

Spring parasite alert: Blowflies

We have been lucky with warm, dry, sunny weather over the last few weeks which has been perfect for lambing. This weather has also given the flies a head start and they are now around in quite large numbers for this time of year.

Blowfly strike is already being seen on farm and reports are being added to the Elanco Blowfly Tracker (see <https://farmanimalhealth.co.uk/blowfly-tracker>). The change in weather to showery / wet days will add to the risk of blowfly strike; as warm, damp conditions are ideal for the flies to lay their eggs in the fleece. All sheep are at risk of blowfly strike but animals with dirty back ends or foot rot will be more prone as the flies are attracted by the smell.

Planning blowfly prevention is very important and is the key to success. There are lots of things to take into account – length of cover needed, shearing time, weight of animals, correct equipment and application technique.

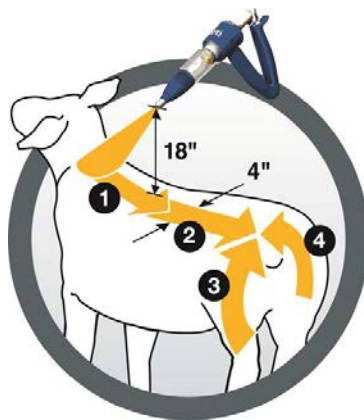
For instance, ewes will be at risk pre-shearing so may need short term protection, while lambs will need varying lengths of cover depending on when they leave the farm.

The Elanco CLiK™ range of preventative blowfly products includes:

- CLiK™ EXTRA: 19 weeks protection
- CLiK™: 16 weeks protection
- CLiKZiN™: 8 weeks protection, with the added benefit of a 7 day meat withhold

All these products are insect growth regulators and contain FleeceBind technology, which provides full fleece protection*. So, depending on which animals you are treating and when you are shearing there is a product for all farm situations.

Irrespective of the product used, they should be applied to a clean, dry fleece as shown below with the correct applicator gun (watch the video here <https://farmanimalhealth.co.uk/clik-application>). It is very important to weigh the sheep and apply the correct dose of product.



Farmers are already seeing significant blowfly strike challenges this year. Rob, who farms 1,000 ewes in the South of England has been seeing strike on the farm since the second



week in April. The problem started in a small number of lambs with dirty backends but now Rob is seeing a problem in clean woolled, crutched ewes. These ewes are being found with strike on the brisket, shoulder and back in fields well away from high risk areas such as rivers and streams. The current high challenge has meant that application of blowfly prevention products has been brought forward for both ewes and lambs. Rob has decided to apply CLiK EXTRA to his ewes and lambs due to the long term cover (19 weeks) as shearing doesn't take place on his farm until late Summer / early Autumn.

Find out more at <https://farmanimalhealth.co.uk/clik-extra>

* Spreads to areas covered by fleece, other areas may not be protected, including the feet. For further information call Elanco Animal Health on +44 (0)1256 353131, write to Elanco Animal Health, Lilly House, Priestley Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9NL
CLiK™ Pour On contains 5% (w/v) dicyclanil. CLiKZiN™ Pour On contains 1.25% (w/v) dicyclanil. CLiK™ EXTRA contains 65mg/ml dicyclanil. POM-VPS Information regarding the side effects, precautions, warnings and contraindications can be found in product packaging and leaflets; further information can also be found in the Summary of Product Characteristics. Advice should be sought from the medicine prescriber. CLiK EXTRA, CLiK, CLiKZiN, Elanco and the diagonal bar logo are trademarks of Elanco or its affiliates. Use medicines responsibly (www.noah.co.uk/responsible). © 2020 Elanco or its affiliates. PM-UK-20-0307 Date of Preparation: May 2020