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Flock Health Planning in the West Midlands



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West Midlands Project



Objective

To promote the uptake and understanding of flock health planning and its contribution to the future sustainability of the sheep industry

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A Team Approach



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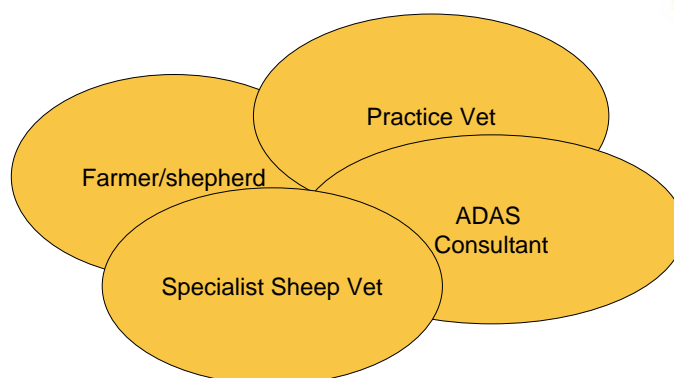
West Midlands Project



- Nov 06 to Dec 07
- 10 farms - 2 per county
- 10 vets
- Flock Health Plan set up for each farm
- 3 production/disease targets
- Monitoring performance
- Group meetings on farm - Feb, June & Nov
- Cost/benefit calculations

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A Team Approach



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Flock Health Planning

Aiming to:

- Reduce avoidable stock losses/disease
- Manage costs
- Save time
- Improve performance



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General policies

- Vaccination
- Internal parasites
- External parasites
- Foot care
- Culling and replacement policy
- Ram management
- Nutrition



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Three Specific Targets



For example:

- Reduce lamb losses
- Reduce the impact of worms
- Reduce lameness

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Cost benefit analysis



Is Flock Health Planning worth it?

- Is treatment/prevention economically viable?

YES

- Worked out cost of treatment against saved lives, improved performance, saved labour etc

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Benefits of Health Planning



- Close scrutiny of records to identify problems
- Appreciation of cost of disease
- Appropriate and timely use of drugs
- Renewed enthusiasm for technical performance
- Real and anticipated cost savings



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Project Meetings

- Groups of about 20 farmers
- Encouraged others to look critically at their own flocks
- Input from farmers, ADAS consultants and vets.



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Follow on:

- Hoping to secure funding for future years



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