




Controlling external parasites

Need/issue: Controlling external parasites

Aim: To present best practice for controlling external parasites.

How to implement:

- Good farm biosecurity is key for controlling lice and scab
 - Keep sheep clean by crutching when necessary
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- Chemical treatments can be administered via plunge dipping or pour-ons.
 - Pour-ons have become popular due to their ease of application and being less labour intense than plunge.
 - When using pour-ons:
 - Apply in dry weather to clean wool.
 - Treat lambs early before fly strike is anticipated.
 - Be aware of the withdrawal period.
 - Use correct nozzle for even distribution.

Description:

The main external parasites are

- flystrike
- ticks
- lice (biting and sucking)
- scab

External parasites can have negative impact on:

- Animal
 - health
 - welfare
 - performance
- Labour requirement
- Overall profit on a sheep enterprise



Expected Benefits

- No reduction in animal performance or welfare
- Reduced costs for animal remedies

Prerequisites and/or limits:

For plunge dipping, dipping facilities are required, as well as:

- Correct dilution and replenishing of dip
- Immerse sheep for at least 60 seconds
- Submerge the head twice
- Use PPE in a well ventilated area

Country: Ireland

Dairy or/and meat sheep: Meat

Category of Animal (ewe, replacement, lamb):

All

Attachment: <https://www.fas.scot/downloads/rotational-grazing/>

Topic:

- Health
- Nutrition
- Management

Level of solution:

- Knowledge
- Practical

Source of information:

<https://www.teagasc.ie/news--events/daily/sheep/external-parasites-control-options.php>

