

Blowfly Strike:

The Threat, The Figures, The Facts.



Elanco

Elanco's industry survey¹ asked the nation's farmers for opinions and data on blowfly strike – how does your farm compare? Note down your answers and read on to find out...

Q1: How long is the blowfly season lasting?

- a) 6 weeks or less
- b) 7-10 weeks
- c) 11-16 weeks
- d) 17-19 weeks
- e) 20 weeks plus

Q2: When is the earliest you experienced a case of blowfly strike last season?

- a) March or earlier
- b) April
- c) May
- d) June
- e) July
- f) August or later

Q3: When is the latest you experienced a case of blowfly strike last season?

- a) July
- b) August
- c) September
- d) October
- e) November or later

Q4: Do you take preventative measures for blowfly strike or do you wait until you see flies?

- a) Use a preventative product
- b) Wait until I see flies then apply preventative product
- c) Wait until I see flies and then provide treatment

Q5: What is the average cost of blowfly strike* per sheep in your experience?

- a) £40 or more
- b) £40-£30
- c) £30-£20
- d) £20 or less

** Including cost of time, loss of sales, buying replacement stock, vet bills and reactive medicine purchases.*

Q6: Do you agree with the following statement: Prevention, not cure, is best for blowfly strike?

- a) Yes
- b) No

Notes

Answers – See how you compare to the nation's results below:

Q1: 43% said blowfly season lasted **20 weeks or more** – by far the most common answer.

Q2: **April** is the first month farms are seeing blowfly, showing the need to be alert early in the season.

Q3: Many farms saw blowfly well into the **autumn** with a few even reported through to December. Don't forget to stay vigilant into the autumn.

Q4: **85% of farmers strike first** and use a **preventative treatment** in advance of the season to prevent seeing any strike on their farm.

Q5: Costs per sheep reached up to £46.50 in some regions, with the British average totalling at around **£33.25**.

Q6: The answer is near unanimous. 97% of respondents said **yes**, prevention is better than treatment.

How does your farm compare? Keep reading for further insight into the trends and figures behind the latest blowfly survey of British farmers.



96%

of farmers hit by strike in the last five years.

97%

say prevention better than treatment.

82%

say blowfly season is getting longer.

99%

endured financial loss due to strike (avg: £33.25).

Strike first – don't get caught out by blowfly strike

Expert tips for effective blowfly management:

- **Don't get caught out**

Extended and less predictable blowfly season results in farms getting caught out.

- **Strike First**

Assess your farm, know your farm history and implement an IGR preventative treatment in advance of the season.

- **Be aware of the current season**

Monitor NADIS reports and risk updates – stay informed on the threat levels. <https://alerts.nadis.org.uk/>

- **See live blowfly reports**

and submit reports in your region via the blowfly tracker at www.farmanimalhealth.co.uk/tracker to help alert other farms.

For further information call Elanco Animal Health on +44 (0)1256 353131, or write to Elanco Animal Health, Lilly House, Priestley Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9NL

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Reference: National Farm Research Unit, Blowfly Study April 2018. Respondents: 150 farmers or decision makers from England, Scotland & Wales with 80% over 47. Even regional split, mixed enterprises, 500+ ewes.



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which is right
for you?



CLiK™

Long-lasting 16 week protection
– the product of choice for sheep
farmers looking for peace of mind.

CLiK™ EXTRA

CLiK with extra clout – 19 weeks
of protection – apply early for
extended peace of mind.

CLiKZiN™

8 weeks of protection with just
7 days meat withhold – ideal when
marketing lambs.



Real-time reports – View the blowfly tracker



NADIS forecast – View risk alerts

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