

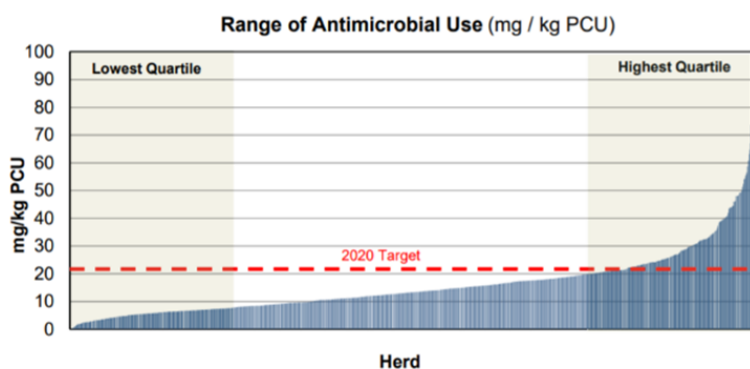
## New data confirms strides made in reducing dairy antimicrobial use!

The new Dairy Antimicrobial Focus Report was launched by Kingshay in February. A few of the key highlights for you:

- ➔ 79% of herds achieved the Ruma 2020 target of 21 mg/kg PCU by March 2021
- ➔ 98% reduction in use of critically important antibiotics from 2018 to 2021 period
- ➔ Teat sealant usage was not met and has actually reduced since 2018

The report is based on a robust data set which was collected from 940 dairy farmers and 156 vet practices. It provides a reliable summary of trends in antimicrobial use in dairy since 2018, which is a great insight into the hard work dairies have put in over the years. The overall message from the report is exceedingly positive. 79% of herds met the Ruma 2020 target by March 2021, and the decline in use of critically important antimicrobials was outstanding, a drop from 1.1 mg/kg PCU in 2018 to 0.02 mg/kg PCU in 2021.

### Range of antimicrobial use by individual herds



[Source: Kingshay Antimicrobial Report 2021]

The data also shows a large amount of variation between individual herd results, which ranged from 0.28 to 87.51mg/kg PCU in 2021 – that’s quite a range.

Interestingly, Kingshay found that it wasn’t always the same herds in the highest 25% antimicrobial usage year-on-year, nor was it necessarily the same farms consistently using the lowest quantities. Additionally, there is no correlation at all when looking at different herd characteristics such as yield, herd size, breed. This demonstrates that it’s possible to make strides in reducing antimicrobials use in any farming system.

Selective dry cow therapy is highlighted as a key strategy to move from treating every cow, known as prophylactic use, to using antimicrobials only as needed. The teat sealant usage in 2021 was at 0.39 courses/cow, which was below the Ruma target of 0.7 courses per cow. Last year, 37% of herds were not using teat sealants at all, so there’s definitely room for improvement. Plunging straight into doing selective dry cow therapy without training and protocols is very risky, therefore we recommend speaking to us first if you want to implement it on farm or expand what you’re already doing. Appropriate training around use of teat sealants is essential, as improper use and poor hygiene protocols can result in bacteria being trapped inside the udder, having the opposite effect on cow health and productivity.

If you want to take a look at the report, you can find it on the Kingshay website here: <https://www.kingshay.com/dairy-costings/dairy-antimicrobial-focus-report/>

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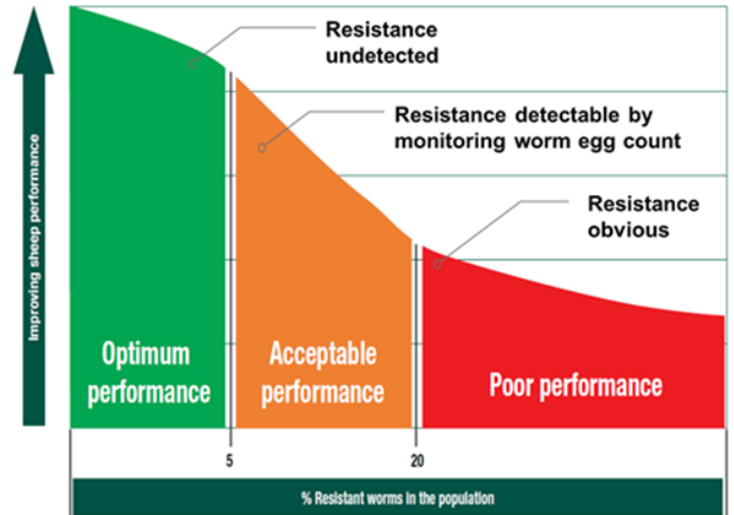
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# How big of a deal is anthelmintic resistance in sheep?

Anthelmintic resistance is one of the biggest challenges to the health and profitability of sheep and affects the entire sheep industry: a recent study found that parasitic worms have been estimated to cost the European livestock industry more than €1.8 billion per year, with drug-resistance costing at least €38 million per year in production losses and treatment costs.

Anthelmintic resistance is the ability of worms to survive the normal dose of a wormer and pass that ability on to its offspring. This results in the proportion of resistant worms in the population increasing over time. Worms can be resistant to one class or several classes of wormer. The percentage of resistant worms, and the number that survive treatment, increases with time.



The impact of wormer resistance on the farm will not be immediately obvious. As resistance develops, there is a gradual increase in the number of worms surviving treatment. The worms left behind will hold the lambs back, decreasing growth rates by up to 50% before there are any visible signs that the wormer treatment has not been fully effective. The level of challenge, and therefore the need to treat for these worms during the summer and autumn, is weather dependent.

Even low levels of resistance can leave enough worms behind to affect growth rates. Indeed, when the number of resistant worms is more than 10%, we start to gradually lose lamb performance because the product is not performing at its optimum level.

A low to moderate worm burden can reduce growth rates by up to 50% without any obvious clinical signs.

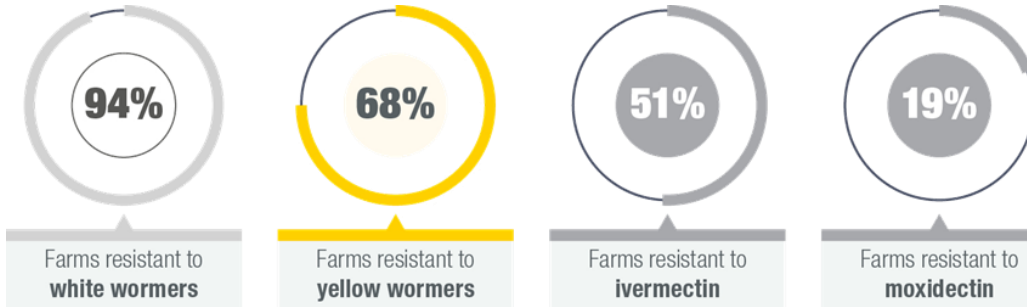
## VetTech Services

We are aware that you are getting busier, with less time to plan, organise and implement effective health care strategies, and this is why we have introduced the VetTech service. Our VetTechs work alongside you and our farm vets in a team approach to improve farm health.

Our VetTechs can carry out the small jobs that take time or simply require an extra set of hands once or twice a month.

We need to change current practices and adopt a more sustainable approach to worm control - even when there are no visible signs of decreased performance or lack of wormer efficacy.

In the last 10 years the number of reports of resistance to the three older classes have been increasing. Research from Wales Against Anthelmintic Resistance Development (WAARD) showed the majority of farms surveyed had a degree of resistance to all three older wormer classes:



Once anthelmintic resistance has developed, it is not reversible, so we need to do everything possible to slow the development of resistance.

[Source - Elanco ([www.farmanimalhealth.co.uk](http://www.farmanimalhealth.co.uk))]

The speed at which resistance develops depends on how carefully and sustainably anthelmintics are used. This means avoiding practices that drive resistance development, such as:

- under-dosing: weigh the animals, calibrate the dosing gun and dose to the heaviest animal in the group.
- over-using wormers: move from routine dosing to routing monitoring. Lambs should only be treated when their worm burden reaches the point where it starts to decrease their growth rate; the same wormer group should not be used repeatedly or for consecutive treatments; and the newer group 4-AD (Orange) and group 5-SI (Purple) wormers should be used in flocks at the right time.

It's always best to check how effective a treatment has been by doing a post-treatment drench check, with a faecal egg count, after every treatment.

As the impact of resistant worms remains invisible until resistance levels reach the tipping point, it is important to act now before there are obvious problems on the farm to help maintain the activity of wormers for the future, as well as allowing lambs to reach their growth potential today.

For more information, please contact the office to speak to a vet or visit [farmanimalhealth.co.uk](http://farmanimalhealth.co.uk)

#### Services include:

- Mobility scoring
- Body condition scoring
- Calf health scoring
- Disbudding
- TB test assistance
- Stress-free vaccinations



To hear how else our VetTechs could help keep your farm running smoothly whilst saving you money, speak to your vet or call the office on 01579 386132 / 01637 889231 or email [farm@calwetonvets.co.uk](mailto:farm@calwetonvets.co.uk)

## Upcoming Courses

Please email [training@calwetonvets.co.uk](mailto:training@calwetonvets.co.uk)  
or call 01637 889231 to register your interest!

### June

#### **Trace Elements and their role in Maximising Lamb Performance**

With Miranda  
30th June 2022, 10.30am-1pm  
@ Dupath Farm, PL17 8AD

### August

#### **Ram Selection and Fertility**

With Miranda  
9th August 2022, 3pm  
@ Dupath Farm, PL17 8AD

### September

#### **DIY AI Course**

With Michael Head (Spike) and Phil Dawber  
7-9th September 2022, Venue TBC

#### **Cattle Foot Trimming**

With Neil Barrett  
28-29th September, Venue TBC

### October

#### **Red Tractor Approved Mastering Medicines Course**

With Michael Head (Spike) and Jenn Shuttleworth  
4th October 2022, 11.30am-1pm  
@ Calweton Callington and St Columb

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