



FriarsMoor

Livestock Health

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE FUNDING

SHEEP



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Is your flock eligible for funding?

Initially, funding will only be available to farmers eligible for BPS and who keep more than 20 sheep. In time, the expectation is that more farmers will be eligible.

Guidance on eligibility can be found at: SFI annual health and welfare review | GOV.UK (www.gov.uk/guidance/sfi-annual-health-and-welfare-review)

How do I apply?

The first step for you to get started is to register your interest. Visit: Register your interest in a health and welfare review of your livestock | GOV.UK (www.apply-for-an-annual-health-and-welfare-review.defra.gov.uk/apply/register-your-interest)

Initially, you will only be able to register for one species' review. If you are a mixed farm, then decide which species to choose for 2023. The sheep 2023 funding needs to include testing for anthelmintic resistance but, the main priority of the review is farm specific.

Registering must take place before a you can apply for a review. This will, in the initial stages, help to manage the process and make sure farmers get a good service.

The RPA, who is administering this scheme for Defra, will then check that you are eligible. If you are, you will receive an email inviting you to apply. The email will also include a link to the guidance.

What does the funding include?

The funding allows you and your vet to spend time discussing and investigating a focus in the flock which can improve productivity. The funding is not to be used for an annual health plan; it is a great opportunity to allow you and your vet to concentrate on one or two priorities.

Focus examples.

Detailed parasite management plan which may involve the following:

- ✓ Mapping of the farm and categorization of the pasture into low, medium, and high risk through the year.
- ✓ Grazing strategies to reduce worm challenge.
- ✓ Lamb growth rates.
- ✓ Update of drench efficacy across the groups.
- ✓ Haemonchus monitoring in adult sheep.

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Which vets can deliver the meetings?

Ask the vet who knows your flock the best and has completed your recent health review if you have had one.

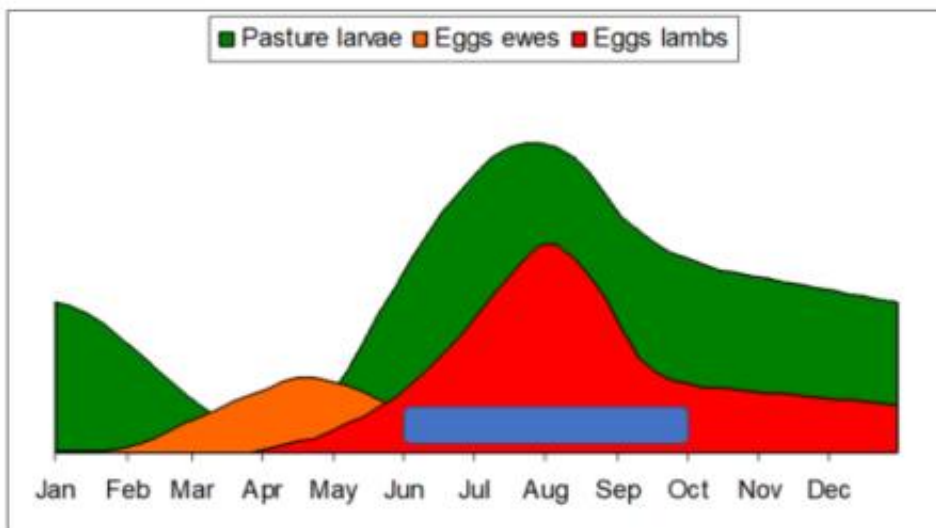
Does the funding continue?

Yes, it is anticipated that this funding will be available each year now. It is important that your action plan from the work with your vet allows you to measure whether the intervention is beneficial for your flock and can be discussed again at a flock review. Next year, you will have the opportunity to decide on another area of focus.

How is Faecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT) done?

Many of you will be used to doing these to monitor treatment efficacy. Wait until you are expecting a significant WEC in your lambs until using the test to gain meaningful results. This will probably mean using the test in June/July at the earliest.

Figure 1. Blue bar indicates recommended period during which to do the Worm Treatment Check**



Ideally, you will be monitoring your WEC anyway using our in-house vet lab, and together we can therefore predict with some certainty, the appropriate time to use the test.

The FECRT must be done with one of three external accredited laboratories (not our in-house lab). Accredited laboratories are APHA Carmarthen LI Centre, Biobest and Techion UK (FECPAK). A sampling kit can be collected from the clinic.

The test is done on a group of lambs before and after drenching to measure the efficacy of treatment. Many of you will be familiar with doing this already but this is an opportunity to have an assessment at an external laboratory.

- The farmer collects 15 samples from 15 different animals. Collect at least 5g/7 faecal pellets per individual. The more the better! 15 individual samples in 15 clearly labelled individual containers allows the lab to weigh each sample and perform the composite test using the same amount of faeces for all samples provided.
- Samples must be fresh – either collect directly from the lamb's rectum or gather lambs into a small part of the field and collect warm dung from the ground. Try to avoid collecting parts of the sample touching the soil directly, because the soil may contain nematode eggs. Also avoid collecting grass and stones as this can change the sample weight.
- Choose a wormer group to test – white, yellow, or clear. Make sure that the treatment is as effective as you can make it – weigh the heaviest lambs in the group and dose to this weight, check the gun is delivering the correct volume of drench ahead of use and treat all lambs.
- The farmer should post the samples with the prepaid enveloped on the same day as collection to the lab. If not sent immediately, store hygienically in a refrigerator or cool box. Do not post on a Friday!
- Resample 7 days later for a yellow drench treatment and ~14 days later for a white/clear treatment. The farmer will collect another 15 samples from any lambs and return in the post as before. The Post-treatment sample should be crossed referenced with the submission number of the preliminary report.
- The report will give a % reduction in worms. The target is >90% and any less indicates a degree of resistance. Involve your vet in relevance of the result in your worm control plan for the year.