The Elanco™ Blowfly control range

The complete guide to sustainable blowfly control.
Blowfly – a rising challenge

Blowfly is the main external parasite traditionally affecting sheep in the late spring and summer months. Changing weather patterns have resulted in an increasingly unpredictable and lengthening season: it is now not uncommon to hear of strike as early as February and as late as November.¹

Blowfly strike can occur quickly with devastating results in warm, humid weather and despite being an annual problem, and entirely preventable, over 90% of farmers have been caught out by blowfly strike in the past.¹

Figures from 2015 show that blowfly strike costs the sheep industry some £2.2 million per year.²

A farm’s location and climate will greatly affect its prevalence to blowfly strike and a farmer’s own knowledge – supported by advice from SCOPS forecasts, NADIS parasite disease forecasts and local animal health professionals – will help determine the earliest period of risk in their area and the timing of preventative measures.

### Blowfly strike – environmental factors

- Soil temperatures of 9°C or higher will stimulate overwintering larvae to hatch.
- High temperatures and humidity will create a microclimate in the fleece attracting adult flies to lay eggs.
- Long periods of rainfall will encourage the fleece to rot.
- Low wind speeds around susceptible sheep allow greater fly mobility.
The blowfly life cycle

Three species of fly can attack sheep in the UK and Ireland and will cause strike in the body, breech or a wound – often on the feet:

- *Lucilia sericata* (Greenbottle) – most common species.
- *Lucilia caesar* – second most common species.
- *Calliphora vomitoria* – quite rare.

Understanding the blowfly lifecycle helps farmers to understand when to time treatments – and why prevention is always best.

- Blowfly larvae need soil temperatures above 9°C to develop.
- The first ‘wave’ of flies – from overwintered larvae – causes spring strike.
- Flies continue to deposit many hundreds of eggs onto affected sheep, which hatch into larvae.
- Larvae develop through 3 stages between egg and adult.
- Stages 2 and 3 damage the sheep’s skin as they feed, causing ‘strike’ which leads to production losses and welfare problems.

DID YOU KNOW?

Significant damage from blowfly strike can occur in as little as 24-36 hours after egg laying.

Useful sites offering blowfly strike alerts:

Strike Tracker Map: www.farmanimalhealth.co.uk

SCOPS: www.scops.org.uk

NADIS: www.nadis.org.uk/bulletins/ectoparasite
If untreated, strike can get out of control very quickly and can kill or adversely affect the welfare of infested sheep. In conducive conditions – warm, wet weather – blowfly eggs can hatch within 12 hours and larvae can develop into fully grown maggots within days.

When one case of blowfly strike is seen it often means many more cases will be seen shortly afterwards. The severity of the individual cases and the extent of the flock affected will depend on how quickly it is spotted.

Each sheep infected increases the number of flies in the environment to potentially attack other sheep. In a matter of days, strike can spread to the whole flock.

The symptoms of blowfly strike include:

- **Agitation and dejection**
  Foot stamping, vigorous shaking, gnawing or rubbing of the tail and breech.

- **Odour**
  As infestation develops a distinctive smell is noticeable. Wool becomes matted and discoloured.

- **Wool shedding**
  If infestations remain untreated, the affected area increases from the centre, accompanied by constant discomfort.

- **Smell**
  The smell of infestation attracts more flies. If unchecked, further infestations of flies can result in death.
The economic effects

Blowfly strike is not only a major welfare issue for sheep. Treatment of sheep – involving catching and applying treatments – takes time and effort and is a stressful, unpleasant task that all farmers would rather avoid. The financial implications can also be very costly:

- Complete losses due to lamb and ewe deaths
- Reducing the profit and reproductive potential of lambs
- Increasing time to market for lambs
- Downgrading wool clip

99% of farmers have suffered financial losses as a result of blowfly strike and recently published data estimated that:

- £80: The average loss per lamb that dies from strike
- £10: Struck lambs will suffer a £10 production loss
- £10: The labour cost to handle each struck animal
- 50p: The cost of treatment per animal
- £200: The approx. cost of breeding a replacement ewe

DID YOU KNOW? More than one in five farmers has suffered losses greater than £500. By comparison, the average cost of prevention with CLiK™ EXTRAX is 5p per lamb per week.
Prevention is the best form of control, both financially and for flock health, and Elanco offers a complete range of treatments to help farmers meet both their flock and farm management systems. The key aim is to reduce both the number of susceptible sheep and the number of flies in the environment.

Many farmers will wait and apply later due to perceived savings in treatment cost, but this is a false economy as the duration of efficacy for some products is so long anyway. Earlier application in the year means better protection as well as a smaller lamb and a potentially smaller dose, which is a genuine saving.

Dr Fiona Lovatt, Independent Sheep Veterinary Consultant, Flock Health Ltd

The Elanco Blowfly Control Portfolio

The Elanco Blowfly Control Portfolio includes CLiK™ EXTRA, CLiK™ and CLiKZiN™ which, as Insect Growth Regulators (IGRs), stop larvae from developing into the harmful second and third stage maggots responsible for fly strike. The portfolio is completed by Crovec™ which treats and controls ectoparasites including blowfly, headfly, maggots, lice and ticks.

CLiK™ EXTRA, CLiK™ and CLiKZiN™ are the only products to benefit from FleeceBind™, a technology that binds the formulation strongly in place and provides consistent full fleece protection – whatever the weather – reducing the risk of fly strike and productivity losses.

The costs of inaction when it comes to blowfly strike far outweigh the costs of protection. With 99% of farmers having suffered financial losses as a result of blowfly strike¹, the potential impact on your flock simply isn’t worth the risk. Farms need to take control — and take control early — by using a preventative IGR product with full fleece* protection.

Fiona Hutchings, Elanco Technical Vet.
Prevention – the key to good blowfly management

Since moving to IGR products with FleeceBind™ technology, providing full fleece protection.*

- Spreads from tip to base of fleece, around the animal and onto new wool growth.
- Binds the formulation strongly in place and sticks to the wool even if applied to damp fleece.
- Provides consistent protection, practical cover and resistance to washout.

The benefits of FleeceBind™

- CLIk EXTRA, CLIkZiN and CLIk are the only IGRs with FleeceBind™ technology, providing full fleece protection.*

Henry Riley, Flock Manager in Gloucestershire.

Since moving to IGR products with FleeceBind we have dramatically reduced the rate of flystrike in the flock from 15% to 0%. Blowfly strike is entirely preventable and the combination of IGR and FleeceBind in the CLIk range has now made that a reality for our flock.

Henry Riley, Flock Manager in Gloucestershire.
Right product, right time

Recommending a targeted narrow spectrum treatment which acts on specific parasites at a particular time of year will help guard against the rise of resistance and allow flock managers to control blowfly in years to come. Remind your farmers that a change of brand is not always a change of active ingredient.

For more information visit: www.scops.org.uk

CLiK™ EXTRA

Longest lasting3, 19 weeks prevention – apply early for extended peace of mind:

- 40 day meat withhold.
- Trusted CLiK™ formulation: dicyclanil (IGR) and FleeceBind™ technology.
- Meets the challenge of a variable blowfly season.
- Full fleece protection*.
- Suitable for ewes and lambs with any fleece length.
- Save time: use off shears, no need to re-gather sheep.
- Ideal for early application, full season protection of lambs.

CLiK™

Long-lasting, 16-weeks protection:

- 40 day meat withhold.
- Trusted by farmers.
- Contains dicyclanil (IGR) and FleeceBind™ technology.
- Full fleece protection*.
- Suitable for ewes and lambs with any fleece length.
- Save time: use off shears, no need to re-gather sheep.
- Ideal for ewes post shearing.
8 weeks blowfly protection – just 7 days meat withhold:

- 7 day meat withhold offers flexibility.
- Contains dicyclanil (IGR) and FleeceBind™ technology*.
- Full fleece protection*.
- Suitable for use on all stock including lambs for market.
- Ideal for offering valuable flexibility when marketing lambs.

The CLiK range – at a glance

<table>
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<th>Product</th>
<th>Active</th>
<th>Length (weeks)</th>
<th>Withhold (days)</th>
<th>Contains FleeceBind™ Technology</th>
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<td>7</td>
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Correct application

To make the most of their medicines and money – and ensure length of cover is achieved – farmers must always use the correct applicator and follow application instructions.

CLiK EXTRA, CLiK & CLiKZiN – the 4-stroke method

When applying CLiK, CLiKZiN or new CLiK EXTRA use the 4-stroke method to ensure an accurate spread. Apply the total required dose one quarter at a time. Best results will be achieved by holding the gun approximately 45cm from the sheep during application. Always calibrate your applicator gun and dose to the heaviest in the group.

If there are large variations in weight it may be best to split the group.
Crovect™ (Youngs’ Vector™ in the Republic Of Ireland)

Treat and control ectoparasites:

- 8 day meat withhold.
- Contains 1.25% w/v cypermethrin.
- Prevents blowfly strike for between 6 and 8 weeks.
- Kills maggots.
- Up to 10 weeks control of tick infestation.
- Kills biting lice.
- Treats and controls headflies.

Correct application

Crovect – choose the right nozzle

It is important to always use the correct application for the parasite you are looking to control. For example, use the T-Bar nozzle to treat blowfly strike. Always calibrate your applicator gun and dose to the heaviest in the group.

If there are large variations in weight it may be best to split the group.
Prevention is best – advice for farmers

**Insect growth regulators (IGRs)** containing dicyclanil, (CLiK EXTRA, CLiK and CLiKZIN) can stop strike from occurring by preventing larvae developing into harmful maggots. Management methods to use in conjunction include:

- **Culling should also be considered** for ewes with deformed genital openings and narrow breeches that result in soiling.
- **Complete shearing** can temporarily reduce the risk of strike, but this risk rapidly increases as the fleece grows. Ewes can become flyblown even after shearing.
- **Routine crutching and dagging** will reduce the risk of strike if started in April and repeated every four to six weeks.
- **Reduce the incidence of footrot** and where possible scouring caused by nutritional upsets.
CLiK™ Pour On contains 5% (w/v) dicyclanil.

CLiKZiN™ Pour On contains 1.25% (w/v) dicyclanil.

CLiK™ EXTRA contains 65mg/ml dicyclanil.

Crovect™ (Youngs’ Vector™ in the ROI) Pour On for sheep contains 1.25% (w/v) cypermethrin (cis:trans/80:20).

For further information call Elanco Animal Health on +44 (0) 1256 353131, write to Elanco Animal Health, Lilly House, Priestley Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9NL.

For more information on the Elanco™ portfolio visit: www.farmanimalhealth.co.uk