Guidelines for biosecurity and iceberg diseases

Need/issue: Biosecurity management

Aim: To outline current best practice to reduce the risks of introducing MV, Johnes, CLA, OPA and Border disease to flocks.

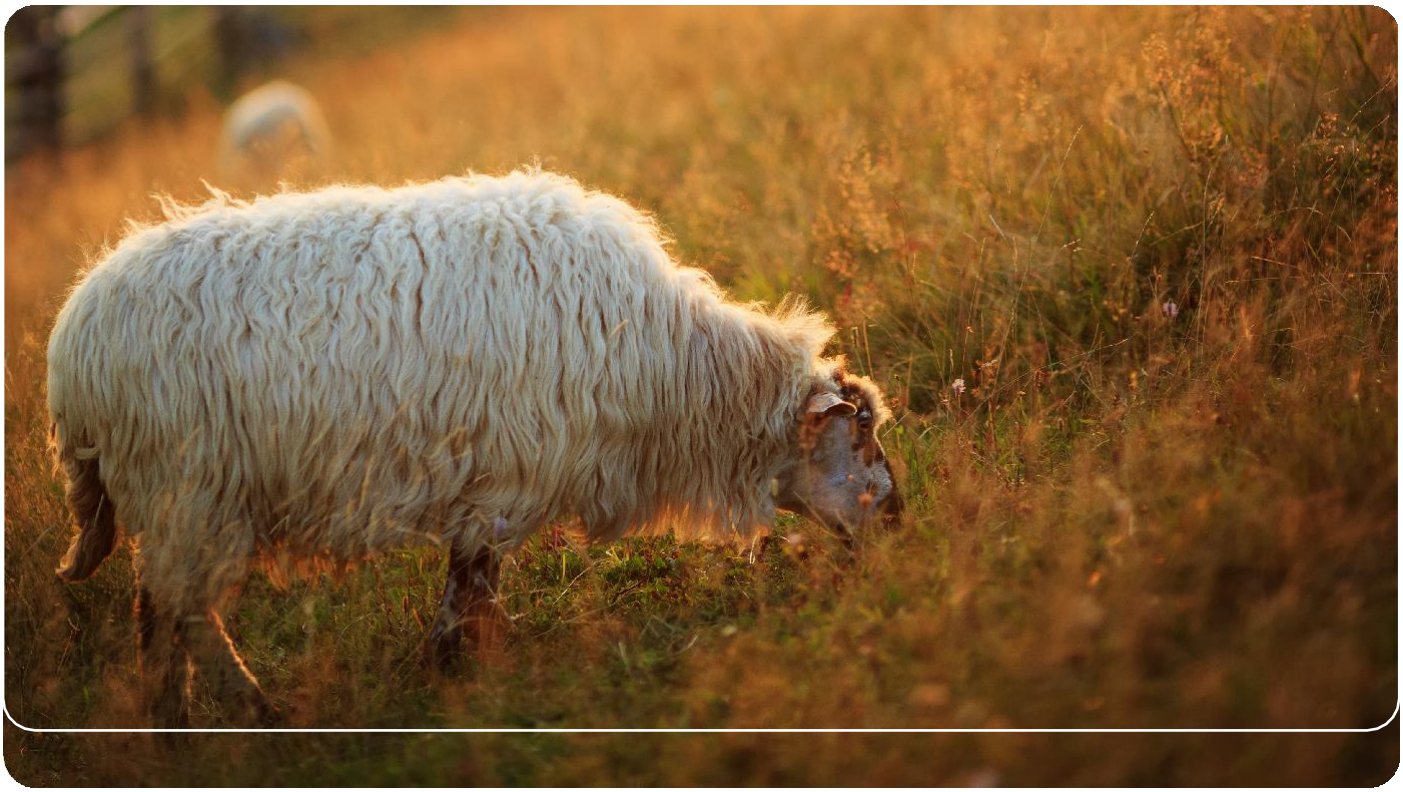
How to implement:

- Source stock from accredited or monitored flocks (MV and Johnes disease) where possible.
- Keep Purchased stock to a minimum.
- Quarantine and blood test added animals (MV, Johnes, CLA, Border disease). Vendors could be encouraged to carry out testing pre-sale.
- Consider ultrasound scanning of lungs for OPA.
- Investigate any problems with ill thrift or deaths in added animals.

Description:

Guidelines (factsheets & videos) on biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of introducing iceberg diseases to flocks.

Before putting specific biosecurity measures in place, it is important to be aware of whether any of these diseases are already present in a flock. Develop a biosecurity plan for the flock and assess where the greatest risks of disease introduction are e.g. added animals, farm boundaries, visitors/vehicles.



Expected benefits:

- Keeping iceberg diseases out will avoid production losses and maintain welfare and longevity of breeding stock.
- Absence of disease in stock for sale. High health status may add value.

Prerequisites and/or limits:

- Quarantine facilities must be available.
- Effective boundary biosecurity is important.
- Due to costs it may be necessary to decide which disease(s) are priority and focus on these.
- Absence of a diagnostic blood test for OPA.
- Test sensitivity and specificity lower than ideal due to the nature of the diseases.
- Cost of the testing in relation to the value of the animal.

Country: UK

Dairy or/and meat sheep: Meat and Dairy

Category of Animal (ewe, replacement, lamb):
All

Topic:

	Health
	Nutrition
X	Management

Level of solution:

X	Knowledge
X	Practical

Source of information:

- https://www.fas.scot/livestock/sheep/sheep-health/iceberg-diseases-in-sheep/
- AHDB iceberg disease manual
- MV/ Johnes accreditation scheme

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 863056