



Liver Fluke Sheep Treatments - update November 2014

We have been having more problems with Liver Fluke this year in spite of the long dry summer. This is mainly because last year was so good for the snails that they reproduced very successfully (if you were a snail farmer, then last year was a bumper year!) Unfortunately this has left us with a hang over effect into this year and animals are getting infected with Liver Fluke due to the sheer amount that is around.

In addition to this we have had some instances of confirmed Liver Fluke resistance due to repeat use of the same drug (with a different trade name, so the farmer involved thought he was using rotating his drugs.)

Below is a summary of the different chemicals that can be used to treat Liver Fluke and how effective these drugs are in sheep, with reference to the age of the Liver Fluke when the animal is given the drug. Remember unlike the wormers, **none** of the drugs have any persistence inside the animal, so they just kill the Liver Fluke that is in the animal on the day they are treated. This is why knowing what age of Liver Fluke the drug you are using kills and which drug is in the trade name product you are using.

Active Ingredient	Age of Liver Fluke in weeks											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12+
Albendazole										50-70%		80-99%
Oxyclozanide												
Closantel								50-90%			91-99%	
Nitroxynil												
Triclabendazole		90-99%								99-100%		

Below is a list of the different trade names for each chemical.

Albendazole	Albenil 2.5% drench Albenil 10% drench Albex 2.5% drench Albex 10% drench Ovispec S & C 2.5% drench Ovispec S & C 10% drench Valbazen SC 2.5% drench	for all these brand names this will kill roundworms tapeworms, lungworms, and fluke (NB. to treat fluke you need to give a higher dose) also all these contain selenium and cobalt.
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Oxyclozanide	Zanil drench Levafas drench	only treat fluke (not a wormer) wormer (levamisole) and fluker
Closantel	Flukiver 5% drench Mebadown drench Supaverm drench Closamectin injection	kills fluke, nasal bot fly and haemonchus (a type of roundworm) wormer (ivermectin) and fluker
Nitroxynil	Trodax injection	only treat fluke (not a wormer)
Triclabendazole	Fasinex 5% drench Fasinex 10% drench Tribex 5% drench Triclafas 5% drench Combinex drench Fasimec Duo drench Cydectin Triclamox drench	only treats fluke (not a wormer) only treats fluke (not a wormer) only treats fluke (not a wormer) only treats fluke (not a wormer) wormer (levamisole) and fluker wormer (ivermectin) and fluker wormer (moxidectin) and fluker

We advise twice a year treatment against fluke in sheep, the Autumn / early Winter treatment with a product that kills young as well as adult fluke and a Spring / early Summer treatment which kills just adult fluke.

This will help with drug selection and rotation. Please ring the surgery and speak to a large animal vet if you have any queries.