What do we mean by responsible use in the sheep sector?

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Sheep industry – extensive, ‘organic’
Responsible use of antimicrobials in sheep production

(written in 2000 & updated in 2005)

Long version – detailed information - Needs updating
Short version – generic advice - Relevant & useful

Key statement:
“An appropriate flock health plan should be drawn up, observed and regularly reviewed in association with the attending veterinary surgeon”
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Telephone survey of 2500 farmers (ADAS 2007)
- 56% of sheep farmers use a written health plan but of these,
- only 28% were written with veterinary assistance

Sheep farmer contact with the vet -
- 22% reported year round contact
- 68% had emergency contact only

Large regional variation

In 2015 a straw poll of SVS members reported veterinary FHP on between 1% and 98% of client’s farms
Our biggest challenge -
- is that a sheep vet is often not considered a valued part of a sheep enterprise -
but an unwelcome expense when things have gone wrong
Why is there a disconnection between vets and sheep farmers?

Vets are only interested in cows, they are not interested in sheep, vets don’t all have sheep expertise & the service is inconsistent

Sheep farmers don’t seem to want to engage & they won’t pay a realistic rate - Sheep work is not a priority

Most sheep medicines & vaccines are sold through agricultural merchants - with no reference back to the veterinary practitioner

Preventative services offered by veterinarians on sheep farms in England and Wales: opinions and drivers for proactive flock health planning

Preventative Veterinary Medicine 2015
Bellet, Woodnutt, Green, Kaler

Sheep farmer opinions on the current and future role of veterinarians in flock health management on sheep farms: a qualitative study
Preventative Veterinary Medicine 2013
Jasmeet Kaler, L.E. Green
Despite the challenges, there are good, keen sheep vets out there.....

- Good farmer-vet relationships
- Enthusiasm
- Commitment
- ‘Talking Sheep’
- Active flock health planning
- Vets investing in sheep farmers
- SVS conferences active & thriving
- New generation sheep farmers
Sheep industry – extensive, ‘organic’
Key specific areas to watch for routine antimicrobial use in sheep industry:

- **Neonatal lambs – routine use**
  - Colibacillosis & joint ill

- **Control of enzootic abortion**
  - May be required in first year but vaccination available & cost-effective

- **Whole flock treatments in control of foot rot & CODD**
From antimicrobials to anthelmintics ... ...
We can’t doubt the seriousness of anthelmintic resistance
We can’t doubt the seriousness of anthelmintic resistance.
We can’t doubt the seriousness of anthelmintic resistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drench Type</th>
<th>Percentage of Farms with Resistance (FECR 95%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BENZIMIDAZOLE (1 BZ)</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEVAMISOLE (2LV)</td>
<td>68%</td>
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<tr>
<td>IVERMECTIN (3ML)</td>
<td>51%</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOXIDECTIN (3ML)</td>
<td>19%</td>
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Percentage of Farms with Anthelmintic Resistance Overall (n=47)

Percentage of Farms with Resistance to Multiple Anthelmintics Overall (n = 47)

Wales Against Anthelmintic Resistance Development Project
WAARD 2014
For over ten years, there has been an active cross-industry group committed to promoting best practice.

yet we still have an issue persuading farmers to take responsibility.
SCOPS principles
1. Quarantine treatment of incoming sheep
2. Check dose & administer correctly.
3. Monitor for resistance.
4. Devise suitable control strategy with vet.
5. Reduce use of anthelmintics where possible.
6. Use of evidence base eg. faecal egg counting
7. Select most appropriate anthelmintic
8. Preserve susceptible worms!
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