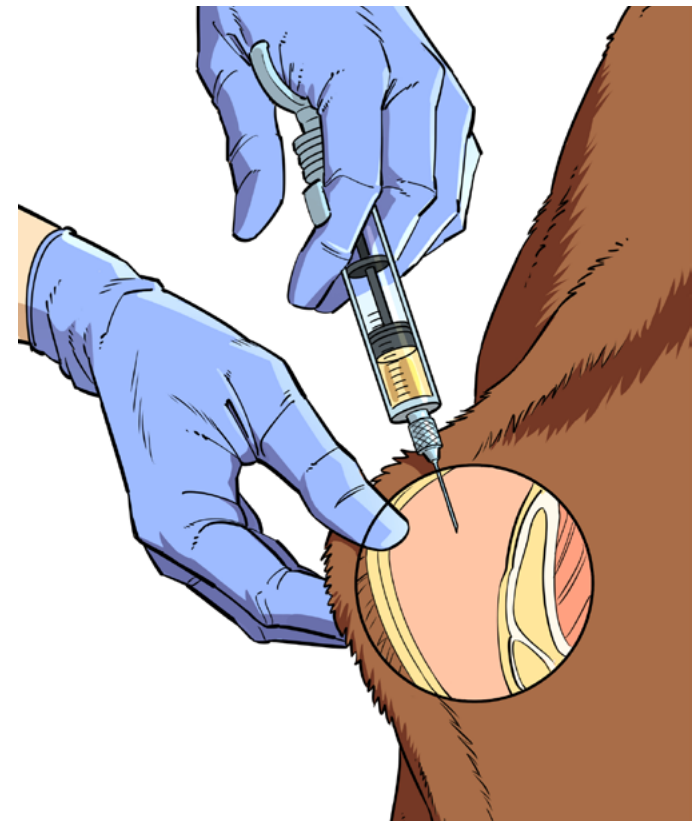
These should be applied along the length of the flattest part of the animal's back, from the withers to the tail head.

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



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
- Body weight assessment to avoid underdosing



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.



Parasites in sheep and cattle

Parasite	Treatment advice	Product notes
Gastrointestinal roundworms in cattle (e.g. <i>Ostertagia</i> and <i>Cooperia</i>)	<p>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.</p> <p>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 <i>Ostertagia</i> worms to reduce the risk of Type II ostertagiosis later in the winter.</p>	<p>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 <i>O. ostertagi</i>.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Adult cattle should not require any treatment for gut worms.</p>
Roundworms in sheep (e.g. <i>Teladorsagia</i> , <i>Nematodirus</i> , <i>Haemonchus</i> and <i>Trichostrongylus</i>)	<p>There are several different species of sheep nematode parasites commonly found in the UK. Pathogenicity varies with species.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Knowing the parasite present will help determine the product choice.</p> <p>Another consideration is the efficacy of the different anthelmintic classes against the different parasites, specific to your farm.</p>
Lungworm in cattle	<p>Lungworm (<i>Dictyocaulus viviparus</i>) 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.</p> <p>If considering using a lungworm vaccine, take veterinary advice to ensure correct use.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Lungworm in sheep	<p>Lungworm disease in sheep is usually less severe than that seen in cattle. The most important lungworm species (in sheep) is <i>Dictyocaulus filaria</i>.</p>	<p>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.</p>

Parasite	Treatment advice	Product notes
Liver fluke – cattle and sheep	<p>Treatment of fluke (<i>Fasciola hepatica</i>) 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.</p> <p>Check your regional fluke forecasts and abattoir returns to monitor infection in your animals.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Rumen fluke – cattle and sheep	<p>The detection of rumen fluke (<i>Calicophoron daubneyi</i>) 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.</p> <p>Co-infections of liver fluke and rumen fluke are common, with any treatment focused on the presence of liver fluke.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>If concerned about rumen fluke, discuss with your vet.</p>
Ectoparasites – cattle and sheep (e.g. lice, mange, ticks, flies)	<p>Ensure a diagnosis is provided before treatment for ectoparasites.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>It is important to note that some treatments, particularly MLs including moxidectin-based preparations, are both ecto- and endo-parasiticides. To preserve their efficacy, repeated use of such formulation on farms multiple times a year is not recommended.</p>

Sheep parasite control – endoparasiticides and ectoparasiticides



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

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

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

Product	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled						Use	Trace elements	Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)
			Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Nasal bots	Sheep scab				
Chanaverm 7.5%	Chanelle Pharma	Levamisole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Oral Drench		20 days	⊘
Levacide low volume	Norbrook Labs	Levamisole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Oral Drench		21 days	⊘
Levacur SC 3%	MSD AH	Levamisole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Oral Drench	Co, Se	20 days	⊘
Levamole 7.5%	Mole Valley	Levamisole	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Oral Drench		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	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled						Use	Withdrawal period (meat)	Withdrawal period (milk)
			Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Nasal bots	Sheep scab			
Animec oral for sheep 0.8mg/ml	Chanelle Pharma	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Oral drench	10 days	⊖
Bimectin 1%	Bimeda	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Injection SC	42 days	⊖
Cydectin 0.1% oral	Zoetis	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Oral drench	14 days	120 hours
Cydectin 1% injection*	Zoetis	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Injection SC	70 days	⊖
Cydectin 2% LA injection	Zoetis	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Injection SC	104 days	⊖
Dectomax 10 mg/ml solution for injection	Elanco AH	Doramectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Injection I/M	70 days	⊖
Ecomectin 10 mg/ml solution for injection	ECO AH	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Injection SC	42 days	⊖
Eprecis 20 mg/ml solution for injection	CEVA	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Injection SC	42 days	0 days
Eprinex Multi 5 mg/ml pour-on for beef and dairy cattle, sheep and goats	Boehringer Ingelheim	Eprinomectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Pour-on	2 days	0 days
Ivomec Classic injection for cattle and sheep	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Injection SC	37 days	⊖
Molemec drench for sheep 0.08%	Mole Valley	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Oral drench	6 days	⊖
Molemec injection for cattle and sheep 10 mg/ml	Mole Valley	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Injection SC	37 days	⊖
Moxodex Oral 1 mg/ml	Chanelle Pharma	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Oral drench	14 days	120 hours
Noromectin drench	Norbrook Labs	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Oral drench	14 days	⊖
Noromectin multi injection	Norbrook Labs	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Injection SC	42 days	⊖
Oramec drench	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Oral drench	6 days	⊖
Panomec injection for cattle, sheep and pigs	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Injection SC	37 days	⊖
Premadex 1% injection	Downland	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Injection SC	42 days	⊖
Premadex injection	Downland	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Injection SC	42 days	⊖
Premadex drench	Downland	Ivermectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Oral drench	10 days	⊖
Zermex drench	Downland	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Oral drench	14 days	120 hours
Zermex 20 mg/ml LA for injection	Downland	Moxidectin	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Injection SC	104 days	⊖

I/M = intramuscular, SC = subcutaneous

***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

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



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

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

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

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

Combination products

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

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	Company name	Chemical name	Parasites controlled							Use	Withdrawal period (meat)
			Roundworm	Lungworm	Tapeworm	Liver fluke	Mange mites	Nasal bots	Sheep scab		
Endofluke 10%	Bimeda	Triclabendazole	No	No	No	Yes – including immature fluke	No	No	No	Oral	56 days
Flukanide	Univet Ltd	Rafoxanide	No	No	No	Yes (adult only)	No	No	No	Oral	78 days
Flukiver 5% w/v oral suspension	Elanco AH	Closantel	No	No	No	Yes – including immature fluke over 5 weeks of age <i>Haemonchus Contortus</i> *	No	Yes	No	Oral	42 days
Solantel	Norbrook	Closantel	No	No	No	Yes – including immature fluke over 5 weeks of age <i>Haemonchus Contortus</i> *	No	Yes	No	Oral	42 days
Tribex 5%	Chanelle Pharma	Triclabendazole	No	No	No	Yes – including immature fluke	No	No	No	Oral	56 days
Triclcert 5%	Downland	Triclabendazole	No	No	No	Yes – including immature fluke	No	No	No	Oral	56 days

*Barber's pole worm

Injectables for sheep scab

Product	Company name	Chemical name	Sheep scab	Nasal bots	Withdrawal period (meat)	Move to clean pasture
Cydetin 1% injection*	Zoetis	Moxidectin	28 days persistent activity for protection. Two injections 10 days apart to treat existing scab	Yes	70 days	No
Cydetin 2% LA injection	Zoetis	Moxidectin	60 days persistent activity for protection. One injection to treat existing scab	Yes	104 days	No
Dectomax 10 mg/ml solution for injection for cattle and sheep	Elanco AH	Doramectin	One injection	Yes	70 days	Yes
Ecomectin 10 mg/ml solution for injection	ECO AH	Ivermectin	Two injections 7 days apart	Yes	42 days	Yes
Ivomec Classic injection for cattle and sheep	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin	Two injections 7 days apart	Yes	37 days	Yes
Molemec injection for cattle and sheep 10 mg/ml	Mole Valley	Invermectin	Two injections 7 days apart	Yes	37 days	No
Noromectin multi injection	Norbrook Labs	Ivermectin	Two injections 7 days apart	Yes	42 days	Yes
Panomec injection for cattle, sheep and pigs	Boehringer Ingelheim	Ivermectin	Two injections 7 days apart	Yes	37 days	Yes
Premadex 1% injection	Downland	Ivermectin	Two injections 7 days apart	Yes	42 days	Yes
Zermex 20 mg/ml LA for injection	Downland	Moxidectin	60 days persistent activity for protection. One injection to treat	Yes	104 days	No

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-ons

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

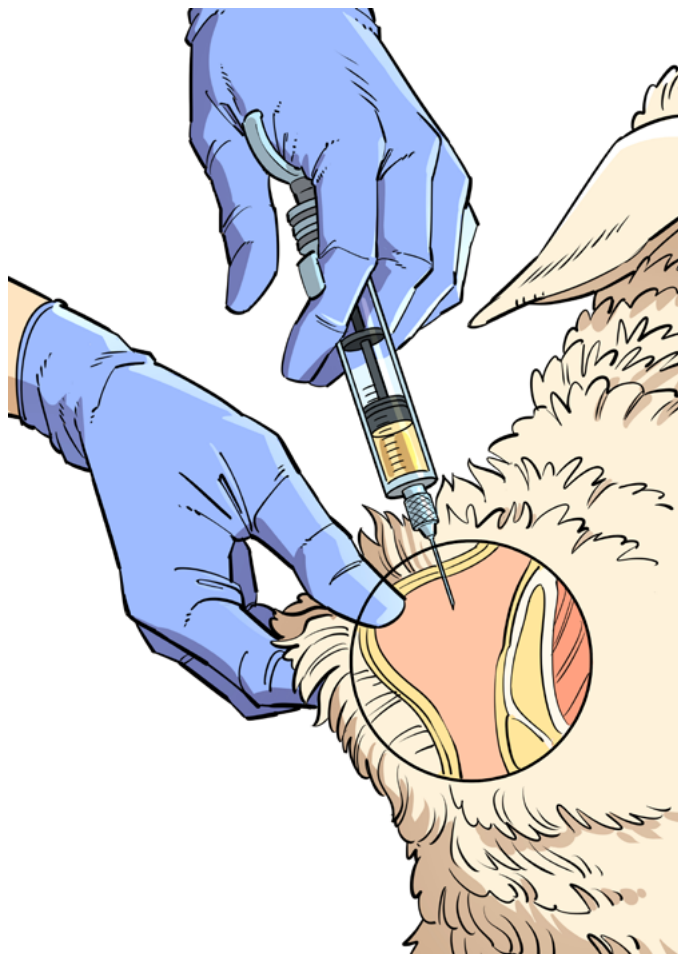
P = Prevention, T = Treatment

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



Subcutaneous injections

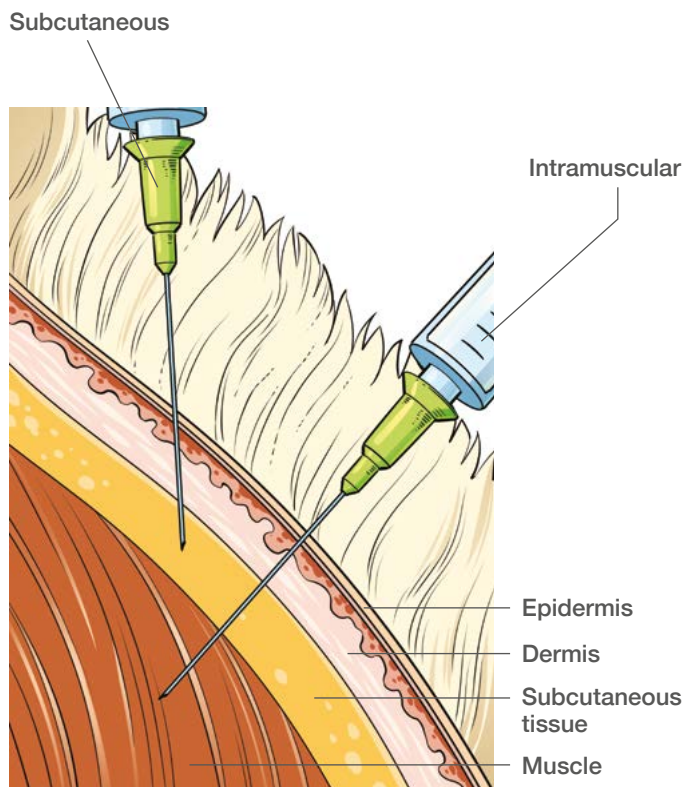
Subcutaneous injections need to be administered with care to ensure the product is placed under the skin and not into the fleece or muscle. The sheep needs to be well restrained and the skin ‘tented’ away from the underlying muscle. The preferred injection site is 10–15 cm (4–6 inches) below the ear 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 in after administration.

The neck site for intramuscular injections ensures no valuable cut of meat is damaged, and the constant movement of the neck ensures good dispersion of the 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 and incorrect application could impact the effectiveness of the products. 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 white (BZ) products well before use.

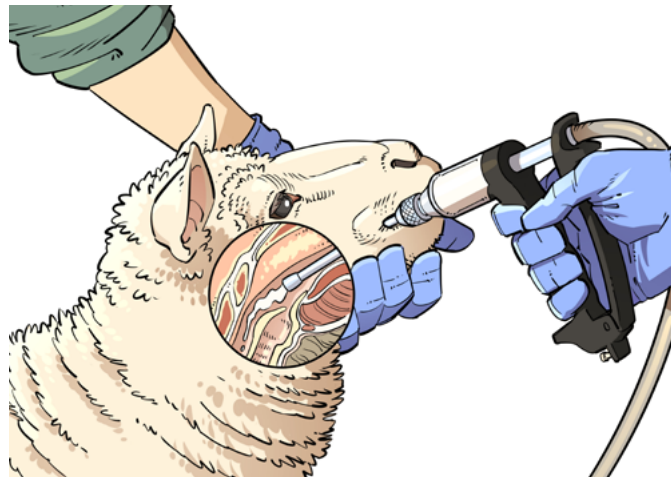
The product may be compromised by incorrect storage.

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 white (BZ) drenches.



Showers and jettors

There are no medicinal products licensed for use in showers and/or jettors. 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.



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 (Registered Animal Medicines Advisor) 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.

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.

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.



Relevant resources

Publications

Using medicines responsibly

Worm control in sheep

Liver fluke control in grazing livestock

For industry guidance please also visit:

www.scops.org.uk

www.cattleparasites.org.uk



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The AHDB logo, consisting of the letters 'AHDB' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, with a white wavy line underneath.