



# SCOTLAND

WORKING FOR THE SCOTTISH SHEEP INDUSTRY

DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023 EDITION

[www.nsascotland.org](http://www.nsascotland.org)



Kindly sponsored by:

**Shearwell  
Data**

**Livestock Systems**

## Our Diary

### 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

Scottish Red Meat Resilience Group meeting

### 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

Industry Led Sheep Scab Working Group meeting

### 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

SRUC Dynamic Health Planning meeting

### 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

NSA Scotland ARMM (hybrid)

### 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

Food and Agriculture Stakeholders Taskforce (FAST)

### 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

On farm meeting with Mairi Gougeon Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands, by kind permission of the Ivory Family and Pamela Nicol, Farm Manager at Doldy Farms

### 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

QMS Cattle and Sheep Standards Setting Committee meeting

## Our Events

For more information, please [click here](#)

### 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

NSA Breakfast Club Webinar (A view from the opposition – an hour with the Shadow Minister for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – Daniel Zeichner)

### 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

NSA Scotland ARMM (further details below)

### 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY

Best Practice at Laming Time

### 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

NSA and Moredun Webinar Series - Seeking a balance between effective sheep parasite control and environmental impact

### 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY

Register of Sheep Advisers (RoSA) Webinar – Genetics

## CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

*Peter Myles, NSA Scotland Interim Chair*



**There's something about this time of year, if you get a chance, put your elbows on a gate, survey a field of ewes, and let your mind wander.**

I like to think the late flush of grass this year has put the ewes in good fettle. I admire one of my new bought tups, and imagine how his genetic merits will enhance my flock, and how will scanning go. A favourite ewe looks up, and I picture her previous lambs; "will she do as well next year? Will the lambs brewing within her be the bobby dazzlers I would like to imagine?"

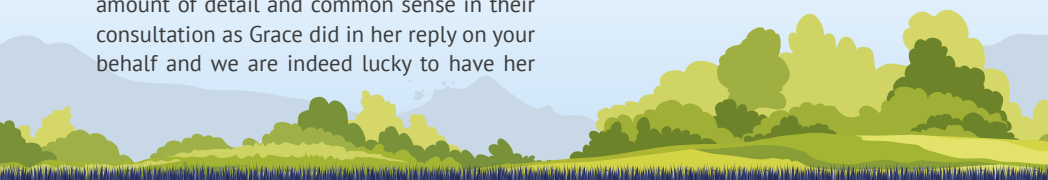
Then my phone gives a beep and Grace Reid needs 250 words for the NSA Scotland festive Newsletter. Grace has just finished giving a robust and frank reply to Scottish Government's consultation document on a future Ag Bill. I only wished SG had the amount of detail and common sense in their consultation as Grace did in her reply on your behalf and we are indeed lucky to have her

fight our corner and ensure NSA Scotland has a voice in every sphere of the industry.

To my predecessor Jen Craig, I give my grateful thanks for all her work for Scottish sheep farmers, we owe her more than most people realise, and I wish her well in her future adventures in 2023.

NSA Scotland has ambitious plans for next year in lieu of NSA Highlandsheep, and I only hope they turn out as good as the unborn lambs I'm looking at today.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and may you all have the lamb crops you wish for.





# NSA Scotland Lamb For St Andrews Day Dinner

More than 60 people joined NSA Scotland on the evening of Wednesday 30th November 2022 for a delicious Scotch Lamb based meal to celebrate St Andrews Day.

## NSA Scotland ARMM

Notice is hereby given that the hybrid Annual Regional Members' meeting (ARMM) for NSA Scotland will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January, 14:00 at Glensaugh Research Farm, Fettercairn, Laurencekirk, AB30 1HB and via Zoom. Members residing in NSA Scotland are eligible to appoint a proxy on their behalf if they cannot attend the meeting, but this must be done in advance. For further information including proxy notices and directions, please visit the NSA Scotland website.

Ahead of the ARMM NSA Scotland will be hosting a farm walk at Glensaugh Research Farm, a managed natural environment which lies in a transition zone across the Highland Boundary Fault. This will be an ideal opportunity to hear from and question Farm Manager Donald Barrie about how agriculture and the environment can work together and see how farming practices at Glensaugh can be managed.

Please note that numbers for the farm walk are limited to 30 and will be allocated on a first come first served basis (lunch to be provided). To register your place on the farm walk and to attend the ARMM in person, please contact NSA Scottish Region Coordinator Grace Reid on:

grace@nationalsheep.org.uk or 07787 142858.

The inaugural 'Lamb for St Andrew's Day' dinner was a fantastic social evening, bringing together sheep farmers from around Scotland and further afield. Peter Myles, NSA Scottish Region Interim Chair, commented: "We enjoyed an excellent meal, with Scotch Lamb as the centrepiece, and believe that's the best way to celebrate our national patron saint day. Scotch Lamb is particularly plentiful at this time of year and the very best meal to mark a special occasion. Lamb for St Andrew's Day is a sentiment that NSA Scottish Region strongly believes in and encourages others to adopt."

A special guest at the event was Harry Hamilton, representing the Hamilton family from Aikengall, Dunbar, East Lothian. NSA Scotland is delighted the Hamilton's will host the prestigious NSA Scotsheep on Wednesday 5th June 2024 – guaranteed to be a date not to be missed by sheep farmers.

Mr Myles continues: "It was my great pleasure to announce at the dinner that we've found such a fantastic venue and enthusiastic hosts for NSA Scotsheep. But with more than 18 months to wait until the big day, I'm also excited about some smaller events we've got planned for 2023. We've historically held NSA Highlandsheep in alternating years to Scotsheep. That won't be the case next year, as we have plans for a series of smaller events to get to more areas of the country. Watch this space for more information."

The Lamb for St Andrews Day dinner was held at the Macdonald Inchyra Grange at Polmont, Stirlingshire. Guests were treated to a very entertaining after-dinner speech by Ally Logan, retired auctioneer. NSA Scottish Region thanks Mr Logan, QMS for supporting the lamb component of the meal, and also British Wool, Caltech, Carrs Billington, Harbro, Macdonald Hotels, McCaskies, McCreath Simpsons Malt, Scotbeef Ltd and Slipperfield Croft for supporting the raffle.



## Office Bearers



**Peter Myles**  
(Interim Chair)  
Edzell, Angus



**Maimie Paterson**  
(Vice Chair)  
Dunblane, Central Belt



**Grace Reid**  
(Scottish Region Coordinator)  
Clackmannan, Central Belt



**Euan Emslie**  
(Event Organiser and Secretariat)



**Mary Dunlop**  
(Treasurer)  
Broughton, Biggar, Scottish Borders



## NSA Scotsheep 2024

Save the Date!

NSA Scotsheep will be held on Wednesday

# 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024

by kind permission of the Hamilton Family, Aikengall, Dunbar, East Lothian. Make sure to keep an eye out in future editions of this newsletter for more information and insights.



Find out more





## Coordinator's Comment

by Grace Reid, NSA Scottish Region Coordinator

### Land Reform in a Net Zero Nation

We like many others welcomed the opportunity to respond to the Scottish Government's proposals for a new Agricultural Bill. One of our key concerns going forward is that all implemented powers and policy should be fair, simplistic, easy to understand and implement and should follow a straightforward practical approach.

#### *The time to get it right is now*

We appreciate the enormity of what is involved in creating a new agricultural policy however, we found it difficult to relate to what it entails due to a lack of necessary detail in which to make an informed response. Despite numerous calls for the main responsibilities of government to include food security, food supply and food safety there has been little proof of the detail to suggest how or when this will be achieved. Thus, going forward further clarity, transparency, understanding and two-way communication are all required to ensure that the future policy can deliver upon the needs of Scotland's sheep industry, agricultural sectors and the wider supply chain to deliver the many outcomes of the future. Significant emphasis has been put on the importance of powers to be flexible in order to prepare for all scenarios. However, we are all heavily invested in getting this process right the first time and for it to be beneficial for all.

#### *The need for flexibility*

Our Scottish sheep farming members are passionate and committed to maintaining and enhancing the countryside, providing habitats and supporting biodiversity by protecting watercourses, managing moor & peatland, reducing emissions, creating and managing woodland and hedgerows. It will be vital that any future framework for nature and new environmental targets have those at the heart of the land and countryside at the centre of any decision-making process. In addition it must be flexible in meeting the needs of agriculture and the environment whilst ensuring ambitious plans for food production both in terms of Scottish and UK food security. We need to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Food production and active farming are the foundation of achieving nature restoration and climate mitigation, our nation has become increasingly reliant upon global trade not only for exports but also imports. Put simply we cannot compromise food security nor the ability to afford to feed ourselves in the future.

#### *What about our LFA?*

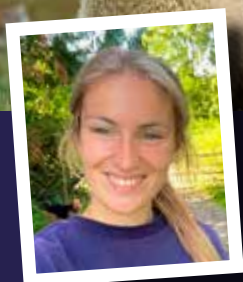
The monumental progress agriculture has made throughout Scotland and the UK to becoming more sustainable cannot be overlooked with

extensive uptake of environmental schemes, which have actively encouraged farmers and land managers to improve and enhance biodiversity on farm whilst also producing protein for the nation. Farmers and land managers have been and are ready to adopt new technology to become more productive while reducing environmental impact and contributing to the country's collective ambition to become more sustainable and ensure we improve food security and sustainability. It is essential that Tier 1 future payments include provision for supporting the Less Favoured Areas and remote areas (including the previous LFASS scheme). Without a doubt these areas are essential to the wider supply chain and should not be forgotten about or left to chance. Going forward they should receive ring fenced additional support on top of their Tier 1 base direct support payment to reflect the challenges they face i.e. added costs to source feed and inputs, added travel costs, disadvantaged land and altered production methods etc. The existing purpose and function of LFASS must be retained in future to deliver the additional support which has been so vital in the past for the activity occurring in the disadvantaged areas of Scotland. The impact of this support should not be underestimated and therefore should not be left to chance.

#### *Facing the collective pressures*

Whilst we enter a period of great uncertainty in terms of new agricultural policy and everchanging financial crises, we have a duty to protect the positive practices in which our flocks already deliver to the wider environment and therefore society as a whole. Our members have significant other pressures being placed on them currently other than policy change. It is worthwhile reminding of this fact and as we move forward into a new era of unregulated trading of carbon and biodiversity credits coupled with rising costs of inputs, inflation, land, tenancy values there needs to be wider recognition and support. As a nation, no farming business deserves to be left behind simply as a consequence of introducing an Agricultural Bill in Scotland. It is absolutely vital that any changes to agricultural policy in Scotland are fully scrutinised by industry both at primary and secondary legislative level. We draw particular attention to the impact caused by drawing hard boundaries - boundaries that can bring benefits and restrictions and affect the livelihoods of farmers on different the sides they find themselves. We have a duty to ourselves and the public whilst working amongst the globally envied landscapes to deliver upon our aspirational environmental and production goals and as such any changes to what is a very fine balance must be considered with the highest scrutiny.





## Getting sheep to Northern Ireland? The basics.

by Emma Bradbury (NSA Policy Manager)

Even when the UK was part of the EU there were enhanced controls placed on sheep movements from GB to NI, with NI working hard to maintain an MV free status and requiring sheep coming from GB to be tested and free from MV. However, our departure from the EU, and the complexity of the NI protocols has resulted in those controls getting tighter and making it more difficult and demanding to bring sheep in from GB. The reality at the moment is that GB is a 'third country' in EU terms and NI is effectively part of the EU in relation to sanitary and phytosanitary controls, including new tagging requirements.

For starters any sheep/goats moving from GB to Northern Ireland (NI) will require an EU Export Health Certificate (EHC) instead of the previously used GB to NI EHCs. As a consequence of the introduction of these new requirements the previous Show and Sale Import licencing arrangements no longer apply.

To maintain NI's MV free status and to guard against Brucellosis, DAERA is sampling all new arrivals as part of a surveillance programme;

- animals from Maedi Visna Non Accredited flocks will be sampled on arrival to NI and remain in isolation for 5 months after importation or until second MV test has been taken and returned negative.
- animals from MV/CAE Accredited free flocks/herds in GB will be sampled on arrival to NI
- sheep from mainland Europe will also be sampled for Brucellosis, Bluetongue and Contagious Agalactia on arrival to NI
- when appropriate animals will be sampled at the port on arrival, otherwise they will be sampled at the farm

Sheep entering NI will also now need to be Scrapie genotyped and considered resistant to Scrapie (group 1) or be part of the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS). To help transition SRUC has implemented a Scrapie Qualifying Scheme which is a temporary status within the SMS and allows export to NI only. To qualify flocks must have entered the SQS before 31st December 2021 and undertake to comply with the SMS rules for the next 3 years when they will gain SMS controlled status. Sheep entering NI will land at the port of Larne and the person responsible for the animals must report to a Portal Inspector following disembarkation.

All consignments of sheep and goats must be pre-notified to DAERA at Larne Port on TRACES-NT using a CHED-A. Guidance on pre-notification and CHED A completion can be found at this [link](#). Pre-notification on TRACES NT must be completed at least 24 hours before arrival.

### How will this all work in practice?

The sheep trade between GB and NI traditionally falls into 2 main categories; high value pedigree stock, mainly, but not entirely terminal sire breeds; and commercial females. For this breeding sales season it is unlikely that NI buyers will be buying from GB shows and sale rings for direct moves to NI due to the health status requirements and the unlikely event of any sales registering as export assembly centres



that have adequate separation facilities. However, like the commercial female trade this could in theory happen if NI buyers are prepared to buy animals and arrange for them to be held in GB in isolation while the MV, Scrapie, and Brucella (males only), checks are completed. This does create a risk if animals were to be found positive and buyers and sellers need to fully understand the trading relationship and liability. Direct off farm movements from GB to NI, of suitably health certified animals, can take place although in all these cases the isolation periods need to fit with breeding programmes.

For commercial females the same situation exists and while there may be cases where suitably health certified animals can be moved direct it is more likely that the traditional trade in ewe lambs may see interest from NI buyers to those sellers who are prepared to hold the lambs in GB, in isolation, before they are old enough for MV testing. This situation has been the case for some time but now these sheep will also need to be Scrapie genotyped, or from a flock in the SMS (including SQS). There is a higher risk involved in this trade due to lower engagement from traditional hill flocks in the National Scrapie Plan.

In all cases sellers and buyers are well advised to talk to their breed societies, marketing agents, and APHA, and SRUCs Premium Sheep and Goat Health Scheme if they intend to engage in this trade.

Should you have any queries or require more information, please contact [policy@nationalsheep.org.uk](mailto:policy@nationalsheep.org.uk)

# How safe are your sheep from sheep scab?

Stewart Burgess, Moredun Research Institute.

Lesley Stubbings, Independent Sheep consultant.



## The basics

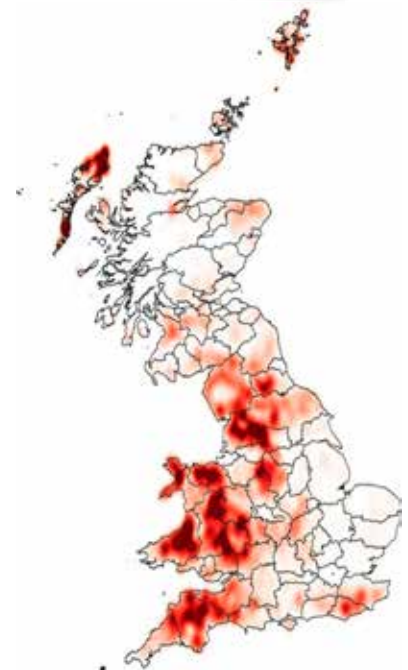
Sheep scab, caused by infestation with the ectoparasitic sheep scab mite is endemic in Scotland and continues to cause significant production and welfare problems to the sheep industry with UK-wide costs estimated to be >£80 million per year. Although traditionally controlled through dipping with organophosphates (OP), the products we have used to treat and prevent sheep scab have changed dramatically over the last 30 years. In a relatively short space of time we have moved from a near 100% use of OP dips, along with some synthetic pyrethroid (SP) dips in 1992 to a situation where at the end of the last decade OP dip accounted for only 10% of ectoparasite treatments in sheep. The remaining 90% was split, 40% endectocide and 50% pour-ons for blowfly/lice treatments. However, many in the industry will have noticed that there has been an increasing demand for OP sheep dip over the last year and there are a number of reasons fuelling this increase.

## What can be done?

Firstly, since reports came out in early 2018 of potential resistance to the macrocyclic lactone (ML) injectables, more farmers have found they have an issue, whilst others are aiming to avoid it. Secondly, it may be that farmers are starting to realise that the overuse of endectocides (such as the MLs) is accelerating the development of resistance to the 3-ML group wormers used to control gastrointestinal worms on their farm. Thirdly, an RDPE-funded sheep scab control project in three hotspot areas in England is actively encouraging coordinated cluster treatment with OP dipping to get on top of scab. This project, which has recruited 300 farmers across Devon, the Midlands and the North of England flocks aims to bring together farmers in areas of the country where scab represents a particular problem. Farmers taking part in the project are encouraged to work together with project coordinators, their local vets and their neighbours, coordinating diagnostic testing (using the Moredun sheep scab blood test (available through Biobest Labs Ltd ([www.biobest.co.uk](http://www.biobest.co.uk))) to identify affected properties and facilitate targeted, coordinated treatments using OP plunge dipping. During this project, we have identified flocks infested with sheep scab mites that have confirmed resistance to the MLs. To ensure that these populations do not spread further it is crucial that we use these treatments very carefully and only when required. It is important to remember that many cases of apparent failure are not necessarily due to resistance but may be a result of missing one or more sheep in a mob, poor injection technique or using an inaccurate dose rate. If you are concerned about this then please visit the Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep (SCOPS) website for further details.

## Reassurance?

The good news is that Moredun have conclusively shown that endectocide-resistant mites can be killed by effective exposure to an OP plunge dip. For a number of years, cases of clinical sheep scab in the UK have been quoted as being around 8-10,000/annum, reflecting the number of clinical cases recorded as part of survey work. However, the Moredun sheep scab blood test being used in the RDPE-funded scab project has uncovered flocks that are infested sub-clinically. This may explain why it has been so



Regions of the UK where sheep scab is predicted to represent a particular problem for sheep farmers.

difficult to control scab, because apparently healthy sheep can be moved quite innocently and infest other flocks. Previously, we were only able to confirm sheep scab using a skin scraping, and while that is irrefutable evidence, it has two major drawbacks. Firstly, it can be difficult to get a good sample and many cases go unconfirmed. Secondly, it can only be done when some sheep are showing clinical signs, which may take many weeks or even months after infestation and of course entirely misses these subclinical cases. The blood test can detect scab within two weeks of infestation, meaning that for the first time, we can really get ahead of sheep scab, finding infested sheep before the disease can spread. Of course, it can be a bit of a shock to some flock owners that they are positive without any signs, but that is where the RDPE-funded project has helped to change pre-conceptions and encourage cooperation among contiguous groups of flocks. In reality, the only way that we will be able to tackle sheep scab in the long term is by working together as an industry, cooperating with our neighbours to make the best use of the existing treatments, and ensuring that they remain effective in the future.

Take the plunge, NOT a shower. Remember, OP must only be supplied and used via a plunge dip. Showers or jettors do not effectively kill scab mites because they do not get down to the skin. In addition, this could further encourage resistance developing to the OPs, which would be disastrous for the industry.





Find us on 

Find us

Follow us:  
  
**twitter**  
Follow us:



## Veterinary Corner

Ed Hill – Thrums Vet Group



**What has the weather brought?** - The winter months and colder weather have come with predictable (and avoidable!) problems. I've just been busy post-morteming some lambs that died with acute pneumonia, but digging beneath the surface a little I identified they had astronomically high worm egg counts. This was almost certainly suppressing their immune system which allowed the pneumonia to take hold when the weather turned bad. We have had an unseasonably warm autumn, and this may well lead to higher than usual worm burdens at this time of year. Even though it is now December it will be worthwhile doing a worm egg count on any store lambs or replacement ewe lambs to check that they are not being held back by an unexpected worm burden. Be aware that other things like a trace element deficiency or a tick burden can also leave lambs susceptible to pneumonia. Finally, for those lambs that we know are likely to be at high risk of pneumonia through the winter, such as those that might be housed, a booster with a pasteurised vaccine will likely be a good investment.

**Finding scab** - I've also made my first scab diagnosis of the winter with the required treatment being disruptive to the onset of tupping. Of concern is the increasing reports of scab mites that are resistant to the injectable forms of treatment, meaning the only option for treatment in these flocks is plunge dipping. Resistance to the injections has probably arisen due to overuse and treatment "just in case". Far more sustainable would be the use of the blood test to check if treatment is indeed required and post-tupping is an ideal window to do this as the tups will have mixed across many ewes in the flock.

**Cost savings?** - As a general rule this year seems to be lower risk for fluke due to the good, dry summer we had. This is a generalisation though as fluke risk is very farm specific. Looking to save a pound or two I've had a few farmers asking if treatment is required this year. It's a bit risky to advise not to treat without any farm specific evidence, but we do have some tests available that will help inform our decision to treat or not. Because it is cheap, quick and easy, I do get requests for doing dung fluke egg checks, but we need to be aware they may not be the most reliable test at this time of year. This test is better at picking up chronic fluke, typically from the turn of the year onwards. More accurate may be to blood sample a small number of lambs; a positive result will show they have been exposed to fluke this year and treatment is indeed indicated.

**Getting your nutrition correct** - The winter months are also a good time to be formulating a nutrition plan for a successful lambing. The first thing to do is to get a silage analysis of the forage that is going to be fed in the run up to lambing. This will vary year on year and batch to batch, so is worth getting a good cross section of what you have available. This will then allow you to prioritise better silage for ewes with a greater demand for energy and protein closer to lambing. This may also allow you to have a more targeted approach to concentrate supplementation – saving money and being better for the ewe – win-win! Your vet or nutritionist should be able to help advise once you have your forage analysis available and formulate a plan for the winter and run up to lambing.



Keep an eye out on the NSA Next Generation website for updates on exciting opportunities for young people in the industry!

[Click here.](#)

Or if you would like to feature yourself in this section, get in touch with [grace@nationalsheep.org.uk](mailto:grace@nationalsheep.org.uk)

## NSA SCOTLAND

WORKING FOR YOU, THE SCOTTISH SHEEP FARMER.  
LOBBYING ON KEY ISSUES.

### REPRESENTING ON KEY STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS INCLUDING

BREXIT AND BEYOND  
ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE  
LFASS & FUTURE SUPPORT SCHEMES  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
LAMB MARKETING

### ORGANISERS OF TECHNICAL EVENTS

NSA SCOTSHEEP  
NSA HIGHLANDSHEEP  
ROADSHOWS & COURSES



Consider joining NSA as a member today and help us work for you

For further information please contact

Grace Reid - Scottish Region Coordinator

Tel: 07787 142858 Email: [grace@nationalsheep.org.uk](mailto:grace@nationalsheep.org.uk)



[www.nsascotland.org](http://www.nsascotland.org)



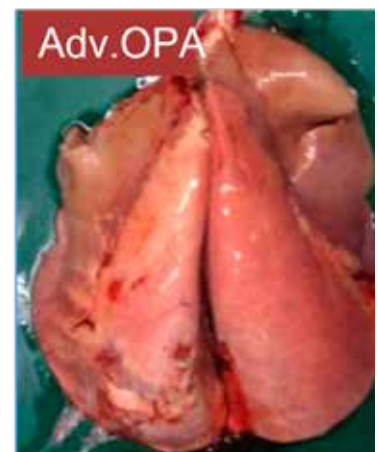
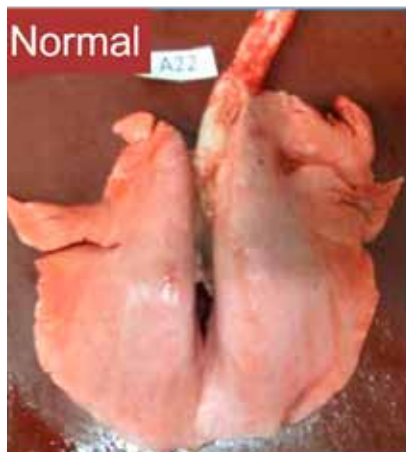
# How can you tackle OPA in your flock?

*Chris Cousens, Moredun Research Institute.*

## **What is OPA?**

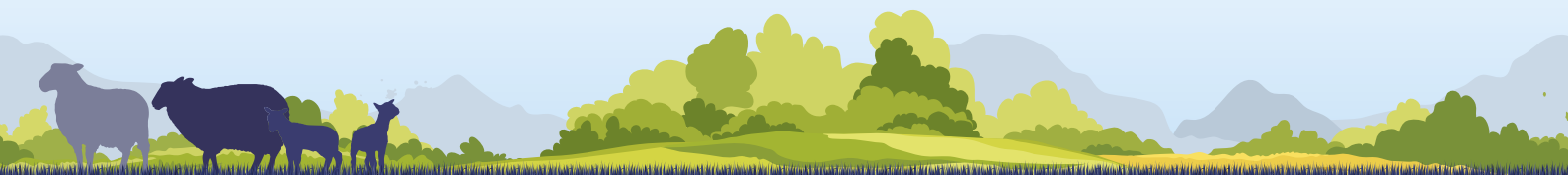
Ovine pulmonary adenocarcinoma (OPA) or Jaagsiekte, is a relatively common disease of sheep in the UK and many other countries. OPA affects all breeds of sheep but is more common in some breeds and affects all ages from 6 months onwards, with peak prevalence occurring at around 4 years of age. OPA appears in a flock as sheep with breathing problems, loss of condition and death. The presence of large volumes of clear or foamy fluid from the nose is common in advanced cases. OPA is a lung tumour and clinical signs arise due to tumour taking over the lung. OPA is caused by a virus called Jaagsiekte sheep retrovirus (JSRV) which is contained in the fluid produced by the OPA tumour, in exhaled breath and in the milk and colostrum of affected sheep. Therefore, sheep with OPA are able to transmit the virus to other sheep through the air, and especially to their lambs through close contact and milk or colostrum.

The virus is produced in the tumour cells. Essentially each cell is a virus factory, therefore it is not surprising that our recent research has confirmed that sheep with bigger tumours (i.e. more advanced disease) produce the most virus and therefore are likely to be the biggest risk of transmission to others in the flock.



## **Tackling OPA**

Unfortunately, there is no vaccine or reliable diagnostic test either to diagnose infection or the earliest stages of OPA development in live sheep. Therefore, reducing transmission within a flock depends upon observing disease signs to try to identify affected sheep for removal from the flock as soon as possible. The problem with this approach is that OPA tumours can be quite large before any clinical signs appear. This is where ultrasound screening is useful to identify both pre-clinical and clinical OPA. By removing these animals from the flock, the number of cases year-on-year should decrease over time. A number of vets are now offering ultrasound screening for OPA.





In order to manage expectations before embarking on this action, it is important that the vet and client discuss the advantages and limitations of screening:

- Screening of the entire flock on a regular basis should be encouraged, as reducing the prevalence in breeding sheep will reduce the risk of sale sheep being carriers of OPA.
- Screening only sheep going for sale does not address the root of the problem.
- For a flock with a known OPA problem, we would expect to see 1-5% of sheep positive at the first screening, whereas if only older or thin sheep are screened we would expect to see a higher prevalence.
- Twice-yearly screen and cull is worthwhile for flocks starting at higher prevalence, but for those starting at around 1%, annual screening is sufficient.
- The specificity of the ultrasound procedure is not perfect, as some other conditions look very similar by ultrasound examination. Therefore, consider monitoring results by postmortem examination for additional information on the extent of the OPA problem compared to other lung diseases.
- We advise vets to record the ultrasound video of all positives for re-examination. In addition, it can be useful to re-examine all potential positives under less time pressure, to reduce the likelihood of false positives.
- The practicalities of ultrasound scanning are shown in a video available [here](#).
- An experienced team of handlers will scan at a rate of 60 to 100 sheep per hour.
- Some farms prefer to use an adapted handling crate, which is slower, but requires less handlers and may be easier on the vet's back!



### Management

Any management changes that reduce close contact will reduce JSRV transmission through the air, such as avoiding indoor housing or shared troughs, but these changes must be considered against the benefits of management options such as lambing indoors. Management for reduction in virus transmission is another discussion to be had between the flock manager and vet or sheep health adviser, as there is no one-size-fits-all approach to OPA control.



### Buyer beware

Regarding flocks that are OPA-free, being able to confidently purchase OPA-free sheep would be a game changer. Hopefully, there will soon be a scheme to identify low risk flocks, whether this is through whole flock ultrasound scanning records, sheep postmortem or abattoir records. Meanwhile, properly closed flocks and good biosecurity will minimise the risk of buying in this disease.



**All NSA members are also Moredun associate members**

Make the most of this exclusive agreement by accessing Moredun resources



Find out more at [www.nationalsheep.org.uk/nsa-and-moredun](http://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/nsa-and-moredun)



### What's the latest from Moredun?

A new Liver fluke control in grazing livestock manual, highlighting the latest research and advice on control practices to protect livestock from potential animal health and welfare damage posed by liver fluke.

More at: [bit.ly/3D70hd7](http://bit.ly/3D70hd7)



# Shearwell Data

Livestock Systems

Working to help the livestock farmer

## PROUD MAINLINE SPONSOR OF SCOTSHEEP

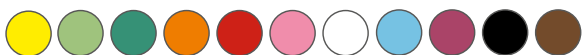


TAGS IN STRIPS

TAGS IN DRUMS

### SET Tags

Excellent  
Retention  
Britain's Favourite  
Sheep Tag



Reserved: Grey - NEMSA Mules, Red - replacements & Black - bolus.

Breeding Pairs from **83p**

Slaughter from **64p**

Turbo  
Tagger



Tagger  
£60

Breeding Pairs from **93p**

Slaughter from **69p**

Prices correct Feb '22 and exclude VAT and delivery

EAR TAGS • EID READERS • SOFTWARE • HANDLING

CONTACT THE TEAM 01643 841611



www.shearwell.co.uk