

PROJECT
L.A.M.B.
LOSS AVOIDANCE FOR MAXIMUM BENEFIT

ORF

A CONSTANT THREAT

Understanding and controlling orf

Scabivax[®] Forte

Caring for the whole flock



SCABIVAX® FORTE

Orf is a continuous threat – an outbreak can be significant in terms of health, welfare and productivity.

- Lambs benefit when ewes are vaccinated **as well** as the lambs¹.
- Orf-affected lambs are on average 2.2kg lighter than unaffected lambs².

Preventing orf

If you have previously seen orf on your farm:

- Reduce outbreaks by vaccination with Scabivax Forte.
- Ewes should be vaccinated NOT LESS THAN 7 WEEKS before lambing and moving to lambing areas.
- Lambs can be vaccinated from **one day old**.
- The orf virus requires very minor abrasions to the skin to enter and cause disease, so good pasture management is essential: removal of thistles, brambles and nettles.
- If you spot any cases of orf, isolate the animals to help prevent the spread of infection.
- Bought-in stock should be quarantined and checked for any signs of the disease.
- Maintain a disease-free status by only buying from known orf-free farms.

Understanding orf

- Caused by a parapox virus, orf is highly contagious and can affect sheep of all ages.
- Characterised by scabby lesions around the nostrils and mouth.
- It can spread to other parts of the body, such as teats, feet and tail.
- Orf is a zoonosis – people handling infected sheep, wool or skins can catch orf.
- The virus can survive in cool, dry conditions and may remain in lambing sheds for many years.

The impact of orf

- Orf lesions in ewes are usually found on the udder and teats.
- The discomfort often means that the ewe will not allow lambs to suckle.
- A major consequence for the ewe may be acute and costly mastitis.
- Orf in young suckling lambs often prevents feeding.
- Lambs suffering from orf can die, usually from a combination of dehydration and starvation.
- Post-weaning lambs are also susceptible to orf, particularly in areas of rough grazing.
- Older lambs may not die from orf, but may suffer from secondary bacterial infections.

HOW TO USE SCABIVAX FORTE

The Scabivax Forte applicator will deliver a precision dose of orf vaccine with each single scratch.



1. Loading

- Ensure bottle is upright.
- Place vaccine bottle in sleeve.
- Push bottle firmly onto the draw-off needle in the applicator.
- Turn applicator to the locked position.



2/3. Priming the applicator

- Ensure the Scabivax Forte applicator is in the locked position (indicated by arrow).
- Prime the applicator by pressing on the base of the vaccine bottle sleeve in a pump-like action.
- Priming should take about 10 pumps for the first dose.
- The applicator is primed and ready for use when the first drop of vaccine flows onto the applicator prongs.
- The precise dose will remain supported by the applicator prongs until the product is applied.
- **IMPORTANT:** point applicator to the ground when priming.



4. Applying the vaccine

- Vaccinate in the axilla (i.e. between the top of the foreleg and the chest wall). An alternative site for ewes is behind the elbow.
- Hold the applicator at an angle to the skin of approximately 45 degrees and ensure both wires of the applicator tip are in contact with the skin area.
- Press the applicator prongs firmly onto the skin and make a single scratch approximately 4-5cm (2 inches) in length.
- The scratch should break the skin but not draw blood.
- Each pump delivers one dose of vaccine.



Important notes

- Do not use Scabivax Forte on farms where orf is not present.
- 7-10 days after vaccination check a group of sheep for vaccination 'take'. This appears as a line of pustules / scabs along the scratch.
- The Scabivax Forte applicator should be sterilised in boiling water before and after each vaccination session.
- If the applicator becomes plugged with grease / hair between animals and during vaccination sessions, use a dry piece of cotton wool to wipe the end. Dispose of this material properly, as it will contain live orf vaccine virus.
- Do not use disinfectants to clean the applicator, as this may harm the vaccine.
- Do not vaccinate ewes less than 7 weeks before lambing as scabs contain live orf virus.
- Do not vaccinate ewes or lambs during wet weather to avoid vaccine being washed away.
- Wear gloves while vaccinating sheep as the product contains live virus which can be transmitted to humans.



Project LAMB is an initiative designed to:

- help produce healthy lambs
- focus on flock well-being
- close the gap between scanning % and lambs reared
- reduce time and resources needed to treat sick sheep
- meet the demands of both the consumer and the food chain

To find out more about Project LAMB and get involved, talk to your vet and look forward to a healthier future – for both your flocks and your bottom line.

Product information: Scabivax® Forte is a blue-coloured, liquid live vaccine containing live orf virus. Each 0.02ml dose contains 105.4 TCID50 of orf virus.

Uses: For the active immunisation of sheep and lambs against orf to reduce clinical signs and/or lesions of the disease. Immunity develops within 4-8 weeks of vaccination and is protective against severe signs of contagious pustular dermatitis for at least 12 months.

Contra-indications: Do not use on farms or in flocks where orf disease is not a problem. Do not vaccinate ewes less than 7 weeks before lambing. Do not vaccinate pregnant ewes except at the recommended stage of pregnancy.

Special precautions for use: Scabivax Forte is a live virus vaccine, and thus care must be taken to apply the vaccine only to the intended vaccination site and to not contaminate other sites such as mouth, feet, superficial wounds or abraded skin of the animal. Vaccinated lambs may transmit the disease to ewes' udders. For a period of up to 7 weeks after vaccination, or until the scabs resulting from the vaccine 'take' have dropped totally, animals will be shedding virus-infected scabs. During this time, vaccinated animals should not be allowed access to lambing pens or pasture where ewes and their lambs will subsequently be grazed; allowed to come into contact with unvaccinated sheep and susceptible species; marketed, slaughtered or shorn. Care should be taken to avoid treatment of the animals near the period of vaccination with substances or medicaments that might interfere with the 'take' of this live vaccine. Do not administer or treat with surface-active agents such as antiseptics, sprays or dips within 7 days before or after administration of the vaccine. Do not administer corticosteroids or other immunosuppressive drugs within 28 days before or after administration of the vaccine. Do not vaccinate ewes or lambs during wet weather.

Protection of consumers: Withdrawal period: zero days.

Environmental safety: Care must be taken not to contaminate the ground area with vaccine or used materials due to the persistence of orf virus in the environment.

Operator warnings: Orf disease is caused by a virus which is communicable to man. The vaccine is capable of causing a skin infection in humans so should not be used by immuno-suppressed individuals. In the case of accidental self-administration (injection or scratch), ingestion or spillage onto the skin or into the eye, seek medical advice immediately and show the package insert or label to the physician. Rubber gloves should be worn when handling this product or dismantling the applicator. Hands and arms should be washed after vaccination.

References:

1. Onyango J et al. Prevalence, risk factors and vaccination efficacy of contagious ovine ecthyma (orf) in England. *Veterinary Record* 2014; 10.1136/vr102353
2. Lovatt FM et al. Case-control study of orf in preweaned lambs and an assessment of the financial impact of the disease. *Veterinary Record* 2012; 170:673

Use medicines responsibly. For more information visit www.noah.uk/responsible

Scabivax® Forte is only available from your veterinary surgeon from whom advice should be sought. Scabivax Forte contains live orf virus. Legal category [POM-V] For further detailed information regarding side effects, precautions, warnings and contra-indications please refer to the datasheet located at www.noahcompendium.co.uk. Scabivax Forte is the property of Intervet International B.V. or affiliated companies or licensors and is protected by copyrights, trademark and other intellectual property laws. Copyright © 2017 Intervet International B.V. All rights reserved.

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Caring for the whole flock

 **MSD**
Animal Health