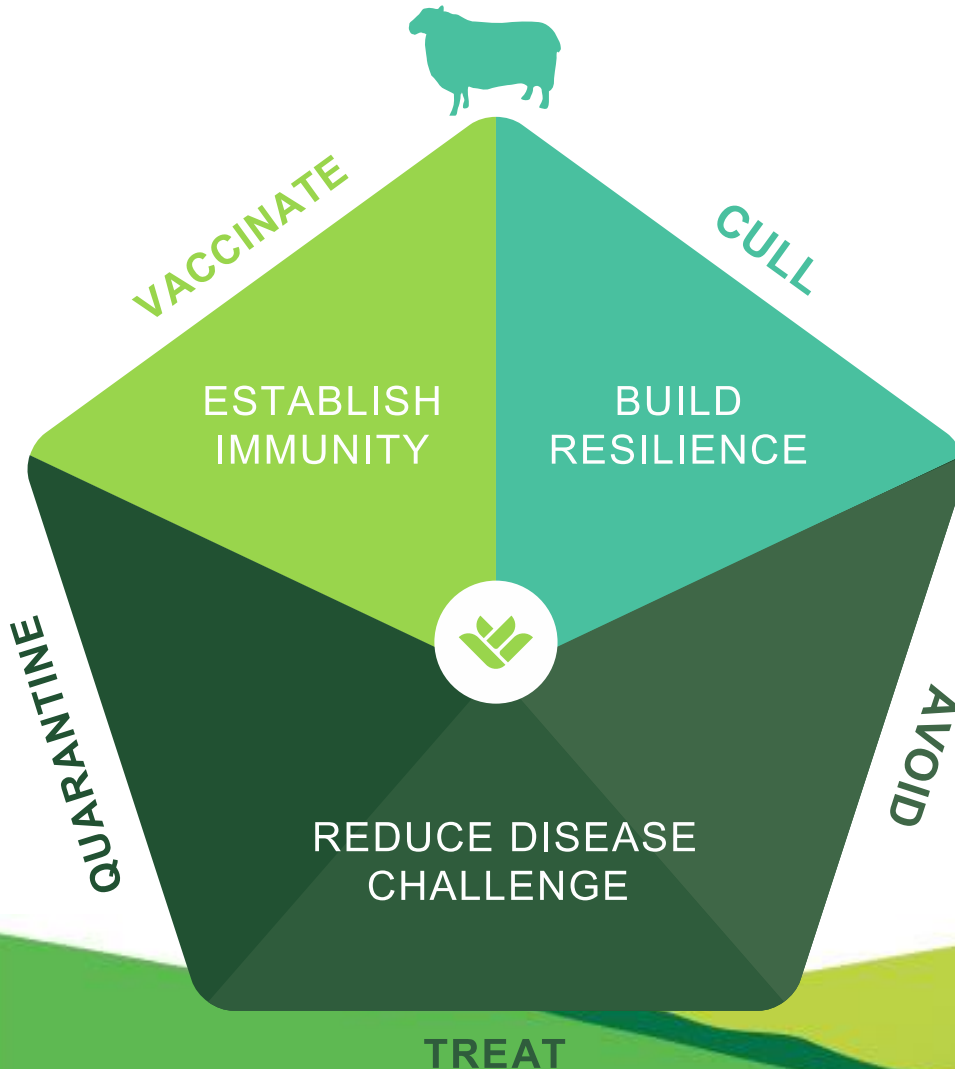


Controlling lameness using a 5 Point Plan



The 5 Point Plan



- ***An Industry agreed approach to controlling lameness***
- ***5 action points lead to 3 outcomes for the flock/animal***
- ***The combination of all 5 points gives the greatest chance of success***

Getting to grips with lameness in sheep



- Use the 5 point plan to tackle lameness
- Controlling lameness is a long term commitment
- Be sympathetic to the sheep and kind to yourself!
- <2% lameness level is possible



Cull



- Lambe ewes spread infection to the rest of the flock
- Keep a record of lame sheep – ear tag, spray mark

Cull

- Sheep treated for footrot more than once
- Sheep with badly misshapen feet, including replacement lambs

Do not breed from

- Lambs from ewes / rams repeatedly lame with footrot

BE TOUGH – Two strikes and She is out.....



Avoid

- Avoid spreading infection during handling and gathering
- Bacteria spread in wet muddy soiled areas
- Improve under foot conditions in heavily trafficked areas
- Separate (and treat) lame / lesioned sheep at
 - Housing
 - Turnout
 - Weaning
- Footbath clean group if appropriate and facilities allow
- Prevents spread of footrot, scald, CODD

Footbath to manage scald epidemics



1. Plan ahead and ensure equipment is in excellent order
2. Ensure feet are clean before footbath
3. Stand sheep on a hard surface for at least one hour after footbath
4. Always follow the instructions of the products used
 - Using chemical concentrations that are too high will cause damage to the sheep's feet and cause lameness
 - 10% for zinc sulphate for at least 2 minutes, depending on the product
 - Maximum of 3% formalin as a walk-through solution (can be painful on exposed lesions)
5. Turn sheep onto a clean field after footbath
 - Uses – lambs in spring, housed sheep if necessary,
 - **NOT EFFECTIVE** to treat footrot

Treat

- Disease spreads quickly
- Catch lame animals asap – even mild cases
- Focus on a minimum of 1/3 flock each day
- Catch, Inspect, Diagnose
- Treat appropriately
 - Footrot / Scald / CODD
 - Do not trim
 - Use appropriate antibiotic injection and spray
- Mark and record

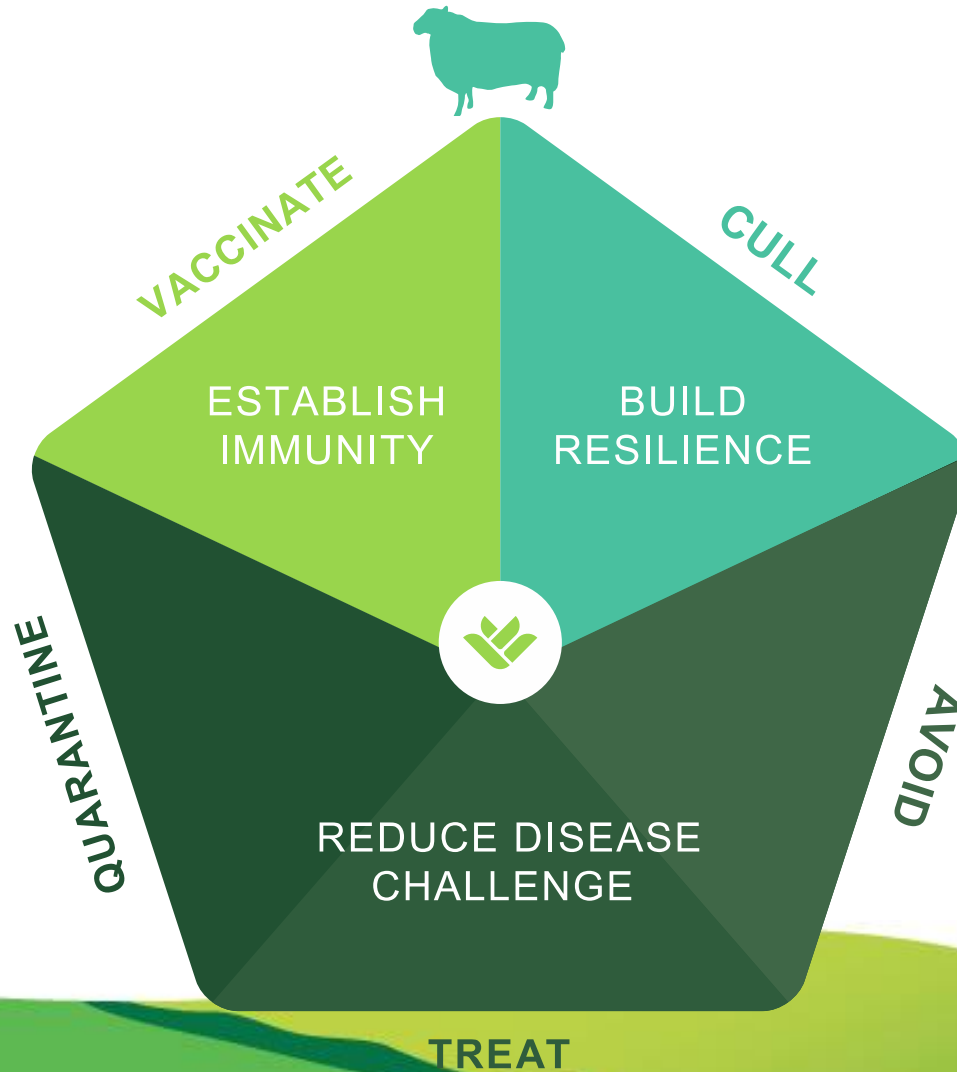
Quarantine

- Buy in from known source (ideally visit farm!)
 - Reject any lame sheep
 - Avoid CODD
 - Enquire about vaccination status and vendors lameness policy
- Quarantine returning / new sheep for > 21 days
 - Inspect all feet and footbath / treat on arrival
 - During quarantine treat promptly if become lame
 - Consider vaccination in discussion with vet
 - Only add to flock once sure healthy

Vaccination

- Licensed vaccine available
- Timings should coincide with high risk periods
- Vaccine should be used as part of a 5 point plan
- Vaccinate whole flock (including rams)
 - Once / twice per year before expected peaks in footrot
- Care when using vaccine
 - Wear gloves and use a safety vaccinator, lumps at injection site can occur
- Discuss strategic use and timings with your vet

Use the full 5 Point Plan



SUMMARY

- 10% incidence of lameness on farms
- 90% lameness due to scald/footrot
- Adopting 5 point plan ↓ Lameness
↑ Profitability
- Realistic to achieve <2% lameness

SUMMARY of 5 POINT PLAN

- Cull (chronic carriers)
- Avoid (spreading infection)
- Treat (promptly) ↓ foot trimming (65%)
- Quarantine (10 strains of footrot)
- Vaccinate

MSD Initiative

