

Products in PRACTICE



Zolvix, the resistance-free 4-AD orange drench to combat worms in sheep.

THE PRODUCT

ZOLVIX can be used on sheep over 10kg liveweight and two weeks of age. A single annual dose (1ml/10kg liveweight) is effective against all major gut worms. Aside from use as an effective annual drench, Zolvix is ideally placed for treating bought-in or

returning stock which require 24 to 48-hour quarantine to reduce risk of importing resistant worms. The specific mode of action means there is no known resistance. Users also benefit from a short withdrawal period of just seven days.

THE VET'S VIEW



LARGE animal vet John Macfarlane is partner in Alnwick-based Alnorthumbria Vet Practice.

"Resistance to different wormer families in sheep flocks has been an emerging problem," he says. "In our experience nearly all farms show some level of resistance to white drenches quantified as being less than 95 per cent effective.

"Traditional advice has been to worm lambs every three weeks throughout summer but it is now realised the practice has unwittingly helped select for resistant worms.

"With resistance emerging to the existing white, yellow and clear drenches, we were looking for a new tool. The arrival of Zolvix is very welcome.

"Developments like these do not occur regularly; the last was in 1981 – more than 30 years ago. It is paramount over-use is avoided.

"We see it being integrated into existing worming programmes rather than replacing one of the established drench families.

"Zolvix should, in my view, be used to great effect as a mid to late season drench for lambs around weaning and for treating quarantine animals before they enter a flock as new purchases, or those returning from grazing off the main holding.

"As a wormer with a completely new mode of action there is no resistance so you can be sure your covered. But that will only be the case if this new family of orange wormers is used strategically by following SCOPS guidelines. (See below *).

"If we all do our bit and use wormers responsibly, this new tool has the potential to prolong the use of the existing white, yellow and clear drenches many years ahead."

RESPONSIBLE USE OF MEDICINES

IN 2010 Farmers Guardian campaigned for Britain's professional farmers to continue to have access to information about the specific drugs available for their livestock, to allow them to make informed decisions about the treatment they receive.

We are now working closely with the industry to promote and encourage the safe and responsible use of all veterinary medicines. More information and advice on the safe use of medicines is available from our website at:

www.farmersguardian.com/medicines

THE SITUATION

RESISTANCE to the three established worm drench families – white, yellow and clear – has been emerging for many years due to over use across many flocks. Resistant worms place a burden on a sheep's gut reducing health and performance.

The development of a completely new family, 4-AD or orange drench, with no worm resistance – the first for more than 30 years – provides a valuable tool in the flock owner's armoury to eliminate all gut worms if used strategically at key times of the year.

Veterinary advice supports using this new family as a mid to late season

drench for lambs around weaning and as a quarantine drench. This should include newly purchased replacements, tups or animals returning from seasonal grazing away from the main holding.

With no resistance in worms, orange drench Zolvix puts the flock owner back in control of managing parasitic worms. Used in conjunction with the three existing drench families, it can prolong effective worm control for years ahead.

To remain effective, the flock owner should follow good agricultural practice as described in Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep (SCOPS) Guidelines. For advice, consult your vet.

THE FARMER'S VIEW

SIMON Bainbridge runs 1,400 ewes on hill and in-bye land categorised as Severely Disadvantaged or moorland ranging from 150-250m above sea level at Donkin Rigg, near Morpeth. Lambing begins on April 18, with all lambs finished on grass and home-grown feed before being sold deadweight.

"We don't blanket worm. If there are dirty lambs in late summer we take a muck sample to the vets for analysis. If the worm egg count is above our threshold we will hit the worst affected lambs with Zolvix.

"As our lambs all have EID ear-tags, we monitor daily liveweight gains regularly and will also drench the poorest of these," he explains.

Zolvix has several benefits for this organic sheep farm, principal being a short withdrawal period of just 14 days (for non-organic flocks the withdrawal is just seven days), he adds. "Faecal egg counts have shown historically we do not have resistance to any wormer

family. The policy of strategically targeting stock for drenching will prolong our ability to use all wormers in to the future."

Targeted use also extends to breeding ewes. Ewes are drenched before lambing starts in mid-April. This is the only blanket application. In autumn, any lean ewes will be treated a second time where necessary.

Reducing resistance

"Each year we use a different wormer family to cut the risk of building up resistance."

All replacement ewes and tups are quarantined and drenched before entering the closed flock. "Tups are housed indoors on hay and fresh water for 24 hours before being wormed and then kept indoors for a further 48 hours," he explains.

At grass, pasture is shared with cattle but stocking density is low reducing across species worm burden. "Targeted use has to be the way forward."

WORMER RESISTANCE - ACT NOW

- Establish resistance levels
- Target stock most at risk
- Alternate drench families
- Follow SCOPS guidelines
- Any queries? Consult your vet

For more information on Zolvix, contact Novartis Animal Health on 01276 694 402

Zolvix is marketed by Novartis Animal Health UK Ltd, Frimley Business Park, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey, GU16 7SR. The active ingredient of Zolvix is 25mg/ml monepantel. * SCOPS advice is to keep treated animals off grass for 24-48 hours to allow any eggs to pass through the system and then turn out onto dirty pasture.

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