



Tool 2.6

Guidelines for reducing chemical residues

It is desirable for the wool industry to use chemicals in a more targeted way to control external parasites (lice and blowflies) to:

- Maximise the cost-effectiveness of treatments for lice and blowflies
- Minimise the environmental consequences of chemical treatments on-farm
- Minimise any harmful impacts of chemicals on farm workers
- Ensure wool is suitable to be sold into any residue-sensitive market (including its eligibility for EU Eco-label certification)
- Ensure sheepmeat will not contain chemical residues that could affect its suitability for safe human consumption
- Ensure sheepmeat for export adheres to current export slaughter interval standards of the purchasing country.

Minimising on-farm chemical use

More targeted chemical management starts with looking for opportunities to use chemicals as little as possible.

Tick the box that best describes the overall approach to chemical management on your farm. There are a number of options available to assist in the control of blowflies and lice that could be applied to your wool enterprise, depending on which box/es you tick.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| | ✓ |
| 1. Never use chemicals and am an accredited biodynamic sheep producer | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Never use chemicals and am an accredited organic sheep producer | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Never use chemicals but am not an accredited organic sheep producer | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Use chemicals as little as possible, because I prefer to live without them | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Use chemicals infrequently, because the environment doesn't generally require them | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Use chemicals quite often, even though I don't like it, because lice and flies are big problems | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. Use chemicals quite often and not concerned about it | <input type="radio"/> |



Non-chemical options (boxes 1-4)

For lice minimisation, quarantine introduced sheep (including rams), maintain good fences, minimise split shearings, only treat when lice are identified (and deemed economically important) and aim for eradication at the next shearing after lice are found.

Reducing chemical use (boxes 4-7)

Reduced chemical use minimises costs and reduces the risk of resistance developing. It also reduces the risk of environmental damage on the farm and adverse health effects on people applying the chemicals or those handling treated sheep. Consider adopting some or all of the management options listed under “non-chemical options”.

Measures that aid blowfly control include correct tail docking, breech modification, effective worm control, breeding, flytraps and appropriate time of shearing, crutching and lambing.