



290 Research paper

The 'Five Point Plan': a successful tool for reducing lameness in sheep

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In Significant Impact Groups:

Pathogen management \ Managing sick animals Euthanasia/culling

Species targeted: Sheep;

Age: Not stated;

Summary:

Lameness constitutes a major animal welfare and economic challenge across the sheep sector, costing an estimated £24 million to the UK industry. The high volume of antibiotic currently used to tackle the estimated 9 million lameness cases that occur annually in the UK is also concerning. The aim of this study was to develop and validate an achievable farm-level solution, the Five Point Plan, to reduce lameness levels to FAWC targets. The Five Point Plan has five action points that support the animal in three different ways: building resilience, reducing disease challenge and establishing immunity. It was then implemented on a UK sheep farm over a four-year study period (2009–2013). Lameness prevalence across the study flock was measured monthly by a single observer using a simple 6-point locomotion score. The results show that lameness reduction is achievable within a relatively short time scale but does require long-term commitment in order to sustain success.

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Where to find the original material:

https://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/175/9/225.1.short?g=w_vr_ipcurrent_tab;

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