



#HealthyFeetHappySheep



Meeting Preparation Guide

Aim of the Meeting

#HealthyFeetHappySheep is an appropriate topic to be covered in a Flock Health Club meeting at any time of the year, but it is ideal in the autumn (or even the spring as many farms see a peak in lameness when the ewes have lambs at foot). However, since there are many things to think about in the spring, a late summer meeting provides a great opportunity to sort through the ewes to cull some and vaccinate others appropriately before tupping time.

The aim of the meeting is that each farmer who attends the session will be:

- Convinced of the value of controlling lameness on their farm having understood its full cost
- Equipped to diagnose the most common causes of lameness within their own flock
- Ready to implement the Five Point Plan to control lameness:
 - Prompt and appropriate Treatment for clinical cases, appropriate Quarantine, Culling & Vaccination, careful avoidance of the spread,
- Aware of when to avoid inappropriate trimming

We strongly recommend that you arrange a Healthy Feet visit to each flock in the month following the meeting.

Before the Meeting

- Access bit.ly/healthyfeethappysheep where there are many resources to help you run this meeting.
- Choose an appropriate venue e.g. at the practice, at a local farm, in the pub. This is a good meeting to run on a local farm especially if there may be lame sheep that can be gathered to demonstrate the diagnosis of different lesions and their prompt and effective treatment. You may want to invite a local merchant to demonstrate suitable handling facilities.
- Invite the delegates – individual phone calls and texts work best and make sure you have every vet on board and inviting clients throughout their daily visits.
- To help you prepare for the meeting we recommend you ask the farmers the following questions in advance:
 - What are your current lameness levels?
 - What was the worst your lameness level has been over the past year?
 - Do you know if you have CODD on the farm?
 - Do you currently vaccinate with Footvax or have you done so in the past?



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- Gather the following items -
 - Refreshments
 - Slide Projector and Screen
 - Flipchart and Pens, Post-it notes and Marker Pens
 - Treatment products (if you include a demo of diagnosing and handling lame sheep)
- Contact your MSD Animal Health rep to see if they would consider supporting you in running the meeting in any way e.g. refreshments, provision of Lameness Control Planners, Lameness Reduction Advisor training.
- Carry out a Health & Safety Risk Assessment for the meeting including consideration of any particular issues relevant to the venue that you have chosen.

During the Meeting

- Remember the end goal is that each farmer is motivated to review the practices on their own farm and make some changes in light of the theory and evidence they have heard. So speak in an enthusiastic manner whilst showing an understanding of the competing demands each farmer faces in daily life.
- Make a note of those who have attended so you can follow up afterwards. We strongly recommend that you arrange a Healthy Feet visit to each flock in the month following the meeting.

After the Meeting

- Review the Meeting
 - Is there anything that you would do differently next time?
 - Share practical tips with other vets running this session via e-mail (office@flockhealth.co.uk).
- Send e-mails or texts to everybody to thank them for coming and prompt them to arrange a Healthy Feet visit with the practice.