



An Association of Veterinary Surgeons Practising in Northern Ireland meeting

Challenging the Spread of Sheep Scab

Is a Northern Ireland Sheep Scab Initiative needed?

Tuesday 12th March

The Conference Hall, Greenmount College @ 7.45pm

with

Neil Paton BVM&S BSc PhD MRCVS

There has been an apparent increase in sheep scab seen in parts of Northern Ireland with even closed flocks being affected. The disease is a significant welfare concern for affected sheep as well as an economic concern for farmers & the wool industry. There are limitations to some of the treatment options and resistance has been reported on the mainland to some of the products licenced to treat and prevent scab.

Our colleagues in Scotland started to develop a strategy over 10 years ago to better control the disease. The Welsh have recently started a process to eradicate scab. They have formed the Welsh Sheep Scab Industry Group, a collection of vets, union leaders and other stakeholders to lead this project. After a detailed report into the scope of the problem and control options the group recently succeeded in securing significant Government funding to take the plans forward.

This event will include:

- **Aspects of the disease and its treatment (Neil Paton)**
- **Initiation of the Welsh eradication programme (Neil Paton)**
- **The Welsh eradication programme - the next steps (Neil Paton)**
- **Open discussion forum**

As well as providing education on sheep scab, we hope to establish whether there is a desire to start a similar process of control and eradication in Northern Ireland.

Registration:

This meeting is **free** and open to anyone with an interest in sheep health and welfare. To facilitate planning it would be useful to have an indication of numbers attending.

Please email info@vetni.co.uk or text 07801 323987 with the subject line "Sheep Scab" and the names of delegates planning to attend

About our guest speaker:



Neil graduated as a vet from Edinburgh in 1999 and intercalated with a BSc in Veterinary Pathology. He was employed in mixed practice in Scotland and developed further interest in the farming industry whilst practicing in Aberdeenshire. His PhD examined the interaction of E. coli O157:H7 with the bovine rectal epithelium at the University of Edinburgh and at the Moredun research institute. He now teaches at the Royal Veterinary College and demonstrates the application of good husbandry to productive farming.

Neil works with Welsh farming industry to eradicate BVD from Wales through Animal Health and Welfare Wales - Gwaredu BVD. It is Neil's increasing belief that disease is a burden that farmers should not carry and I am interested in building strategies that remove this burden either at farm or national level as appropriate