

## SHEEP DIP POLLUTION REDUCTION PROGRAMME

### STEERING GROUP MEETING

21 August 2006

#### **ACTIONS**

##### General

- EA to propose dates and venue for next meeting (to be held in first 2 weeks of December)
- EA to forward one point of contact for all PRP communications
- EA to invite DEFRA and HSE to next meeting.

##### Raising awareness and best practice

- All to feed in comments to Alastair Johnston if critical guidance is missing from the leaflet. Please remember that the aim is to be clear and concise
- All to consider the part they could play in identifying distribution routes and actively promote distribution of the guidance leaflet and any updates (contact NFU for laminated copies)
  - VMD to circulate leaflets and posters to merchants and appropriate veterinary practices for distribution to buyers
  - NOAH?
  - LAA?
  - WAG to add article in monthly magazine
- NFU Cymru to produce a Welsh version of the Stop Every Drop Leaflet

##### Options appraisal study

- EA to circulate project specifications (wk 21 Aug)
- EA to redraft the specifications to take account of comments received
- EA/contractor to circulate criteria and methodology for option appraisal
- All to contribute any studies relevant to the PRP

##### Environmental monitoring

- EA to circulate details of the monitoring programme, including details of the biological monitoring methodology

#### R&D

- VMD to clarify Groundwater authorisation status for phase 1 farms
- VMD to circulate the final report from the R&D study when it becomes available.

Attendees – see [Annex 1](#)

Steering group meetings to date 30 July 2005      **((Link to document already on website))**  
21 August 2006

#### **Key points from [Agenda](#) items 1-6**

##### **1. Terms of reference (Derek Tinsley)**

Agreed by group without changes.

##### **2. Pollution Reduction Programme**

Overview (Jo Kennedy)

Raising awareness and best practice (Alastair Johnston)

NFU gave a presentation on industry led Stop Every Drop Campaign  
NFU have printed an initial run of 5,000 laminated leaflets as part of the Stop Every Drop campaign. Of these, 3,000 were distributed at Sheep 2006 in August. Current distributors are EA, BWMB, NFU, NFU Cymru, NFUS, DARD, NSA, NAAC, and LEAF.

For a copy of the leaflet, go to <http://www.nfuonline.com/x9623.xml>.

Comments from the group:

- Some expressed concerns that number of leaflets produced and the level of detail it provides is insufficient to reach and help UK sheep farmers (~60,000).
- NFU confirmed that the leaflet is a starting point. Guidance will be updated when new information from the PRP comes to light. The current leaflet is drawing attention to the issue and will increase the impact of subsequent guidance.
- The approach is similar to that of the Voluntary Initiative for Plant Protection products, achieving changes in practices/behaviours through regular updates and short, accessible and practical messages.
- The group highlighted the importance of monitoring the uptake and impact of the awareness-raising programme – as part of the PRP's success measures.
- The cost of Groundwater authorisations in E&W remains too high for farmers.
- What are the consequences if farmers do not follow best practices? Industry is keen to avoid further regulations and will monitor awareness and practices.
- Cypermethrin is used in a variety of other products (plant protection, biocides, veterinary medicines). We need a full picture of the relative importance of uses other than sheep dips.
- We don't know at present when or where dipping products are being used. Therefore it is difficult to target campaigns (and monitoring).
- We need a cradle to grave approach for the management of sheep dip.

The majority of the steering group supported the awareness-raising programme led by the sheep farming industry as part of action 1 of the PRP, and have agreed to actively promote the 'Stop Every Drop' campaign.

Angling and conservation groups remain concerned that safe use of these chemicals is unlikely to be achieved through awareness raising and believe that sheep dipping products should be banned.

#### Options appraisal study (Jo Kennedy)

Four options were presented regarding the future of sheep dip products with emphasis on cypermethrin based products.

Comments from the group:

The appraisal should review all products and application methods used in the UK and elsewhere.

The group advised that a fifth action was needed: reviewing the feasibility of banning all dipping products.

The issue of animal health and welfare was particularly emphasised: it is crucial for the study to use experts in this field as well as in the field of environmental protection.

Issues to consider are:

- impact on organic farming (organic farmers cannot use OP dips)
- Defra Grant for fencing-in sheep
- impact on the environment from a severe reduction in the number of grazing animals
- impact on human health of the increase in tick numbers
- current legislative requirements and strategies
- cost of additional monitoring if cypermethrin based sheep dips remain in use

- threats to designated sites and biodiversity initiatives (e.g. SSSIs, Habitats Directive sites, BAP targets)
- Government Strategies on sustainable farming and food, and animal health and welfare

Questions were raised about the level of consultation the final report would be subject to.

#### Environmental monitoring (Tatiana Boucard)

An outline of the EA monitoring programme for sheep dip chemicals was presented.

- Concerns were raised over the validity of using BMWP for analysing biological monitoring. The EA is not in a position to develop new tools / methods. Existing internal expertise will be used to provide the best interpretation of data collected.
- There is uncertainty over the use of moss for chemical sampling. The EA will provide further information as part of the monitoring programme description.

#### R&D (Nick Renn)

The VMD/EA study on cypermethrin release in the farmyard during and after dipping was presented. Nick confirmed report findings will be shared with the group.

Comments from the group:

- Resources restricted the duration of the fleece wash-off study
- Clarification was provided on the regulatory scope of groundwater authorisations

#### **4. Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland perspectives - discussion**

Animal health and environmental protection are devolved issues. Some issues should be dealt with nationally but there needs to be flexibility to account for regional difference. We can learn from the valuable experience gained in Scotland.

#### Northern Ireland

No attendees

#### Scotland

- Sheep scab eradication is a very high priority – advisory group and Scottish Sheep Scab Eradication programme
- Devolution shortened the lines of communication between agencies making it easier/faster to progress actions
- Sheep dip chemicals are not perceived as a major issue for water quality.
- Farm health plans, which include ectoparasite control are being introduced

#### Wales

- Sheep scab eradication is also a high priority – Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer will be organising meetings for stakeholders throughout Wales to raise awareness of the disease and to encourage take up of the industry's initiative to eradicate sheep scab - but so is pollution from sheep dipping (recent prosecutions)
- The Welsh Sheep Dip Pollution Group met last December and consideration will be given to whether there is a need for a future meeting or whether the remit of the Group has been overtaken
- Devolution shortened the lines of communication between agencies
- Guidance should be bilingual
- The Welsh Assembly Government is keen to promote farm health plans but have resource constraints
- Other bodies (e.g. Farming Connect) are also providing advice to sheep farmers and organising meetings to promote good practice in dipping/ sheep scab eradication
- Work on the PRP will sit under the Environment Strategy for Wales
- Under Catchment Sensitive Farming initiatives money is available to farms in north and south Wales for fencing on land adjacent to watercourses

The Chair commented there was different pace of activity in different Regions, and that those ahead need to advise those behind.

#### **5. Next Steps (Philip Rees)**

SEE ACTIONS

**6. Date of next meeting - early December 2006**

TO BE CONFIRMED

## Annex 1 – List of attendees

<b>Sheep Dip Steering Group – 21 August, Bristol</b>	<b>Attended</b>
<b>Chair</b>	Philip Rees
<b>Farmers and Farming Unions</b>	
National Farmers Union (NFU)	Alastair Johnston
National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS)	Craig Campbell
National Farmers Union Cymru	Huw Rhys Thomas
National Sheep Association (NSA)	Peter Morris
The Country Land and Business Association (CLA)	Ben Underwood
Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep (SCOPS)	Brian Hosie (BVA)
Farmer's Union Wales (FUW)	Klare Sanderson
<b>Contractors</b>	
National Association of Agricultural Contractors (NAAC)	Jill Hewitt & Rob Morris
<b>Manufacturers of Dip</b>	
National Office of Animal Health (NOAH)	Stephen Dawson
<b>Animal Health Experts</b>	
British Veterinary Association (BVA)	Brian Hosie
<b>Angling, Conservation and Wildlife groups</b>	
Atlantic Salmon Trust & Countryside Alliance	Tim Hoggarth
Buglife	Margaret Palmer
Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales	Robert Jones Parry
Salmon & Trout Association (STA)	Carmel Jorgensen
Anglers' Conservation Association (ACA)	Mark Lloyd

Government / Regulators	
Environment Agency (EA)	Derek Tinsley Jo Kennedy Bob Merriman Rob Robinson Ian Johnson Tatiana Boucard
Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)	Nick Renn Ravinder Sagoo
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	Rob Morris
English Nature (EN)	Jennifer Best
Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)	Joanne Glenn
Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD)	Mary Bradley
<u>Apologies</u>	
Environment and Heritage Service for Northern Ireland (EHS)	Dr Adrain Gregory (cannot attend)
Confederation of British Wool Textiles	Dr Michael Madden (did not attend)
Department of Agricultural and Rural Development (DARD), Northern Ireland	Stephen Jess (cannot attend)

## Annex 2 – Agenda

**Meeting on:** Sheep Dip Pollution Reduction Programme – First Meeting of the Sheep Dip Steering Group

**Date:** Monday 21<sup>th</sup> August , 2006

**Time:** 10.30am – 3pm latest

**Location:** EA offices, Block 5, Government Buildings, Burghill Road, Westbury on Trym

### Purpose

- To bring the steering group together for the first meeting
- To present the PRP, talk about what's in it and how it will be implemented
- To gain support from steering group members and agree the way forward

### Agenda

Teas coffees 10.10-10.30

1. **Introductions (Philip Rees, 10.30am)**
2. **Terms of reference and how the group will work (Derek Tinsley, 10.45am)**
3. **PRP**

- Overview (Jo Kennedy, 11.15am)
- Raising awareness and best practice (Alastair Johnston, 11.20am)
- Options appraisal study (Jo Kennedy, 12pm)

**Lunch (12.40 – 1.30pm)**

**PRP (continued)**

- Environmental monitoring (Tatiana Boucard, 1.30pm)
- R&D (Nick Renn, 1.45pm)

**4. Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland perspectives - discussion (2pm)**

**7. Next Steps (Philip Rees, 2.30pm)**

**8. Date of next meeting - early December 2006**

Close 3pm latest