

Vet wins the day in three-year battle with disease

Kirriemuir vet Ian Gill, of the Thrums Veterinary Group, has successfully tackled sheep scab in the Angus glens.

He has eradicated the bug over three years through an initiative on the farms in the area.

Mr Gill said in the first year sheep on all 12 infected farms and neighbouring units were treated either through dipping or injection.

Three farms still carried the infection the following year and all these and the neighbouring properties had their sheep treated again.

In the third year there was one infected unit. It and the neighbouring farms with sheep were all treated.

There has been no infection since.

Mr Gill said the advice to farmers in the glens remained that if they are buying in lambs or gimmers or



Ian Gill

taking home away-wintering sheep then they should all be treated against scab on arrival at the farm.

The action over the three years was co-ordinated between Thrums and vets from adjoining practices at Forfar, Blairgowrie and Laurencekirk.

Mr Gill said collective action worked and could deal with scab. But he added: "When people stay quiet about it that's when things don't work."