



How can we reduce antimicrobial use in sheep farming without affecting performance?

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Understanding the situation



- Where antibiotics are being used and why.
- Measuring use at an industry level and on farm.
- Recent survey findings suggest:-
 - Watery mouth
 - Joint ill
 - Enzootic abortion
 - Lameness





Where do we need to be?



- Good health and welfare.
- Good levels of performance and low losses.
- Increased use of preventative vaccines – for EAE in particular.
- Less use of antibiotics for young lambs
 - Nutrition and hygiene
 - Screening to reduce flare-ups
- Integrated and complete lameness plans.
- Able to demonstrate reduced and responsible use.





How can we get there?



- Understand the alternatives and obstacles to use.
- What management changes could be made?
- More focus on health and robustness.
- Are there new R&D and development needs?
- Farmers and vets working together and sharing the responsibility.





Why should we do anything?



- Can I improve margins and financial performance?
- Will it help build trust and reputation?
- Could it help maintain markets or even create new ones?
- Will it help safeguard products for years to come?

