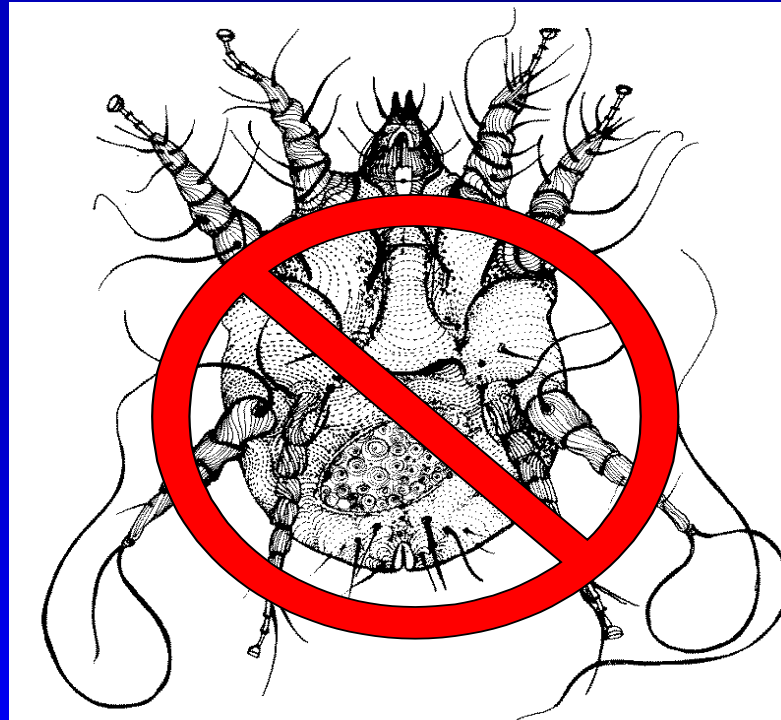


# The Scottish Sheep Scab Initiative



Presentation prepared by Brian Hosie  
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# Programme

- ◆ The Disease
- ◆ Its History
- ◆ The Scottish Sheep Scab Initiative
- ◆ Treatments
- ◆ Some Questions and Answers



# THE DISEASE

- ◆ Caused by a parasitic mite
- ◆ Highly infectious
- ◆ Can live off the sheep (eg on fence posts) for up to 16 days



# Early signs



# Advanced disease





# Advanced disease



# Diagnosis

- ◆ **Detection of scab mites - SAC offers free lab tests for scab and lice**
- ◆ **NOTE: Not all animals in flock will show symptoms but probably all are infected.**
- ◆ **Mixed scab and lice infestations occur.**

# History

- ◆ Major problem until the last century when modern dips introduced
- ◆ Eradicated from UK in 1952
- ◆ Reintroduced in 1972
- ◆ Compulsory dipping 1972 until 1992
- ◆ Sheep Scab Order 1997





# SHEEP SCAB ORDER 1997

## Offence for sheep owners or keepers to:-

- ◆ “fail to treat sheep visibly affected with scab and all other sheep in flock”
- ◆ “move sheep visibly affected with scab except for
  - slaughter
  - treatment”



# SAC

# **Aim of the Sheep Scab Initiative**

To reduce the incidence of sheep scab through:

- ◆ **Promotion and support of best practice (flock biosecurity)**
- ◆ **Minimising the impact of outbreaks (effective and co-ordinated treatment)**
- ◆ **Maximising the effects of preventative action (targeting risk and co-ordinating treatment)**



# Sheep Scab Initiative

Raise awareness via:

- ◆ **Provide information on sheep scab**
- ◆ **Provide information on best practice for flock biosecurity**
- ◆ **Promote co-operation at a local level (local veterinary support)**
- ◆ **Promote the initiative**



# **Initiative: Scab Information Line (0131 472 4031)**

- ◆ **Information Pack -**
  - technical information from SAC**
  - Questions & Answers**
  - Product Information (Commercial Sponsors)**
- ◆ **Free lab scab test (SAC) publicity**
- ◆ **Outbreak situation - co-ordinate local vet support through SAC Vet Services**



**S A C**

# **Initiative: Action periods for all flocks**

- ◆ **September - October**
- ◆ **Take time to assess flock health, risk status (incl: local risk factors and local prevention strategy)**





# Initiative: Core messages

1. Prevent disease entering your flock.  
Isolate and treat any incoming stock.
2. Concerned about your flock's health?  
Involve your local vet or phone the  
'Scab Information Line' direct.
3. Support the Action Periods. Assess  
your flock status and potential risk,  
then treat accordingly



# Treatments

## *These Work*

Dips        - diazinon (OP)  
              - high-cis-cypermethrin (SP)

Injectables   - endectocide drugs

## *These do not*

- pour-ons
- showers
- jetting



# Dips

- ◆ **LONG ACTING** - Kill mites AND protect against re-infection
- ◆ **SHORT ACTING** - Kill mites: No Protection  
Double dipping to treat scab

## NOTES

- ◆ Dips also control other ectoparasites (eg lice)
- ◆ Dips do not treat internal parasites (eg worms)
- ◆ Dipping is controlled (Certificate of competence, COSHH assessment, Authorisation by SEPA)

# **LONG ACTING DIPS -**

## **Kill mites AND protect against re-infection**

**Diazinon**

- **Coopers Ectoforce**
- Paracide Plus**
- Osmonds Gold Fleece**

**High - cis - cypermethrin - Ecofleece**

- **Auriplac**



**S A C**

# **SHORT ACTING - Kill mites: No Protection**

## **Double dipping to treat scab**

**High - cis - cypermethrin**

- Crovect**
- Robust**



# Injectables - endectocides

- ◆ **SINGLE INJECTION** - for treatment
- ◆ **TWO INJECTIONS** - for treatment

## NOTES

- ◆ Injecting is not controlled (COSHH etc)
- ◆ Injectables also treat the common roundworms (including white drench resistant strains) - ideal for new arrivals
- ◆ Injectables do not control all other ectoparasites (eg.lice)
- ◆ Every sheep **MUST** get full dose
- ◆ Long withdrawal periods



# Injectables - endectocides

- ◆ Doramectin (Dectomax) One single injection for treatment and control (i/m injection)
- ◆ Ivermectin (Ivomec, Noromectin, Rycomec) Two injections 7 days apart for treatment (s/c injection)
- ◆ Moxidectin (Cydectin) Two injections 10 days apart for treatment. One injection provides prevention against new infections for at least 28 days as long as no pre-existing infestation (s/c injection). *Authorised under Sheep Scab Order*



# **ROUTINE FLOCK SCAB CONTROL**

- ◆ **Dip or inject ALL sheep on farm in autumn/winter**
- ◆ **Choose a product to treat infection – it is very difficult to know if sheep are infested**
- ◆ **Co-ordinate with neighbours**
- ◆ **Maintain effective fences**
- ◆ **Treat away-wintered lambs before departure**



# **ACTION FOR SHEEP MOVED ONTO FARM**

- ◆ **Assume all arrivals are infected**
- ◆ **Check fences + gates before unloading**
- ◆ **Dip/inject – with regime that treats infection**
- ◆ **DO NOT MIX until treatment completed (see instructions – most products require an isolation period following use)**



# IN THE EVENT OF AN OUTBREAK

- ◆ Confirm diagnosis
- ◆ Warn Neighbours
- ◆ Alert suspect source
- ◆ Involve local vet practices
- ◆ Select treatment - flock situation
- ◆ Treat all contacts with sheep (+fields)
- ◆ Remember withdrawal periods





# Questions & Answers

- ◆ *Which product should I use?*

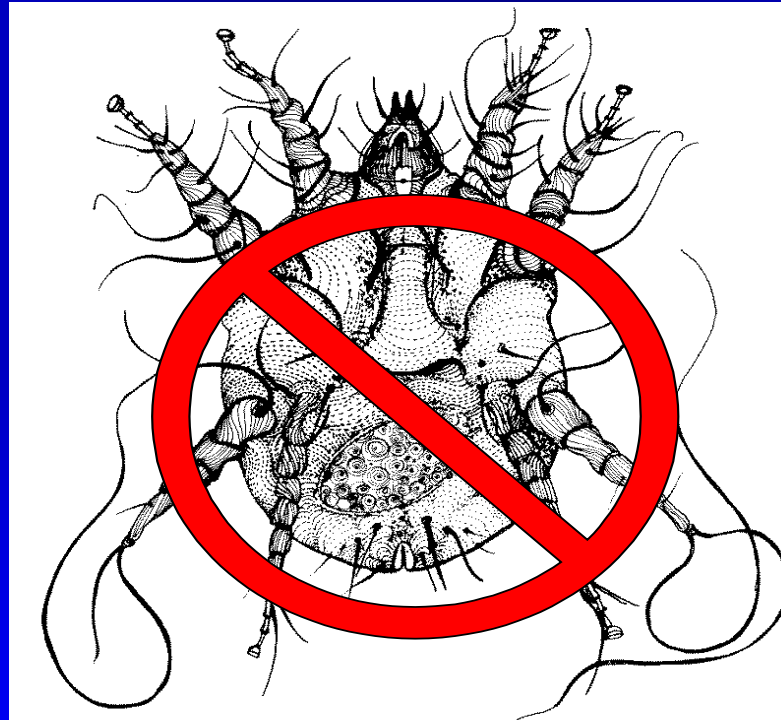
**Answers to 16 frequently asked questions.**

# ***Q: What is the full cost of dipping sheep?***

- ◆ Chemical costs
- ◆ Labour costs
- ◆ Other costs
  
- ◆ Approx.  
50-60p/sheep



# The Scottish Sheep Scab Initiative



Scab Alert 'Phoneline  
0131 472 4031