

## Controlling ectoparasites on Welsh organic sheep farms

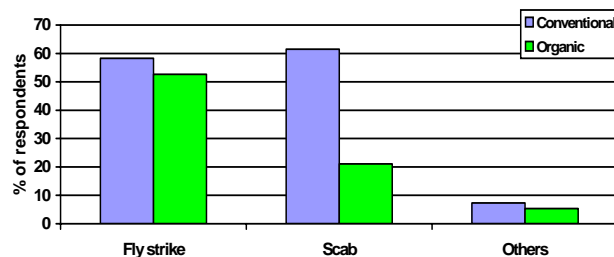
At present there is little information on current practices for ectoparasite control in Welsh organic sheep flocks.

In order to rectify this lack of information a survey was carried out to investigate current practices for ectoparasite control on Welsh organic sheep farms



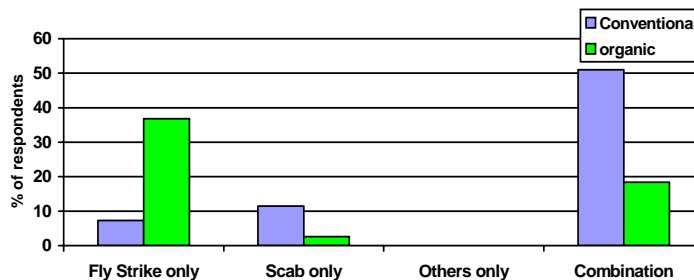
Farmers were asked;

- Do they treat/control for ectoparasites?
- What ectoparasites to they treat for?
- How do they control/treat ectoparasites?
- How do they dispose of chemicals?



58% of organic farmers treated their sheep for ectoparasites  
67% of non-organic farmers treated their sheep for ectoparasites

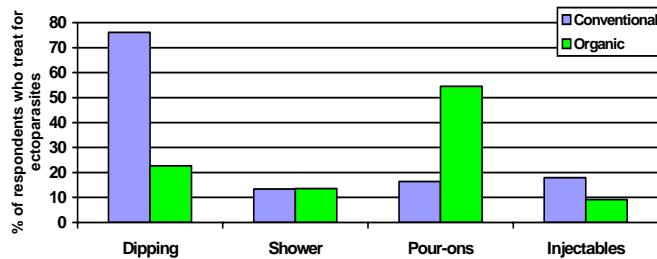
37% of organic farmers treated their flocks for flystrike only  
7% of non-organic farmers treated their flocks for flystrike only



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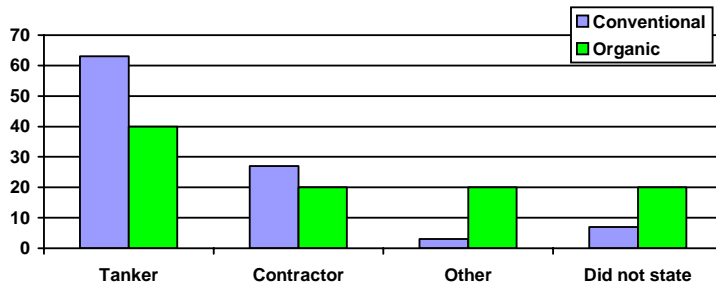
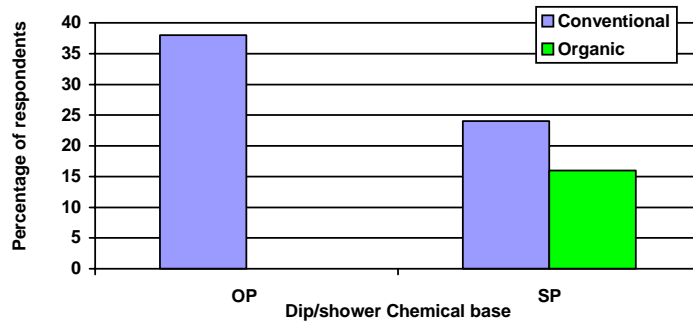
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23% of organic farmers use plunge dipping to treat ectoparasites  
54% of organic farmers use pour-on treatments for ectoparasite control

Overall 16% of organic farmers used a SP based dip to treat sheep with ectoparasites.  
24% of non-organic farmers used a SP based dip.



20% of organic farmers who treated sheep by dipping used a contractor to dispose of spent dip

#### Key points

- Percentage of farmers treating their flocks for ectoparasite infestations are similar for organic and non-organic sheep farmers
- Although scab was listed as a major ectoparasite for both organic and non-organic flocks only 3% of organic flocks were treated specifically for scab and only 11% of non-organic flocks
- There is confusion as to what is the most appropriate treatment for specific ectoparasites
- Only 16% of organic sheep farmers use SP-based dip products
- There is little evidence to suggest that organic farmers contribute disproportionately to the level of SP-based pollution incidences

These results are taken from the report 'Controlling ectoparasites on Welsh organic sheep farms', by Barbara McLean and David Frost, ADAS Pwllpeiran, 2003. See [www.organic.aber.ac.uk/library/ectoparasiteswales.pdf](http://www.organic.aber.ac.uk/library/ectoparasiteswales.pdf).

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