



On target :

Sheep

NFU Scotland – fighting for your Interests

- **Sheep tags – funding for Electronic Identification (EID)**

NFUS was instrumental in gaining the best possible outcome for the implementation of the controversial Regulation 21/2004. As a result of NFUS negotiations, the Scottish Government subsequently agreed to provide funding for the extra cost of EID – this amounts to £0.40 per electronic tag. They also agreed to provide a central database in which all movements will be recorded and to allow batch within batch movements. NFUS will continue its efforts in making this regulation more workable and will be pushing that a review takes place as soon as possible.

- **Scottish Sheep Scab Initiative**

NFUS has been instrumental in coordinating the Scottish Sheep Scab Initiative which is aimed at reducing the incidence of sheep scab by promoting and supporting best practice, minimising the impacts of outbreaks and maximising the effects of preventative action. NFUS has played a key role in the Sheep Scab Industry Group and discussions have led to plans that an advisory treatment period in the Autumn will be introduced. It is also likely that the Sheep Scab order will be updated and it is hoped that sheep scab will become a reportable disease by means of voluntary notification and enforced by trading standards.

- **Fallen Stock**

NFUS played a key part in securing a voluntary, subsidised collection and disposal service for fallen stock. Costs to farmers were subject to a 30 per cent discount as a result of £10 million in government funding. We have successfully maintained the derogated area status for parts of Scotland until a comprehensive affordable collection service is available in the area.

- **Sheep Ecto-Parasite Survey**

NFUS regularly receives anecdotal evidence from farmers that the ecto-parasite products available are not up to the job, for reasons ranging from ineffectiveness and resistance to human health side effects, to long withdrawal periods. The VMD claims there is no evidence that there is a problem with the existing products. NFUS is therefore trying to gather some measurable evidence of the increasing problems being experienced to present to the VMD and has asked that all sheep producers fill in our quick survey. Collection of surveys is ongoing and results will be assembled and fed into the VMD to provide it with information to assess the scale of the problem.

- **Cypermethrin Suspension**

NFUS has been pressing for the re-instatement of the marketing authorisation for cypermethrin based sheep dips. To persuade the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) that well managed dipping with cypermethrin dips does not pose a threat to the environment we have been recruiting a small sample of farmers who will allow SEPA to monitor their use of cypermethrin.

- **FMD Compensation**

NFUS convinced the Scottish Government to pay compensation to sheep farmers for some of the financial loss they experienced as a result of the 2007 FMD outbreak at Pirbright. This compensation package equated to £6 per eligible ewe and an overall spend of £19 million.

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