

Sheep Scab (Psoroptic mange)

A health, welfare and production issue in UK sheep flocks

Disease

- Disease caused by the highly contagious mite *Psoroptes ovis*
- Major production losses associated with heavy infestations

Diagnosis and treatment

- Accurate diagnosis is critical prior to treatment using skin scrape or blood test
- Moredun's blood test is able to detect sub-clinical cases
- Effective treatments for sheep scab include OP plunge dipping or endectocide injection



Scab busters

- Practice good biosecurity including maintenance of perimeter fences
- Treat and quarantine ALL incoming sheep for at least 2 weeks
- Mites can survive off host for several weeks therefore disinfect all shared equipment/premises
- Control strategies involving all neighbouring farms are most effective