

INVEST IN THE TEST!



I treat for scab in late autumn as a precaution, why do I need to test?

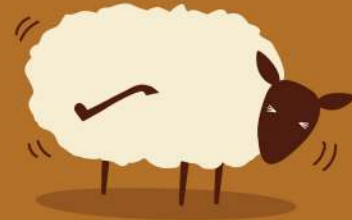
Do you really need to treat? If you test your sheep first then you only need to treat them if they have scab – you could save yourself a lot of time and money.



But I've gathered the animals anyway so it's easier to just treat them and have peace of mind. There's a few itchy ones.



Sheep scab?



Lice?



But if you test first, you won't waste money and effort. Your sheep may actually have lice, which can show similar clinical signs.*

You could save yourself a lot of money by testing first.

Treating a flock of 500 sheep - £1100

£1.80/ewe for injectables
or £1.50/ewe for contract dipping (plus £150 for dip disposal).
£200 for 2 days labour required for either method.

Testing 12 sheep from a flock of 500 ewes - £160

£72 for diagnostic testing of 12 sheep.
£60 for vets' costs: bleeding, postage, etc.
£28 for call out fee.

If you use the treatment when you don't need to, you may find it doesn't work when you really **do** need it!



Susceptible mites after treatment



Resistant mites after treatment

By testing first, you'll know if they have scab or not.

So, by giving the right treatment at the right time and only when it's needed, I can save money and keep the treatments working for the future?

Exactly!

Best to get testing then!

*Microscopy of skin scrapes/wool plucks can provide a specific and definitive diagnosis in itchy sheep.

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