

Orf

Remains a common infection affecting productivity in lambs

Disease

- Skin disease caused by a poxvirus
- Rarely fatal but affects productivity in lambs
- Can be passed to humans



Diagnosis and treatment

- Diagnosis by testing of the scabs
- No treatment is available
- Antiseptic treatment of scabs may reduce bacterial infection risk
- Vaccine is available but can lead to disease outbreaks
- Never vaccinate pregnant ewes within 8 weeks of lambing

Tips for control

If you don't have it already:

- Don't buy it in and always quarantine new animals
- Don't use the vaccine

If you do have it:

- Use the vaccine strategically
- Disinfect lambing sheds, feed and water troughs
- Avoid overcrowding sheep
- Keep rough pasture to a minimum