

## AHDB news release

For immediate release

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### **Livestock farmers urged to use correct injection sites**

Farmers may be losing money by incorrectly injecting livestock and damaging carcass value, a survey carried out by AHDB Beef & Lamb has revealed.

At last month's Beef Expo event, organised by the National Beef Association (NBA), AHDB Beef & Lamb invited farmers to its stand to demonstrate where they would inject their livestock. The interactive exhibit showed that an overwhelming amount of participants indicated incorrect injection sites, which can lead to formation of lesions.

With six per cent of beef carcasses slaughtered in the UK estimated to have injection site lesions, farmers could be facing large financial losses as the lesion and surrounding tissue must be trimmed out by the abattoir before being weighed. Bad practice could also be reducing the quality of the meat, as well as leading to animal welfare implications.

Katie Thorley, AHDB Beef & Lamb Knowledge Transfer Senior Manager, said: "Producers could be losing money, simply by not injecting in the correct place. Injections should be carried out in the neck of the animal, where the less valuable cuts are located, as well as in a dry and clean area."

When medicines are required, use as little as possible but as much as necessary, and read the product datasheet. This guidance falls in line with the government's aim to reduce antibiotic usage by 20 per cent by 2018.

"It's also best practice to replace needles as frequently as possible to reduce the risk of abscesses forming. If injecting a large number of animals, the same needle may be used for up to 10 animals and then must be changed," Katie said.

For more information, see the AHDB Beef & Lamb's manual Using medicines correctly for Better Returns, which can be found on the [AHDB Beef & Lamb website](#).

### **ENDS**

Notes to editors

Caption for photo: The dots relate to where individuals would normally inject the cow. The green dots are where producers would inject intramuscular (IM) injections and the blue dots are for sub-cutaneous (SC) injections. The triangles are the ideal areas for IM and SC injections.

Key: Green = Intramuscular

Blue = Sub-cutaneous

AHDB is a statutory levy board, funded by farmers, growers and others in the supply chain. Our purpose is to inspire our farmers, growers and industry to succeed in a rapidly changing world. We equip the industry with easy to use, practical know-how which they can apply straight away to make better decisions and improve their performance. Established in 2008 and classified as a Non-Departmental Public Body, it supports the following industries: meat and livestock (cattle, sheep and pigs) in England; horticulture, milk and potatoes in Great Britain; and cereals and oilseeds in the UK. AHDB's remit covers 72 per cent of total UK agricultural output. Further information on AHDB can be found at [www.ahdb.org.uk](http://www.ahdb.org.uk)

## Contact

For further information contact Gemma Pamment, Marcomms Executive Beef & Lamb on 024 7647 8716 or [gemma.pamment@ahdb.org.uk](mailto:gemma.pamment@ahdb.org.uk)

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