



Information Note

Sheep Scab Surveillance

First evidence of resistance to macrocyclic lactones in *Psoroptes ovis* sheep scab mites in the UK

January 2018

In 2017 APHA scanning surveillance identified cases where sheep affected by sheep scab mites (*Psoroptes ovis*) had not responded to treatments for scab with an injectable product containing the active ingredient macrocyclic lactone (ML) moxidectin.

Mites were collected from four flocks and a collaboration between APHA and the University of Bristol was established with the University undertaking research to determine if the mites had developed resistance to the injectable product used.

The results of this study have been published in the Veterinary Record (Doherty and others 2018).

APHA are keen to investigate other cases of flocks that do not appear to be responding to treatment to sheep scab to determine how widespread resistance is, if we can identify resistance to other ML products and to further develop protocols to define resistance.

If you have suspicions that a flock is not responding to sheep scab treatment then please contact an APHA Veterinary Investigation (VI) Centre to discuss further investigation.

Contact details for APHA VI Centres in England and Wales can be found on the APHA Vet Gateway, with other information about the surveillance network:

- <http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/surveillance/diagnostic/national-network.htm>

Reference

DOHERTY, E., BURGESS, S., MITCHELL, S. & WALL, R. (2018) First evidence of resistance to macrocyclic lactones in *Psoroptes ovis* sheep scab mites in the UK. Veterinary Record

<http://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/vetrec/early/2018/01/09/vr.104657.full.pdf>