

# SS11 Guidance for diagnosing Sheep Scab

August 2017

## Criteria for condition scoring sheep

Body Score	Criteria
U/M	Scab cover too thick, condition unmeasurable.
0	Not possible to detect any muscular or fatty tissue (emaciated).
1	Spinous processes and transverse processes sharp, (easy to pass fingers under ends). Possible to feel between each process. Loin muscles shallow with no fat cover.
2	Spinous processes prominent but smooth. Individual processes felt as fine corrugations. Transverse processes smooth and rounder, possible to pass fingers under ends with little pressure. Loin muscles of moderate depth but have little fat cover.
3	Spinous processes round, individual bones only felt with pressure. Transverse processes smooth and well covered, firm pressure required to feel over ends. Loin muscles full with moderate degree of fat cover.
4	Spinous processes just detected with pressure. Ends of transverse processes cannot be felt. Loin muscles full with thick covering of fat.
5	Spinous processes cannot be detected even with firm pressure, with a depression between the layers of fat in the position where the spinous processes would normally be felt. Transverse processes cannot be detected. Loin muscles very full with very thick fat cover.

## Criteria for estimating mite numbers

Score	Degree	Definition
-	Not infested	No mites seen
+	Light infestation	Below 10 mites observed per lesion
++	Medium infestation	Below 50 mites observed per lesion

Score	Degree	Definition
+++	Heavy infestation	Above 50 mites observed per lesion

Count adult female mites only.

## Criteria for recording hypersensitivity (handling) irritation

Score	Degree	Definition
-	No response	No reaction on handling.
+	Slight	Definite but slight attempts to chew or bite the manipulated lesion, but with no direct mouth contact with the body or the lesion itself.
++	Mild	As above, but with definite mouth contact with the body/lesion and the involvement of at least one limb in a scratching response. Signs subside on removal of the stimulus.
+++	Severe	As above but the response is intense, signs continuing on removal of the stimulus. The sheep remaining standing at all times.
++++	Extreme	Sheep falling over in a prolonged epileptiform fit.

## Grading the degree of alopecia

Score	Definition
-	No wool loss.
+	Fleece close cropped above and around the lesion but leaving some fleece at skin level.
++	Wool displaced (pulled/tagged) from above or around the lesion, some denuded areas, some 'flaking'.
+++	Extensive, actual wool loss around or within the lesion, lesion 'flaking' and easily detached with erythematous skin beneath.



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