

# *Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep*



**DO YOU KNOW ?**

**10**

**Things you should know  
if you want to keep  
farming sheep.**

**...it's not too late.**

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# 10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ?

1. There are only 3 groups of anthelmintics in the UK and currently they are the only chemical means we have of controlling worms in sheep. However, **resistance to the BZ (white) group** is now widespread and although much less common resistance has been seen to the other two groups. If we want to continue farming sheep, we must act quickly to preserve the activity of these two groups.
2. Resistance to anthelmintics is often brought in with purchased sheep. The correct **quarantine** treatments are essential for all in-coming (and goats) to remove resistant worms.
3. Mature sheep that are fit and healthy have **immunity** to most worms which means that the times when adult sheep need to be wormed are very limited.
4. **£Ms** wormers are not used effectively because they are given incorrectly or at too low a dose rate, because most people seriously underestimate the weight of sheep if they guess by eye. This **under-dosing** speeds up the development of resistance.
5. You can check if you have resistance on your farm simply and cheaply by taking dung samples for **Faecal Egg Counts (FEC)** pre and post drenching.
6. Most farmers who use FECs to monitor worm burdens **use less** anthelmintic without any loss in flock performance.
7. If you know which internal parasites you have on the farm, you can target them more effectively and with the **most appropriate** product. This significantly reduces the chances of developing resistance on your farm.
8. Drenching sheep and then putting them **straight on to clean pasture** increases the risk of anthelmintic resistance developing on your farm.
9. Rams are being bred that have a **greater resilience** to worms. This trait is passed on to their progeny, reducing dependence on anthelmintics in the future.
10. **It is not too late.** We can slow down the progress of resistance and protect the future of the sheep industry – but action is needed now. Once resistance is present there is no way back.

For further information:  
Contact your Vet, Adviser or Distributor  
Or visit [www.nationalsheep.org](http://www.nationalsheep.org)

